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**Paolo Benigno "BAM"
AQUINO IV**
Senator, Republic of the Philippines

**"No Red Tape,
Only a Red Carpet":
PEZA's Tereso O.
Panga Maps a High-
Confidence Future at
RCM's 11th Weekly
Meeting**

**RC Manila
Welcomes Sister Club,
Rotary Club of Jinju Jeil**

**RC Manila and Global
Peace Foundation
Discuss
Partnership**

**THE OG OF
PHILIPPINE
HOSPITALITY:
The Steady Forge of
Arthur Monroy
Lopez**

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PROGRAM



ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA 12th Weekly Membership Meeting Rotary Year 2025-2026

A joint meeting with RC Makati West, RC Makati, and RC Muntinlupa Central

Thursday, November 13, 2025, 12:30 PM
Dusit Thani Hotel

Moderator: PP BOBBY LIM (*RC Makati West*)

PART I

11:30 AM Lunch Fellowship

12:00 NN Call to Order

PRES. DINO DUMATOL | RC Makati West
PRES. EDDIE GALVEZ | RC Makati
PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA | RC Manila
PRES. ANA LORENA OLIVA | RC Muntinlupa

Invocation | **PE REGINALD "Reggie" T. YU**

Philippine National Anthem | **AVP**

12:30 PM Rotary Club of Makati West Hymn

RC Makati West Members

Rotary Club of Makati Hymn

RC Makati Members

Rotary Club of Manila Hymn

RCM WF Music Chorale

RC Muntinlupa Central Hymn

RC Muntinlupa Members

12:40 PM The Four (4) Way Test | **RC Makati**

Introduction of Visiting Rotarians and Guests

Introduction of Personalities at the Presidential Table

Birthday Celebrants

Wedding Anniversaries

Happy Birthday Song | **RC Makati West**

Committee Announcements

Induction of New Members

Introduction of New Member

PP TEDORO "Teddy" J. OCAMPO

PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA

Mr. Eric G. Eugenio

*Asst. Vice President for Sales
CE – Logic, Inc.*

Atty. Oliver L. Pantaleon

*Sr. Partner & Head Litigation and
Dispute Resolution Dept.
ACCRALAW Offices*

Proposer:

PP Teodoro "Teddy" J. Ocampo *Proposer: Pres. Raoul C. Creencia*

Oath of Membership **PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**

PART II

12:55 PM President's Time

PRES. DINO DUMATOL | RC Makati West

PRES. EDDIE GALVEZ | RC Makati

PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA | RC Manila

PRES. ANA LORENA OLIVA | RC Muntinlupa

Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker

RTN. JING LAPUS | RC Makati West

1:30 PM

Guest of Honor and Speaker

HON. PAOLO BENIGNO A. "Bam" AQUINO IV
Senator, Republic of the Philippines

2:00 PM

Open Forum / Q & A

Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation

PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA

2:15 PM

Adjournment

PRES. DINO DUMATOL | RC Makati West

PRES. EDDIE GALVEZ | RC Makati

PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA | RC Manila

PRES. ANA LORENA OLIVA | RC Muntinlupa

EDITORIAL

Reginald T. Yu
Editor-in-Chief



TODAY at the Dusit Thani Manila, four of the country's leading Rotary Clubs gather in a rare moment of unity. The Rotary Club of Manila, the Rotary Club of Makati West, the Rotary Club of Makati, and the Rotary Club of Muntinlupa Central will hold a joint meeting under one resounding theme: **Unite for Good.**

Their guest of honor is Senator **Paolo Benigno “Bam” Aquino IV** — a name that, for many, evokes

a lineage of public service and a personal commitment to reform. But this is not merely a homecoming for a former senator. It is a reckoning of ideas at a time when the nation seems both restless and uncertain, hungry for leaders who can blend empathy with intellect, principle with pragmatism.

Aquino arrives not as a politician campaigning for applause, but as a reformer returning to the familiar tension between promise and performance. He speaks to a room filled with business leaders, educators, professionals, and civic minds — people who know the weight of responsibility and the quiet cost of integrity. Rotary, after all, has always been a forum not of slogans but of conscience.

A Climate of Quiet Disquiet

The gathering takes place in a climate of paradox. The economy, by most measures, grows — yet the trust that binds government and citizen continues to erode. The country is young, dynamic, and digitally connected, yet its politics remain old, fatigued, and divisive.

EDITORIAL

In this uneasy balance, the return of voices like Bam Aquino's carries a certain resonance — that leadership is not a matter of bravado, but of clarity.

His work in the Senate reflected that conviction. He helped pass the Go Negosyo Act, Youth Entrepreneurship Act, and the Free College Education Law — measures that sought to give opportunity real substance. Behind each policy was a simple idea: that the dignity of a citizen begins with access — to education, to livelihood, to hope.

In an age of quick outrage and shorter attention spans, Aquino's tone has remained even. He speaks not in the language of spectacle, but of systems. It is this steadiness — the refusal to play to the extremes — that makes his presence at today's meeting quietly consequential.

The Rotary Mirror

Rotary, too, stands at a crossroads of renewal. For decades, it has served as the civic conscience of the professional class — men and women who build industries by day and rebuild communities by night. But even within its storied halls,

Today's event, modest in format but heavy in implication, is part of that long conversation. The sight of Rotarians — lawyers, engineers, doctors, educators, executives — gathered around the same tables where civic ideals are renewed, is itself a quiet act of resistance against indifference.

questions persist: How can civic leadership stay relevant in an era of cynicism? How does one make "Service Above Self" mean something tangible in an age that rewards self-promotion?

Aquino's message fits squarely in that mirror. His advocacy for entrepreneurship is not about capital alone; it is about restoring agency. His call for digital transformation is not about technology for its own sake, but about building trust and transparency. His insistence on youth inclusion is not a slogan — it is a survival strategy for a country where the average age is twenty-five.

EDITORIAL

There is an echo here of Rotary's own mandate: that leadership, to endure, must be ethical as well as effective. Both Rotary and reform, in their truest forms, rely on patience — a virtue increasingly rare in public life.

Beyond the Speech

No single meeting can solve the contradictions of governance or the inertia of bureaucracy. But sometimes, progress begins with conversation — especially when those speaking still believe that ideas matter.

Today's event, modest in format but heavy in implication, is part of that long conversation. The sight of Rotarians — lawyers, engineers, doctors, educators, executives — gathered around the same tables where civic ideals are renewed, is itself a quiet act of resistance against indifference.

When Senator Aquino takes the podium, he will likely speak of partnership, innovation, and the moral dimension of enterprise. But beyond the policy points, what this day represents is something more elusive — the possibility of dialogue

without disdain, debate without destruction, and leadership without vanity.

A Brief Moment of Coherence

In a time when politics feels fractured and institutions brittle, Rotary's joint meeting offers a glimpse of coherence. A reminder that the country's best instincts — service, collaboration, conscience — still find their way into rooms like this, even if the noise outside grows louder.

Aquino's return to the public forum is not a grand spectacle. It is something smaller, and perhaps more enduring — a gesture of continuity. A sense that reform, like Rotary service, is never a finished project. It must be renewed again and again, one community, one conversation, one act of courage at a time.

In that sense, today's meeting is not about nostalgia, nor mere ceremony. It is about the work that remains — and the stubborn hope that the Filipino still knows how to build, to serve, and to “Unite for Good.”

GUEST OF HONOR & SPEAKER

Senator **BAM AQUINO**

RECOGNIZED in the Philippines as the "Father of Free College," he is committed to ensuring that every Filipino student has access to quality education and a clear path to employment.

As a senator, he will ensure that Filipino families and workers receive adequate support and assistance through the passage of laws that promote affordable cost of living.

GUEST OF HONOR & SPEAKER

Paolo Benigno “BAM” Aquino IV

Senator, Republic of the Philippines

As a senator, he will ensure that Filipino families and workers receive adequate support and assistance through the passage of laws that **promote affordable cost of living**.

A renowned youth leader, multi-awarded social entrepreneur, former television and radio host, and e-sports advocate, he's the Principal Sponsor of the landmark **Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act**, which made public college education free for millions of young Filipinos.

He was the youngest senator elected in 2013. Today, he leads the Philippines' newest political party, the Katipunan ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino (KNP), as its chairperson.



In his first term as senator, he authored and championed key laws such as the **Go Negosyo Act**, the **Fair Competition Act**, and the **Youth Entrepreneurship Act**.

He is the number two senator in the 2025 National Elections, garnering over 20 million votes nationwide.

In the Philippine Senate, he leads the **Committee on Basic Education** and the **Committee on Science and Technology** as the Chairperson.

A champion for business, innovation, youth and education, a senator for all, Senator Bam Aquino.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DURING my inaugural speech four months ago, I exhorted everyone to look into our “why” -- the reason for being Rotarians; the drive and the inspiration that push us to do the things we do.

Why do we serve? Why do we organize service projects to touch other people's lives? I believe our being active Rotarians is rooted in a common belief that the true measure of human greatness lies not in personal success, but in one's willingness to serve others.

Civic service and social consciousness stand as twin pillars of a compassionate and just society. They remind us that our lives gain meaning when we look beyond ourselves — when we recognize that our strength, privilege, and opportunities are not merely for personal advancement, but for the collective good of humanity.



Raoul C. Creencia
President

Civic service is the embodiment of citizenship in its highest form. It is the act of giving back — not because we are compelled to, but because we care. I see it in fellow Rotarians who lend their time, talent and treasure to implement community projects. I see it in volunteers who dedicate time and resources to uplift others. Every act of service, no matter how small, contributes to the moral fabric of a nation. It builds trust, fosters unity, and reinforces the truth that the well-being of one is tied to the well-being of all.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Social consciousness goes hand in hand with the desire to render civic service. It is the awareness that our actions -- or inaction -- have consequences that ripple across society. It is the recognition that inequality, injustice, and suffering persist not in distant lands alone, but often in the very communities we live in. To be socially conscious is to see with empathy and to respond with purpose. It calls for reflection, compassion, and the courage to act when silence would be easier.

Together, civic service and social consciousness form the heartbeat of a thriving democracy. They encourage citizens to participate actively in shaping a more equitable world — through volunteerism, advocacy, or simply living with integrity and kindness. These values nurture accountability among leaders, strengthen social institutions, and cultivate respect across differences.

History has shown that lasting change often begins not in grand halls of power, but in the humble efforts of ordinary citizens who

choose to care. When people volunteer their time, champion fairness, or extend help to the marginalized, they breathe life into the ideals of community and nationhood. Their service becomes a beacon, inspiring others to join in the collective pursuit of progress.

The value of civic service and social consciousness, therefore, lies not only in the immediate relief they bring, but in the transformation they inspire — within individuals and across generations. They remind us that we are stewards of one another, and that our greatest legacy will not be what we have achieved for ourselves, but what we have given to the world.

In the end, to serve and to be socially conscious is to live with purpose. It is to recognize that humanity's most enduring strength lies not in wealth or power, but in the shared compassion that binds us all. Through service, we uplift others — and in doing so, we uplift ourselves.

cover story

***“No Red Tape,
Only a Red Carpet”:
PEZA’s Tereso O.
Panga Maps a High-
Confidence Future at
RCM’s 11th Weekly
Meeting***

by PE Reginald T. Yu

THE Manila Polo Club filled with familiar handshakes and purposeful chatter as Rotarians filed in for the Rotary Club of Manila’s 11th Weekly Membership Meeting — an afternoon that began with tradition and ended with a challenge to help “ecozone” the Philippines for inclusive, sustainable growth.



At 12:30 PM, Call to Order, President **Atty. Raoul C. Creencia** struck the gavel, and the club's well-oiled ritual moved like clockwork. Rotarian **Abdulgani "Gani" Macatoman** led the Invocation, followed by the National Anthem (AVP) and the RCM Hymn rendered by the **RCM WF Music Chorale**. Past Director **Phillip "Phil" Ong** guided the assembly through the Four-Way Test, while Past Director **Amado "Amading" Valdez** acknowledged guests, adding the convivial pulse that has long defined Asia's first Rotary club. The World-Famous Music Chorale's "Welcome Song" warmed the room, before members celebrated October–November birthday celebrants with "Maligayang Bati."



PD Amado D. "Amading" Valdez moderated the meeting.



President Raoul C. Creencia called the meeting to order.



The Korean and Philippine national anthems were beautifully sung by our Korean Rotarian visitors together with Filipino Rotarians and guests.



Rtn. Abdulgani M. "Gani" Macatoman led the invocation.



PD Phillip Ong led the recitation of the Four-Way Test.

Then, a rite of passage. President Creencia inducted **Jason Romeo C. Valderrama**, President & CEO of JCV & Associates, into the fold — an oath not only to fellowship but to service at scale.



Induction of new RCM member, STAR Rtn. Jason Romeo C. Valderama





In President's Time, the club formalized a global handshake: the Sister Club Agreement with the **Rotary Club of Jinju Jeil** — a bridge across seas and seasons for shared projects and people-to-people ties.



President Raoul C. Creencia delivered his message during the President's Time.



President Raoul C. Creencia and President Jung Hyunwoo formally signed the sister club agreement between RC Manila and RC Jinju Jeil of South Korea, R.I. District 3590



RC JinJu Jeil Pres. Jung Hyunwoo delivered his speech.



RC JinJu Jeil President Jung Hyunwoo and RC Manila President Raoul C. Creencia exchanged tokens of appreciation.

When PP **Felix Francisco “Chito” Zaldarriaga** rose to introduce the Guest of Honor and Speaker, the room leaned forward. The Honorable **Tereso O. Panga**, Director General of the **Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA)**, took the lectern with the composed urgency of a career technocrat who has watched the country’s investment story through booms, busts, and reinvention.

The Case for Confidence— Despite the Noise

Panga began with an assertion that seemed almost contrarian in a world of disruptions: confidence in the Philippine economy remains steady. Citing mainstream projections, he noted GDP growth tracks of around 5.6 percent in 2025 and 5.7 percent in 2026 — below the government’s 6-to-7 percent ambition, but robust enough, he argued, to power investor appetite. In PEZA’s line of work, those tenths of a percent matter; high growth begets capital formation, and capital formation, if well-channeled, becomes factories, R&D labs, and paychecks.

A quick regional scan underscored his point. The Philippines, once “the laggard in ASEAN-6,” is climbing back: No. 4 in FDI inflows with a declared bold ambition to reach No. 2 by 2028; No. 2 in digital and sustainable trade facilitation (behind Singapore); and consistently expansionary in the Purchasing Managers’ Index (PMI) — a signal that local manufacturing remains on the front foot rather than retreat.

PEZA's Scorecard: From Macro Numbers to Factory Floors

If GDP headlines draw attention, PEZA's numbers close the sale. Panga framed PEZA as an ecosystem builder: contributing roughly 13 percent to national GDP and over half of the country's annual goods exports through its locators. A recent US\$1-billion Samsung "big-ticket" investment — inked with the President present — was emblematic: the first to unlock CREATE MORE's most generous incentives for billion-dollar bets.

The approvals pipeline, he reported, is not a blip but a trend. January–October approvals reached ₱175 billion, up 42 percent year-on-year, and PEZA is targeting ₱250 to ₱300 billion to return to its "heydays" reminiscent of 2011–2015. The investor mix tells a longer story: Japan remains "ichiban," with the US, the Netherlands, the UK, and South Korea close behind — Korea poised to surge under the new FTA. On sectors, electronics leads (34 percent), with ICT-BPO, transport, tourism, and a rising wave in industrial and consumer electronics, pharma, and renewables.

The Export Powerhouses You Don't See — but Always Use

Panga's most arresting passages were the ones that collapsed statistics into the everyday. The Philippines, he reminded, is No. 1 in canned pineapple, consistently top-tier in banana and coconut products, and No. 9 in global chips exports. The country sits as the world's No. 4 shipbuilder, and with Hyundai reanimating the Hanjin yard in Subic, No. 3 is within reach. Then there are the unheralded industrial marvels: servo bulbs for aircraft navigation — made only in the



Guest of Honor and Speaker Dr. Benjamin E. Diokno, Member of the Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Philippines by a long-time PEZA locator in Baguio — quietly enabling airplanes to land and lift off across the planet. Even tennis balls, mass-produced out of Mindanao, carry the imprint of Filipino precision.

433 Ecozones — and a Map of Shared Prosperity

Under Panga's watch, 433 operating ecozones span Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao — still Luzon-heavy, but with an intentional push southward. Here, Panga was explicit: LGUs hosting more ecozones tend to climb faster on per-capita GDP and investment metrics. The causal lines, while always complex, are strong enough to guide policy; the obstacle is procedural. Today, proclaiming new zones requires Presidential Proclamation — a time tax he wants to end by amending the PEZA law to let the PEZA Board declare ecozones. “Low-hanging fruit,” he implied, if the aim is to accelerate countryside development.

“One Government” and the Red-Carpet Doctrine

What, then, differentiates PEZA? Panga distilled it to a service brand sharpened over three decades: “No red tape, only red-carpet treatment.” It's not a slogan, he argued, but an



operating system — a true one-stop shop for permits and, just as critically, a “non-stop shop” with 24/7 teams smoothing the flow of cargo from ports to plants. Automation is the other pillar: cashless since 2019, about 70 percent digitized on the way to full automation, down to virtual building inspections and PEZA visas in one to two days, beating ARTA benchmarks. He likes comparisons: project approvals in three days versus two weeks in Singapore; building permits in seven days versus a year in Germany. The boast comes wrapped in accountability: ARTA Gold Awards, CSC PRIME HRM accreditation, and repeated nods from the US State Department, ASEAN-UNCTAD, IFC—World Bank, and Bloomberg for regulatory transparency.

Incentives as Equalizer, People as the Edge

Panga did not sidestep the country's

structural frictions; he argued instead that smart incentives compensate for inefficiencies while the state races to fix them. Under CREATE and its enhancements, the Philippines now offers the region's longest incentive runways — up to 14 to 40 years for billion-dollar projects — paired with outright VAT zero-rating (instead of VAT-then-refund) and 99-year land leases, a cash-flow lifeline that frees capital for factories rather than land.

But the decisive edge will be talent. On November 17, PEZA will launch its AI Tech Academy in Cebu, a two-track (IT-BPM and advanced manufacturing) engine to produce thousands of AI-literate workers who can build, run, and secure the next generation of smart factories. In Laguna, PEZA's Small Technology Support Center — a ₱35-million facility, co-funded by the Korean government (US\$8 million), with DOST and the Philippine Die & Mold Association — will train CNC and die-and-mold specialists, staunching the talent poaching that has hollowed local shop floors and ensuring auto, electronics, and precision-parts makers can scale here, not elsewhere.

New Frontiers: Aerotropolis, Aquamarine, Pharma, and a Mega-Zone

The ecozone of the future looks different. Aerotropolis projects wrap

*What, then,
differentiates PEZA?...
“No red tape, only red-
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shop” with 24/7 teams
smoothing the flow
of cargo from ports
to plants.*

advanced logistics around airports; aquamarine zones pursue green hydrogen at sea; the Pharma Park recruits global names like Takeda and AstraZeneca (which recently committed ₱6–7 billion) after years away. On the horizon: a mega-zone in Palawan — planned end-to-end for low-carbon, circular, energy-efficient operations, not retrofit compromises. Sustainability, Panga stressed, is no longer “nice to have” but a pre-condition for high-value FDI. That is why PEZA is aligning ecozones to IFC–World Bank Eco-Industrial Park standards, rolling out Global Reporting Initiative frameworks with Swiss support, and adopting ZeroBoard, a Japanese carbon platform, to help locators quantify and cut emissions.

Some of the cleverest gains came from regulatory sandboxes inside zones: the first thermal-oxidation waste-to-energy, the first anaerobic wastewater-to-power, and an American “solar dish” concentrator of Expo-grade potential. Panga’s favorite anecdote involved a Danish nanofiltration solution: when tested at Samsung, wastewater treatment costs fell from ₱7 to ₱1 — the kind of step-change that compounds across a zone, then an industry.

And lest one unanswered doubt linger — the price of power — Panga argued that embedded generation inside ecozones narrows the gap with ASEAN’s subsidized tariffs. “Outside the zones” may still feel the pinch; inside, he said, rates are significantly lower, and that difference shapes location decisions.

A short AVP stitched locator testimonials to the data; the narrative stood on its own.

Open Forum: The Rotary Habit of Asking “What’s Next?”

In the Q&A, members pressed the edges: timelines for law amendments, the replicability of Cebu’s AI Academy in Calabarzon and Central Visayas, the path from pilot sandboxes to grid-

scale change, the interplay of FDI ambitions with MSME supplier development, and how ecozones can anchor Mindanao’s long-awaited industrial bloom. Panga’s answers returned to first principles: predictability, speed, and skills — the tripod that keeps investors from drifting to the next port.

Open Forum: DG Panga engaged in an interactive conversation with PVP Joel Valdes, Rtn. Gani Macatoman, PD Beda Fajardo, PP Chito Zaldarriaga, and PIA Jordan Pizarra





DG Tereso Panga received RCM's Plaque of Appreciation, presented by President Raoul C. Creencia, and witnessed by PD Aamding Valdez, PP Chito Zaldarriaga, PEZA Director Robert L. Aranton, PD Phillip Ong, and Rotarian Gani Macatoman.

Closing the Circle

President Creencia presented the Certificate of Appreciation, a parchment acknowledgement of a larger compact: government that is fast, transparent, and practical; industry that invests, trains, and stays; civic leaders who convene, question, and connect. The gavel's final tap adjourned the meeting, but the directive lingered like a refrain: "Unite for Good," and — if PEZA has its way — unite around ecozones that turn growth forecasts into factories, and forecasts into futures.

In the end, Panga's cover-story line was not the billions approved, the

rankings regained, or even the 433 dots on the national map. It was a service ethic condensed to seven words: "No red tape — only red-carpet treatment." That is how you turn confidence into capital, and capital into consequence.



President Raoul C. Creencia adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Fellowship



Meeting Fellowship



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report
RY 2025-2026



ATTENDANCE REPORT
November 2025

NOVEMBER 2025	November 06, 2025 PEZA DG TERESO O. PANGA
MEMBERS PRESENT	38
MEMBERS PRESENT %	18%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	18
EXEMPTED	6
ON LEAVE	0
Total Active Members	56
Total # of Members	212
TOTAL %:	26%
ROTARACTORS	12
MEDIA	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0
GOHS / GS	4
VISITING ROTARIAN	10
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	6
TOTAL ATTENDEES	70



LIST OF ATTENDEES
November 6, 2025

- 1 Bartolome III, Arsenio M.
- 2 Chahwan, Rami
- 3 Creencia, Raoul C.
- 4 Davis, Raymond N.
- 5 Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.
- 6 Egan, Brendan W.L.
- 7 Eldebs, Issam
- 8 Fajardo, Beda G.
- 9 Garcia, Paul Joseph M.
- 10 Guevara, Jr., Domingo S.
- 11 Koh, Paul Anthony T
- 12 Lonzaga, Reinerio C.
- 13 Lorenzana, Delfin
- 14 Macatoman, Abdulgani M.
- 15 Matschuck, Guenter Gerhard G.
- 16 Mauricio, Antonio DC
- 17 Nolido, Ramon Alberto B.
- 18 Nuñez, Jr., Jose A.
- 19 Ong, Phillip L.
- 20 Pascual, Abraham F.
- 21 Pizarra, Jordan M.
- 22 Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.
- 23 Ra, Ingill
- 24 Rankl, Peter
- 25 Recto, Philip H.
- 26 Reynolds, David J.
- 27 Roxas, Michael D.
- 28 Serapio, Carlos G.
- 29 Sibayan, Josecito H.
- 30 So, Warren S.
- 31 Tagaysay, Hector O.
- 32 Valdes, Joel C.
- 33 Valdez, Amado D.
- 34 Valencia, John Nico P.
- 35 Vazquez, Evaristo Jr.
- 36 Yordanov, Stefan
- 37 Zalदारriaga, Felix Francisco S.
- 38 Valderrama, Jason

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

List of Members Who Have Paid Their Annual Dues for RY 2025-2026

As of November 11, 2025

1	ABOY, VALENTINO G.	57	FERNANDEZ, ANTONIO JAIME JOSE V.	113	PALACIOS, ALBERT S.
2	ABRIAM, ARIEL	58	FOLLOSCO, CEFERINO JR. G.	114	PALLASIGUE, JOHN BRIAN C.
3	ACOSTA, CRISPINIANO G.	59	GARCIA, HERBERT JOEY	115	PANTALEON, OLIVER
4	AGNES, JERRY A.	60	GARCIA, PAUL JOSEPH M.	116	PASCUAL, ABRAHAM
5	ALBAÑA, MICHAEL JAEY	61	GARCIA, THEODORE Q.	117	PAYUMO, FELICITO C.
6	ALDAY, ALBERT S.	62	GARCIA, VICTOR III G.	118	PELIÑO, WILFREDO
7	ALINGOG, ALDOUS REX A.	63	GO, DANNY C.	119	PINEDA, JESUS JR. M.
8	ALUNAN, RAFAEL M.	64	GO, HENRY S.	120	PINEDA, PATRICIO JR. F.
9	ANDAL, AVELINO L.	65	GONZALES, JONAS R.	121	PIZARRAS, JORDAN M.
10	ARAGON, JOSHUA RUEBEN G.	66	GONZALES-LA'O, EMIL	122	PREYSLER, FAUSTO JR. D.R.
11	ARGUELLES, PABLO C.	67	GUARIN, MICHAEL ARCATOMY	123	PUJALTE, JOSE BRITTANIO JR.
12	AVENTURA, AVELINO JR. L.	68	GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR.	124	RA, INGILL
13	BAGATSING, VALENTINO	69	GUEVARA, RICARDO S.B.	125	RAMOS, CLAVER P.
14	BALANAY, ARIES B.	70	HALLARE, DELFIN JR.	126	RANKL, PETER
15	BARTOLOME, ARSENIO III M.	71	HALLARE, NICOL	127	RECTO, PHILIP H.
16	BAUTISTA, JOHN JR.	72	HERNANDEZ, EDWIN H.	128	REYNOLDS, DAVID
17	BEDIONES, RODOLFO P.	73	HESSE, UWE	129	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN ANTHONY JR. H.
18	BELLA, GERONIMO JR. D.	74	IBUYAN, BENEDICT JULIUS F.	130	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN SR. C.
19	BENEDICTO, BERNARDO III T.	75	KALAW, TEODORO ALEJANDRO IV Y.	131	ROMUALDEZ, FERDINAND MARTIN G.
20	BENEDICTO, SIXTO T.	76	KANDA, HIROYUSI	132	ROXAS, MICHAEL D.
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CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Rotary Club of Manila and Physicians for Peace Meet for a Global Grant Project Partnership



PRESIDENT Raoul Creencia and RCM Global Grant Chairman/SDG Aries Balanay met with PDG and Physicians for Peace CEO Lyne Abanilla to discuss a project partnership to be covered by a global grant.

Rotary Club of Manila and Global Peace Foundation Discuss Partnership



The Rotary Club of Manila, led by President Raoul Creencia, together with PE Reggie Yu and Global Grant Committee Chair Aries Balanay, met with officers of the Global Peace Foundation (GPF), led by ASEAN Regional Representative (and Manila Rotarian) Ingill Ra and GPF Philippines President Leonard Faustino. They discussed long-term collaboration on projects for youth empowerment and community development.



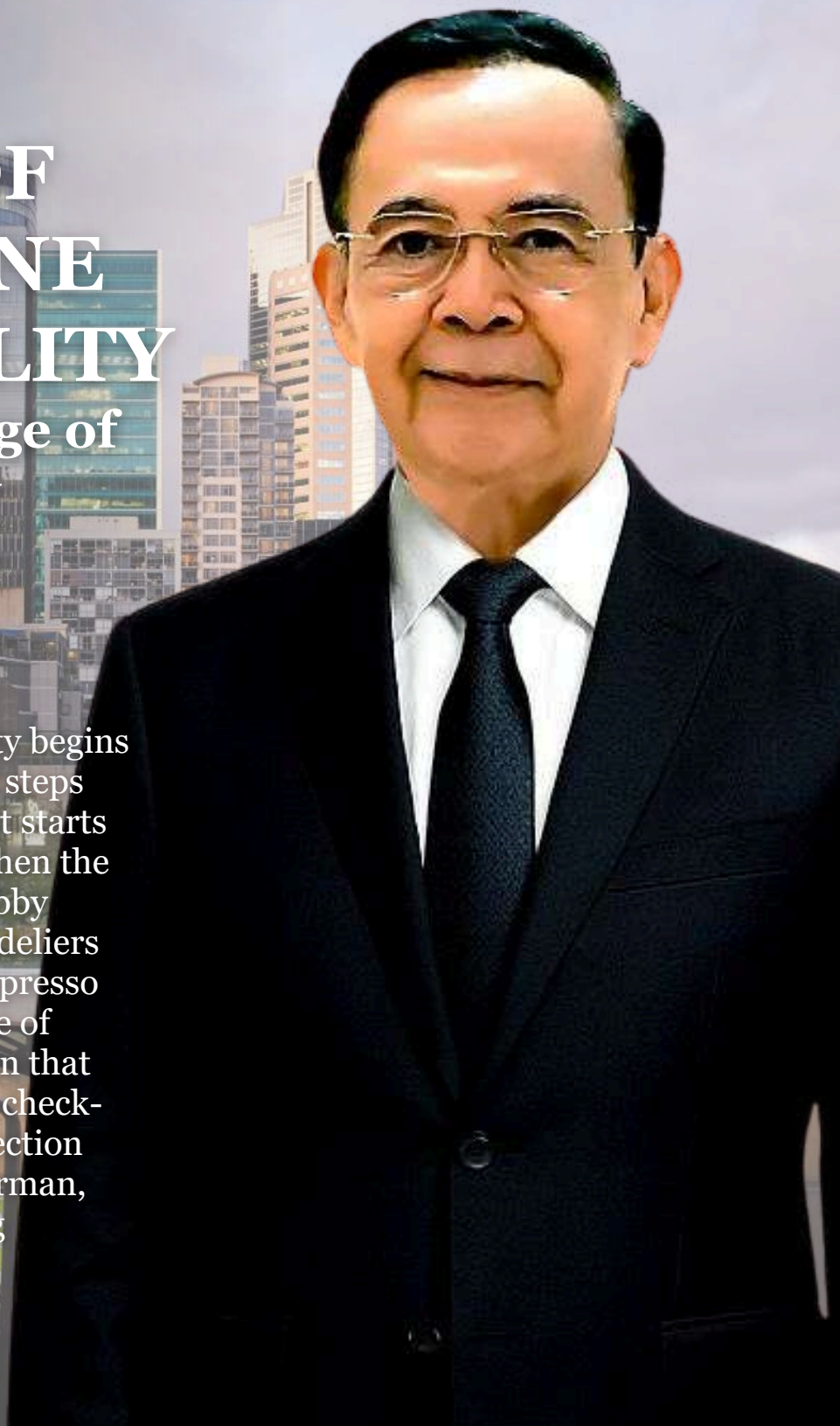
PEOPLE

THE OG OF PHILIPPINE HOSPITALITY

The Steady Forge of Arthur Monroy Lopez

By PE Reginald T. Yu

THE art of hospitality begins long before a guest steps through the door. It starts in the stillness of dawn, when the marble floors of a hotel lobby glisten under half-lit chandeliers and the faint hum of an espresso machine breaks the silence of anticipation. Somewhere in that quiet hour before the first check-in, one man stands in reflection — not as an owner or chairman, but as a steward of a living organism called *service*.



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Arthur “Art” Monroy Lopez has shown that the art of hospitality is less about flash and more about consistency, care, and discipline. Across five decades, he has moved with purpose through the world’s hotel lobbies — shaping service that treats guests as people with stories, rather than as customers in need of a quick transaction. His philosophy is simple and durable: excellence is achieved through dependable, humane service.

From the marble lobbies of Manila to the coastal resorts of Langkawi, from the urban precision of Melbourne to the

sunlit shores of Cebu, Art has moved through corridors of commerce and comfort with the quiet authority of a man who understands that true service is a calling, not a transaction. His genius lies not in showmanship but in the orchestration of calm — turning chaos into rhythm, systems into symphony.

To watch Art at work is to see leadership distilled: the nod that reassures a nervous trainee, the subtle glance that signals a manager to act, the calm tone that diffuses tension before it breaks the surface. These are gestures that go



With his Sheraton Team, Art fostered a culture of discipline, teamwork, and professionalism — values that shaped his leadership and helped define the next generation of world-class Filipino hoteliers.

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unnoticed by guests but define their experience; invisible acts that, in accumulation, build trust.

Art's philosophy is deceptively simple yet deeply human: **“Excellence is not a performance; it's a habit of care.”**

Every guest who checks in is a story unfolding. Every staff member is a note in the melody of service. For him, hospitality is not about luxury — it is about respect: for time, for labor, for the quiet dignity of work done well.

The hotels he has led bear his signature not on their plaques but in their culture. Long after his tenure, one can still trace his influence in the cadence of their service — the way a front desk agent greets with sincerity, the way a maintenance worker takes pride in spotless order, the way a manager treats staff as collaborators rather than subordinates. These are the quiet legacies of a man who believed that leadership, at its finest, is stewardship.

In an era where visibility often masquerades as value, Art Lopez has built a career on constancy. His success has never been about spectacle; it has been about substance. For him, hospitality is not merely an industry—it is an act of faith in people, a belief that kindness, consistency, and competence can turn even the most ordinary interaction into a moment of meaning.

And so, across decades and destinations, Art Lopez has done what few leaders manage: he has elevated a profession by dignifying it. In doing so, he reminds us that greatness in service—like the best kind of leadership — is quiet, deliberate, and enduring.



Overseeing the construction of the Sheraton flagship hotel in Australia, Art demonstrated his hallmark precision and leadership, ensuring that every stage of development reflected global standards of excellence and operational integrity.

From Zamboanga to a National Stage: Shaping a Gentleman Professional

Before Art became a name synonymous with excellence in hospitality, he was a young boy from **Zamboanga City**, a place where the air itself carried the scent of sea salt and the sound of a dozen tongues. Growing up in this vibrant coastal city — known for its Spanish-influenced *Chavacano* language, colorful *vintas*, and a culture of warmth — he absorbed lessons in grace long before he stepped into any hotel lobby.

Zamboanga was his first classroom in hospitality. In every neighborly greeting and shared meal, he saw the essence of welcome. People there did not simply open their doors — they opened their hearts. It was this instinctive generosity, this deep respect for others, that would later define his leadership style.

His parents raised him to understand that true refinement had little to do with wealth or status, but everything to do with manners, punctuality, and humility. His father taught him the discipline of work, the importance of finishing what one starts; his mother, the art of gentleness — the ability to listen before speaking, and to help before being asked. These early teachings became the moral architecture of his career.



Circa 1985, Art posed with the Sheraton Auckland, New Zealand team, marking an early chapter of his international career devoted to nurturing professionalism and global standards of service excellence.

As a student, Art was curious, diligent, and composed. He excelled quietly, preferring substance to spectacle. Those who knew him in his youth remember his sense of order even then — his books neatly stacked, his uniform pressed, his handwriting deliberate and elegant. It was clear that precision was not yet a profession, but already a habit.

His academic foundation was shaped by the Jesuit discipline of Ateneo de Zamboanga University, where he completed his secondary education. Decades later, in December 2004, the institution honored him as the Most Outstanding Ruby Jubilarian (High

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School) — a testament to how deeply his alma mater recognized his achievements and the values he embodied. The Atenean ideals of *magis* (excellence), *cura personalis* (care for the whole person), and leadership grounded in service would become guiding forces throughout his professional and civic journey.

The cosmopolitan diversity of Zamboanga also played its part. It was a port city, a crossroads of traders, travelers, and tales from the seas. Young Arthur would watch ships come and go, their flags fluttering from distant lands, and wonder what lay beyond the horizon. It was perhaps there, on those wharfs, that his lifelong fascination with travel and global culture began to take root.

When he moved to Manila to pursue higher education at the **University of Santo Tomas (UST)**, he carried with him the quiet confidence of the provincial gentleman. At UST's **College of Commerce and Business Administration**, he discovered the academic rigor that would complement his innate courtesy. The university's Dominican values of faith, integrity, and service resonated deeply with him. They shaped not just his intellect but his conscience.

He would complete both his under-

graduate degree and Master of Business Administration at UST, forming a foundation that blended intellect with ethics. Years later, when the university honored him with the **Commerce Outstanding Alumni Award** (2013) and the **St. Antoninus of Florence Award** (2000), the accolades were seen not merely as recognition of his success, but as an affirmation of a life lived according to Thomasian virtues: competence anchored in character, and achievement guided by compassion.



As General Manager, Art presented the architectural model of the US\$650 million Southgate Project of the Sheraton Towers, a visionary development that embodied his forward-thinking leadership in luxury real estate and hospitality.

Zamboanga gave him the instinct for warmth; UST refined it into wisdom. Together, they molded a gentleman professional — one whose grace would later translate into leadership, and whose discipline would elevate an entire industry.

The Classroom in the Lobby: Early Leadership and Lasting Lessons

Every great career begins not with applause, but with apprenticeship. For **Art Lopez**, that classroom was not behind a lectern, but behind a lobby desk — the **Manila Hilton International**, now known as the **Waterfront Manila Pavilion**. It was here, as a young management trainee, that he began to understand that leadership in hospitality is forged not in corner offices but in the kinetic hum of the “front of the house,” where grace is tested a hundred times a day.

The Hilton lobby was both laboratory and crucible. The rhythm of check-ins and check-outs became a language; the bell service and concierge desk, a theater of human nature. Here, Art discovered that every guest carried invisible luggage — anxieties, expectations, stories — and that a leader’s role was not simply to serve but to interpret humanity in motion. He watched how tone could change a tense encounter,

how timing could turn irritation into gratitude, and how presence — quiet, composed, and attentive — could transform routine interaction into something memorable.

He learned early that hospitality’s essence was not procedure but empathy. A late-night complaint, a missed reservation, or a weary traveler’s sigh — all were lessons in composure. “Hospitality,” he would later say, “begins the moment someone feels they are seen.” Those were years of apprenticeship in emotional intelligence, long before the phrase became fashionable in boardrooms.

In those long shifts under fluorescent lights, Art began to grasp that the **front desk was the heartbeat of the hotel**, a living organism connecting every department — housekeeping, food service, security, and management. To lead well, he realized, one must listen deeply: to the staff’s rhythm, the guests’ moods, and the unseen signals that bind them. He practiced leading by doing — adjusting a uniform here, handling a guest inquiry there — learning that credibility, once earned on the floor, commanded more loyalty than authority ever could.

Perhaps the most enduring lesson came not from the guests, but from the staff. Art observed that those who labored in silence — the janitors, the porters, the

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cleaners — held the real pulse of the hotel. They were the first to arrive and the last to leave, their work unseen but indispensable. “Every role has dignity,” he often reminded his trainees. “Without the unseen hands, the visible smiles would not exist.”

It was this respect — for both the seen and the unseen — that became the cornerstone of his leadership. What others might have considered menial, Art saw as meaningful. The discipline of observation, the humility to serve, and the patience to teach — these habits, cultivated in those formative years at the Manila Hilton, would become his compass in every leadership role that followed.

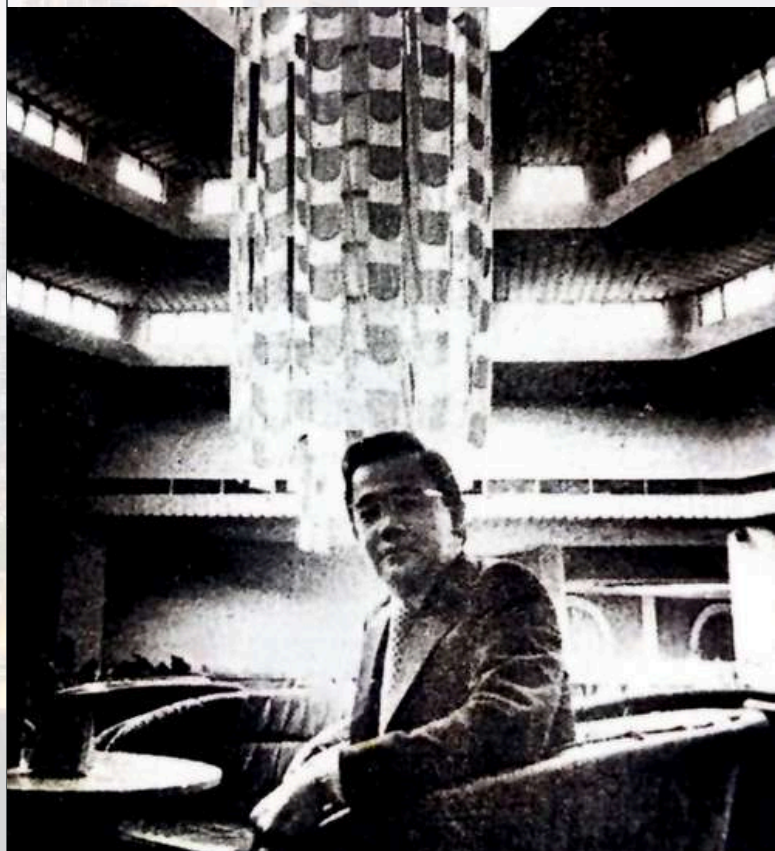
By the time he left that first post, Art Lopez had learned a truth that would guide him through five decades of management: **that the best leaders in hospitality do not stand above the service — they stand within it.**

A Force in Industry Advancement

As Art’s skills matured, so too did his horizons. The 1970s and 1980s were decades when the global hospitality scene was dominated by foreign executives. To be Filipino in that world was to live in the periphery of prestige. But Arthur Lopez had no intention of remaining on the

sidelines. His command of detail, integrity, and grace began to attract attention from international chains eager to expand into Asia and the Pacific.

When he was offered his first overseas post, he carried with him the quiet pride



At the Century Park Sheraton Atrium Lobby, Resident Manager Art paused briefly from his demanding 24-hour schedule — a rare, quiet moment for the man whose discipline and care kept the pulse of hotel operations running flawlessly.

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of a nation ready to be seen. He served with **Sheraton Hotels**, taking charge of major properties across **Australia** and **New Zealand** — a rare appointment for an Asian professional in a field historically reserved for Western expatriates.

In time, he made history as the **first Filipino general manager ever appointed by an international hotel chain overseas**. It was not merely a promotion; it was a moment of vindication for Filipino competence on the world stage.



At the Memorandum of Agreement signing between Fil-Estate Properties and IIT Sheraton for the Fairways and Bluewater Resort Golf and Country Club in Bangkok, Thailand, Art Lopez represented Sheraton in a landmark collaboration that advanced international partnership and world-class hospitality development.

His tenure with Sheraton took him to three of the Northern Territory's most iconic hotels: **Darwin, Ayers Rock, and Alice Springs**, where he served as **Area Manager**. These properties, surrounded by vast deserts and breathtaking landscapes, demanded a level of adaptability and endurance that few could sustain. But Art thrived. In these remote yet magnificent settings, he refined his philosophy: *that leadership must be as adaptable as the environment it serves*.

Colleagues in Australia and New Zealand remember him as an exemplary leader — firm but kind, demanding yet deeply human. His management style was characterized by calm precision. “Arthur had this ability,” one former associate recalled, “to walk into a meeting room full of tension and lower everyone’s heart rate just by speaking softly.”

In **Auckland**, he became the **Resident Manager** of the **Sheraton Auckland Hotel**, where his stewardship raised service standards to unprecedented levels. Later, in **Melbourne**, he took on the role of **General Manager** of **Sheraton Towers Southgate**, overseeing one of the region’s most refined luxury hotels. His success there was not just measured in occupancy rates or revenues — it was reflected in morale, in the loyalty of staff who saw in him a leader who led with both intellect and heart.

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His ascent continued as he was promoted to **Vice President for ITT Sheraton in Boston**, a role that expanded his oversight to the entire Asia Pacific region. From Boston to Bali, from Darwin to Manila, Art became a bridge between cultures, advocating for Filipino managers in international assignments long before diversity became a corporate mantra.

For Art, being the first Filipino general manager abroad was never about personal glory. It was about opening doors for others. He mentored young compatriots working overseas, often telling them, “Our passport is not a limitation — it is a promise.”

Each posting expanded his worldview. In boardrooms overlooking Sydney Harbor or at the foot of Australia’s red desert, he learned that leadership was universal: integrity inspires, competence earns trust, and respect knows no borders.

What distinguished Art was his balance of authority and empathy. He could enforce global standards while adapting them to local cultures — a rare skill that made him invaluable to hotel chains navigating expansion in Asia. He believed that rules should serve people, not the other way around. His management was never about rigidity; it was about rhythm — the



At the ITT Sheraton Asia Pacific Board of Management Meeting held on November 26–27, 1995, Art joined regional executives in charting strategic growth and operational excellence across the Asia-Pacific region.

rhythm of human connection expressed through consistency and care.

By the time he returned to the Philippines, Arthur Lopez had done more than break a glass ceiling; he had redrawn the map of possibility for an entire profession. In his wake followed a new generation of Filipino hoteliers emboldened by his example. They had seen one of their own rise to the highest levels of global hospitality — and through him, they realized that the Filipino warmth, discipline, and ingenuity could thrive anywhere in the world.

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Master of the Craft: Westin, Starwood, and the Global Standard

After years of proving that a Filipino could lead with excellence overseas, Art returned to Asia not as an apprentice of the industry but as one of its architects. The world had changed — new hotel brands were rising, and the competition for consistency and luxury had become global. Yet Art, armed with decades of on-the-ground experience, remained anchored in his timeless belief that the essence of hospitality is not luxury, but humanity executed with precision.

His next great chapter unfolded at the **Westin Philippine Plaza**, the crown jewel of Manila's bayside skyline. There, as **General Manager**, Art fused world-class discipline with Filipino warmth, creating a model of service excellence that would become a benchmark for decades. He transformed the Westin into a living classroom for the next generation of hoteliers, where every staff member understood that courtesy was not merely a script — it was a reflection of pride in one's work and one's country.

At Westin, Art became a master of synthesis. He refined global standards, adapted them to local sensibilities, and built systems that empowered employees to think, feel, and serve with empathy.



In a rare meeting with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, Art shared in a moment that reflected mutual respect and a common vision for excellence, discipline, and progress in leadership and nation-building.

The result was a hotel that did not simply host guests — it *embraced* them. Under his stewardship, the Westin's reputation soared. Visiting executives from abroad often remarked that the Westin in Manila possessed “the warmth of home with the precision of Tokyo.” For Art, such praise was the highest form of success.

His leadership soon drew the attention of **Starwood Hotels & Resorts**, which recognized his ability to unite brand philosophy with operational excellence. As **Country Manager for the Philippines** and later **Regional Director for Asia Pacific** under CCA International, Art entered the strategic realm of hospitality. He was no longer just managing hotels — he was shaping how hotels would be managed.

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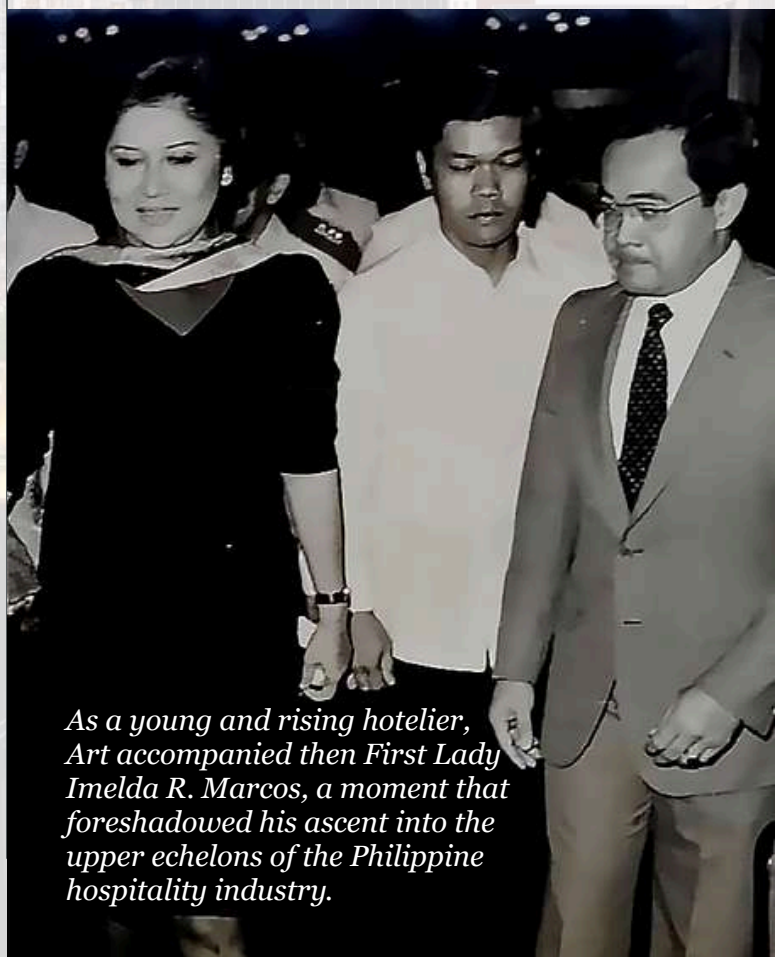
At Starwood, he became the bridge between the East and West, mentoring managers across Asia on how to deliver a guest experience that transcended culture and language. He preached the “science of empathy,” training staff to anticipate needs before they were spoken, to treat every guest interaction as a moment of truth. He insisted that success was measurable not only in profit but in trust — the trust of guests who returned, and of employees who stayed.

His influence spread across continents. As **Regional Director for CCA International and Palmerston Hotels & Resorts**, Art oversaw 45 luxury clubs and hotels worldwide, including the **Tower Club Manila** and **Brocket Hall** in the United Kingdom. In this role, he honed a distinctly Filipino management style — unassuming, gracious, and quietly effective — that caught the attention of the global industry. His philosophy was simple: “To manage people, you must first understand them. To understand them, you must serve them.”

In every boardroom and ballroom, Art embodied that ethic. He negotiated multimillion-dollar contracts with clarity and conscience, ensuring that partnerships honored both profitability and people. His steady hand and intuitive diplomacy made him a trusted

adviser to industry titans — from developers in Hong Kong and Malaysia to investors in Manila and Cebu. He understood that the true power of leadership was persuasion through integrity.

But even as he ascended to global prominence, Art never forgot his roots. He carried the Filipino identity proudly, mentoring dozens of young professionals who would later become



As a young and rising hotelier, Art accompanied then First Lady Imelda R. Marcos, a moment that foreshadowed his ascent into the upper echelons of the Philippine hospitality industry.

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general managers, consultants, and entrepreneurs in their own right. Many credit him as the mentor who “made the Filipino hotelier visible to the world.”

It was during these years that he founded **AML Hotel Consultants**; a company built on his life’s philosophy: excellence with empathy. Through AML, he shared his hard-earned wisdom with new hotels across the Philippines, from the **Solaire Hotel & Casino** to **Bellevue Bohol**, **Hotel 101**, and the **Wyndham Garden** chain. His guidance covered every detail — from architectural design and operational systems to training programs and brand ethos — turning each property into a testament of consistency and character.

By the time Art became **Chairman of Philippine Estates Corporation** and **Acesite (Philippines) Hotel Corp.**, he was no longer merely a practitioner of hospitality; he was one of its philosophers. He had elevated hotel management into an art form — a precise choreography of logistics, aesthetics, and emotion. And through his work, he helped position the Philippines not just as a destination, but as a beacon of world-class hospitality.

Wherever he went — whether walking the corridors of the Westin, consulting in boardrooms for Starwood, or advising at the Tower Club — Arthur Lopez carried the same quiet creed: *excellence is not a skill, it is a habit of the heart.*



At the Tower Club, Art exchanged a toast with the late SGV Chairman Washington SyCip, capturing a meeting of two visionary minds united by integrity, discipline, and an enduring pursuit of excellence in Philippine enterprise.

A Citizen of the World, an Adviser to Nations

By the time Art reached the height of his career, his name had become synonymous not only with hotel management but with diplomacy through excellence. He was, in every sense, *a citizen of the world* — a man whose understanding of culture, leadership, and human connection transcended borders. Wherever he went, from the marble lobbies of Manila to the coastal resorts of Langkawi, Art carried with him the quiet confidence of a Filipino who had mastered a universal language: the language of service.

His career as an adviser and consultant

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took him far beyond the confines of traditional hospitality. Governments, investors, and multinational developers sought his counsel not just for his operational acumen but for his rare ability to merge economic pragmatism with human empathy. As tourism evolved into a global engine of progress, Art emerged as one of its most trusted architects — an ambassador of goodwill disguised as a hotelier.

In **Malaysia**, his influence reached ministerial levels. He was appointed **Adviser to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad** during the latter's **2019 state visit to the Philippines**, representing the Philippines in discussions on sustainable tourism and regional development. His insight was instrumental in shaping Malaysia's hospitality strategies in **Langkawi**, where he later became the **Owner's Representative and Advisor** for properties such as the **Four Points by Sheraton Langkawi**, **Helang Airport Hotel**, **Santubong Resort**, and **Sheraton Beach Resort Langkawi**.

There, amidst the emerald waters and tropical breezes, Art helped negotiate management contracts and franchise conversions with Starwood Hotels and Resorts, ensuring that local developments met global standards while retaining cultural authenticity. He treated each project as a bridge — between East and West, between heritage and modernity. “A hotel must respect the land it stands on,”

he would remind his clients. “Otherwise, it becomes a stranger to its own guests.”

His vision of hospitality as diplomacy extended to the **Cook Islands**, where he served as **Management Consultant for the Rarotongan Beach Resort & Spa** and **Aitutaki Lagoon Resort & Spa**. There, surrounded by Polynesian traditions and the boundless Pacific, Art brought structure and sophistication without erasing local identity. He worked hand in hand with community leaders, ensuring that development served both visitors and residents — a philosophy that would later inspire sustainable tourism models across the Pacific.



Joining the official Philippine delegation in 2019 during the state visit of former Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, Art reaffirmed his stature as an industry statesman championing tourism and bilateral cooperation.

In **Hong Kong** and **Kowloon**, where he served as **Regional Director for Asia-Pacific for CCA International** and **Palmerston Hotels & Resorts**, he continued to expand his influence,

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overseeing elite clubs and hotels that catered to the world's most discerning clientele. Yet even in those corridors of privilege, he never forgot his mission: to make hospitality a vessel of understanding among peoples.

Art's diplomatic touch made him more than a consultant; he became an unofficial envoy of Filipino professionalism. In every country he worked, he left behind not only hotels but relationships built on trust and respect. He believed that every conversation, every contract, every gesture of courtesy contributed to the larger work of peace. "When nations learn to welcome," he once said, "they learn to understand."

His stature as an adviser also reflected a subtle but profound truth: that soft power often begins with soft skills. Art embodied this principle long before it became part of management jargon. His ability to navigate cross-cultural complexities, to earn respect without asserting dominance, made him a model for global leadership in an era that increasingly valued cooperation over competition.

Through his counsel, he influenced not only hotels but economies, helping shape regional tourism frameworks that emphasized sustainability, inclusivity, and cultural preservation. Whether addressing policymakers in Malaysia,



At the Sheraton Towers Southgate, Art exemplified hands-on leadership and an unwavering commitment to operational excellence within one of Sheraton's most prestigious properties.

investors in Singapore, or developers in the Philippines, his message remained the same: that prosperity and purpose must coexist.

He was a **Filipino by birth, Asian by context, and global by conviction** — a man who carried the warmth of his homeland wherever he went, and whose career proved that the Filipino talent for hospitality was not confined to service but could stand as a philosophy of leadership.

In the grand tapestry of global hospitality, Art was a thread that connected nations — not through grand speeches or political titles, but through the quiet dignity of work done well, and the enduring belief that service, at its highest form, is diplomacy in action.

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A group photo from the Management Contract Signing Ceremony between SM Investments Corporation and Sheraton Overseas Management Corporation captured a milestone alliance ushering a new era in Philippine hospitality and global brand partnerships.

The Homecoming: Redefining the Filipino Standard

When Art finally returned home, it was more than a homecoming — it was the reentry of a world-class professional into a country still searching for its own definition of excellence. After years spent mastering the intricacies of global hospitality, Art's repatriation was not merely personal. It was national. **Henry Sy Sr.**, patriarch of one of the Philippines' largest business empires, personally convinced him to return from Hong Kong. "The Philippines needs you," Sy reportedly said. And so, Art Lopez came home — not as an employee of foreign hotels, but as an architect of Filipino pride.



This management contract signing ceremony stood as a defining partnership that elevated the Philippines' place on the global tourism map.

In his luggage, he carried not souvenirs but systems — processes honed in Sheraton, Starwood, and Westin boardrooms across continents. He returned with the discipline of Boston, the finesse of Auckland, and the quiet confidence of Langkawi. For Art, excellence was not geography — it was philosophy. He believed the Filipino could be as meticulous as the Swiss, as gracious as the Japanese, and as resilient as the Australians he had worked with. His vision was simple but radical: *to prove that world-class is not a Western monopoly — it is a Filipino capability.*

Henry Sy's call opened the floodgates. Soon after, Art became the trusted management consultant to some of the country's most formidable industrialists — **Andrew Tan, Carlos Chan, Isidro Consunji, Edgar "Injap" Sia, George Ty, and Dennis Uy.** Each project became a new experiment in elevating the

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Filipino standard of hospitality. Art designed not just buildings, but systems — pre-opening protocols, staff training programs, and operational models that mirrored global precision but were infused with Filipino warmth. “The best hotels,” he would often say, “are not the ones that impress, but the ones that embrace.”

His hand was visible in the rise of several landmark developments — the **Waterfront Manila Hotel and Casino**, where he served as **Chairman of the Board**, and the **Waterfront Hotels & Casinos** group, where he acted as **Vice Chairman and Director**. He guided **DoubleDragon Properties Corporation**, shaping the DNA of the **Hotel 101** brand in Manila and Fort Bonifacio, and advised **Bellevue Hotels & Resorts**, helping them become paragons of local luxury. Each partnership reflected his dual commitment: to nurture Filipino entrepreneurs and to align Philippine hospitality with the highest global benchmarks.

Yet beyond the boardrooms and blueprints, Art’s truest impact was institutional. As **President of the Philippine Hotel Owners Association (PHOA)**, he transformed the organization into the dominant voice of the accommodation industry. Under his leadership, PHOA worked closely with the **Department of Tourism (DOT)** to revise and modernize the **National Accommodation Standards** — a

comprehensive framework that set uniform criteria for star ratings, sustainability, safety, and service excellence. Through this initiative, Art ensured that Philippine hotels would no longer be evaluated merely by Western standards, but by a uniquely Filipino framework that fused global quality with local soul.

This reform was not academic — it was moral. Art understood that the Filipino hotel worker, long celebrated for diligence and warmth abroad, deserved an equal platform at home. He sought to reverse the irony that the world valued Filipino service more than Filipinos did themselves. “We have the best hospitality DNA in the world,” he once said. “We just need to believe it.” His voice carried the



In May 2013, Hotel of Asia, Inc., led by Edgar “Injap” Sia, sealed a partnership with AML Consultants, a collaboration guided by Art that aimed to elevate hospitality standards and expand world-class hotel ventures nationwide.

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conviction of a man who had seen both sides of the mirror — the exported Filipino worker and the imported hotel brand — and who sought to reconcile them under one flag.

His return marked the dawn of a new era. The Philippines was no longer a backdrop for foreign chains — it was now a player in the game of global hospitality. Art's work blurred the line between consultant and patriot. Every hotel he helped build, every manager he trained, every policy he drafted was an act of nation-building disguised as business. He proved that hospitality was not a service but a philosophy of nationhood — the art of making others feel at home while never forgetting one's own.

By redefining the Filipino standard, Art Lopez didn't just raise expectations; he elevated self-worth. His homecoming was not a return to what was familiar — it was a return to what was possible. Through him, the Philippines rediscovered its hospitality not as imitation, but as identity.



During a courtesy meeting with then Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Võ Nguyên Giáp, Art strengthened diplomatic and business relations through his expanding international engagements in hospitality and cross-cultural collaboration.

A Rotarian at heart, A Sector Steadying Hand

Beyond his industry roles, Art's Rotary involvement reinforces a philosophy of service as leadership. In Manila's Rotary circles, he has collaborated with peers who share a commitment to public service and community improvement. This dimension of his work—service as a vocation, leadership as stewardship—underpins his broader impact on Filipino hospitality.

His Rotary journey began decades earlier, long before his name became synonymous with Philippine hospitality. In **1985**, he



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joined the **Rotary Club of Downtown Manila**, drawn by its spirit of community and ethical leadership. Even as his work carried him abroad — to Australia, New Zealand, and Malaysia — he kept the Rotary ideal close, later affiliating with the **Rotary Club of Melbourne** in **1990**, where he saw firsthand how civic service transcended geography and culture.

When Art eventually returned to the Philippines, he joined the **Rotary Club of Manila (RCM)** — Asia's first and most prestigious Rotary Club — in **2004**, formally **re-admitted in 2012** under the sponsorship of **Past President Tito Gupit**, whose mentorship and friendship he always cherished. Within the club, he served with quiet distinction, contributing his expertise to projects that combined professional skill with social compassion.

From **2016 to 2018**, he sat on the **Board of Directors**, representing the classification *Senior Active – Business Services (Hotel Management)*, where he lent his global acumen to local causes — from youth education and tourism advocacy to vocational mentoring programs for service professionals.

In **2018**, Rotary International conferred upon him the title of *Paul Harris Fellow*, one of the highest distinctions a Rotarian can receive, recognizing his consistent generosity, moral leadership, and commitment to Rotary's enduring ideal: *Service Above Self*.



With his fellow Rotary Club of Manila members, Art shared fellowship rooted in Rotary's ideals of service, leadership, and community — extending his spirit of hospitality beyond the industry into civic life.

Members of the Rotary Club of Manila recall him as a man of impeccable courtesy — always arriving early, offering a warm smile, and engaging members across generations. In fellowship, he was the same Art Lopez who graced hotel lobbies: dignified yet approachable, precise yet profoundly human.

To this day, his colleagues at RCM see him as a bridge between the world of business and the realm of service — a man who elevated both. “Art leads without fanfare,” one Rotarian remarked. “He teaches us that success is not measured by applause but by the difference you quietly make.”

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During a gathering of the Philippine Consular Corps, Art joined Rotary Past President and former Dean Jesus “Susing” Pineda Jr., celebrating friendship, diplomacy, and shared service through international fellowship.

Through Rotary, the enduring thread in his story is simple, **accessible leadership: make the right thing easy for others to do and do it consistently.** He has never pursued notoriety; he has pursued improvement — of people, processes, and places where guests experience welcome.

The Ongoing Impact: How Art Lopez Remains the Standard

In the twilight of a career defined by mastery, mentorship, and meaning, **Arthur M. Lopez** stands as one of the rare figures who have not merely thrived in an industry but reshaped its conscience. His story — from a young bellman at the old Manila Hilton to a

global hotelier, adviser to industry titans, and quiet statesman of Philippine hospitality — reads less like a résumé and more like a chronicle of how purpose, when practiced with patience, becomes legacy.

Art never measured success by its volume. For him, achievement was not a possession to display but a **responsibility to share.** Even as the titles accumulated — Chairman, President, Adviser, Consultant — he remained guided by the same triad that defined his earliest days behind the front desk: **courtesy, competence, and conscience.** Those three virtues became the silent architecture of his leadership, shaping not just operations, but the moral rhythm of every team he led.



Among his peers in the Rotary Club of Manila, Art continued to exemplify active fellowship and unwavering commitment to Rotary's timeless creed of Service Above Self.

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Facilitating a meeting at Malacañang Palace between President Fidel V. Ramos and renowned Malaysian property developer Tan Sri Ting Pek Khiing, Art helped strengthen regional ties following his record-setting completion of the Sheraton Langkawi Beach Resort in just 100 days.



Together with Sheraton officials, Art paid a courtesy call on President Fidel V. Ramos, underscoring the growing synergy between global hospitality brands and the Philippine tourism sector under his leadership.

What makes Art's legacy enduring is how seamlessly it continues to pulse through the industry's modern heart. His influence can still be felt in the confidence of a front-desk officer, the precision of a banquet team, the composure of a general manager facing crisis. Across properties and organizations, his imprint endures in the discipline of systems and the dignity of people.

He remains, even in quiet counsel, a **living standard** — the benchmark against which excellence in Philippine hospitality is still measured. His impact radiates through four enduring legacies:

Training and Mentorship: Art has mentored generations of hoteliers who now lead their own institutions. His teachings — punctuality, humility, and the guest-first mindset — have evolved into an informal school of thought that still defines the country's service ethos.

Standards and Safety: He has long championed the establishment of enforceable industry standards that protect both guests and workers. For Art, regulation is not bureaucracy — it is respect, ensuring that hospitality remains a dignified profession where integrity and care coexist.

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At a formal gathering, Art joined Max Soliven and his wife Preciosa Silverio-Soliven, together with close friends — an occasion that captured the warmth, intellect, and fellowship shared among leaders in journalism, education, and hospitality.

Policy and Industry Leadership:

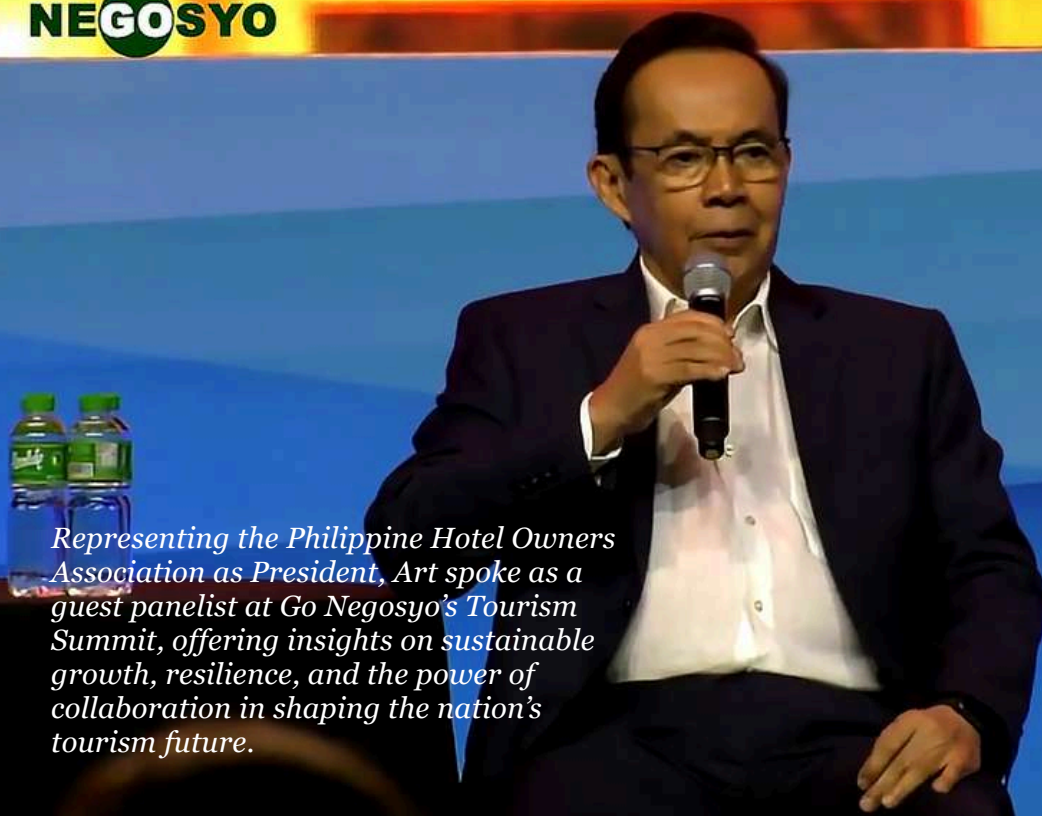
Art's voice continues to shape national conversations on tourism and workforce development. His insights on wages, sustainability, and professional conduct have become reference points for policymakers striving to balance progress with fairness.

Civic and Community Stewardship:

Through Rotary and other philanthropic endeavors, Art views hospitality as an act of citizenship — proof that service to others extends beyond lobbies and boardrooms into the very heart of community life.

In an era of automation, algorithms, and ever-changing guest expectations, **Art Lopez's philosophy remains timeless:** that the soul of hospitality is human. He showed that while technology can refine service, only empathy can elevate it. His life's work — patiently built, quietly sustained — continues to remind the industry that greatness lies not in being first, but in **being faithful to what matters most:** people, purpose, and the pursuit of excellence that outlives one's own name.

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Representing the Philippine Hotel Owners Association as President, Art spoke as a guest panelist at Go Negosyo's Tourism Summit, offering insights on sustainable growth, resilience, and the power of collaboration in shaping the nation's tourism future.

A Lasting Image: A Quiet Conductor in a Crowded Lobby

Those who have worked alongside **Art Lopez** often describe him not in superlatives, but in subtleties. He is a man whose influence is felt more than heard — steady, deliberate, and unflinchingly present. In a profession that thrives on motion and display, Art is the still point around which the machinery of hospitality revolves.

He walks through hotel lounges the way a seasoned conductor moves through an orchestra pit — eyes quietly scanning, gestures restrained yet decisive. The rhythm of his leadership is measured in calm efficiency: a nod to a bellman, a brief exchange with the concierge, a reassuring glance toward a front desk manager in the middle of a busy check-in. To onlookers, he seems almost effortless. But behind that composure lies decades of discipline and a meticulous awareness of how a single detail — a tone of voice, a delay in service, a misaligned chair — can alter a guest's perception of care.

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When pressure mounts, as it inevitably does in hospitality, Art's calm becomes the room's equilibrium. Teams find their footing in his quiet authority, guests sense order in his demeanor, and the entire atmosphere subtly steadies itself. The hallmark of his leadership is not spectacle but **symmetry** — a lobby that hums in perfect rhythm, a guest who feels seen without intrusion, and a staff that believes in the mission because their leader embodies it.



During an engagement with President Joseph Ejercito Estrada, Art exemplified his continuing commitment to world-class hospitality and his pivotal role in fostering collaboration between the public and private sectors in tourism and real estate.

Beyond the boardrooms and ballrooms, Art carries the same unpretentious integrity into his personal life. He shares a lifelong partnership with his wife, **Leticia “Letty” Jacinto**, a union that mirrors his professional ethos — built on steadiness, patience, and mutual respect. Those who know them speak of their quiet devotion as a portrait of shared purpose, a marriage anchored in the same balance and humility that define Art's work. Together, they have built not just a family but a way of life that honors constancy over commotion.

As a living embodiment of **Philippine hospitality**, Art Lopez represents a rare kind of leadership — one that fuses humility with mastery, grace with discipline, and longevity with relevance. He is not merely a manager or a chairman; he is a **steward of tradition**, guiding an evolving industry while keeping its human heart intact.

In a field that celebrates grand openings and glittering accolades, Art's true legacy resides elsewhere — in the unseen harmony of teams that work seamlessly, in the guests who leave feeling genuinely cared for, and in the next generation of hoteliers who quietly emulate his example. His life reminds us that the highest form of leadership, like the finest hospitality, is neither loud nor fleeting — **it is felt, remembered, and quietly transformative.**

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At a Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) Conference, Art was among the country's leading business figures, a respected presence who bridged hospitality with enterprise and championed cooperation among industry giants.

A Paradigm of Leadership and Expertise

In every industry, there are figures who define standards rather than follow them. In Philippine hospitality, that figure is **Arthur M. Lopez**. Over the course of five decades, he has come to embody both the breadth of operational mastery and the depth of leadership integrity. His career reads less like a résumé and more like an architectural blueprint — each position, each project, each partnership contributing to a larger structure of excellence.



At the Philippine STAR's Anniversary Celebration, Art joined members of the Rotary Club of Manila and fellow leaders from media, business, and civic sectors in honoring a shared legacy of service, excellence, and nation-building.

Few, if any, can match the scope of Art's experience. He has touched every corner of hotel operations — from the cadence of front desk service to the strategy of financial oversight, from the nuance of human resource management to the vision of long-term marketing and branding. This encyclopedic understanding of the industry was not acquired from manuals or boardrooms, but from decades of immersion: listening to guests, guiding teams, and navigating the intricate balance between precision and empathy that defines true hospitality.

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Presentation of the Philippine Hotel Owners Association (PHOA) Road Map to Tourism Secretary Berna Romulo-Puyat outlined strategic measures to enhance competitiveness, sustainability, and long-term growth of the national hospitality sector.

What sets Art apart, however, is not only his technical acumen but the company he has kept. He is the **only hotelier in the nation's history** to have collaborated with the country's most influential business titans — **Carlos Chan, Isidro Consunji, Ricky Razon, Edgar “Injap” Sia, Henry Sy, Andrew Tan, George**

Ty, and Dennis Uy. Each partnership reflected a shared trust in his capability to bring global standards to local soil. Under his stewardship, projects with these taipans did not merely expand hotel portfolios; they redefined what Filipino hospitality could look like — disciplined yet warm, operationally rigorous yet unmistakably human.

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Across these ventures, Art refined operational systems that married international precision with Filipino grace. The results were not just facilities that impressed, but cultures that endured. To him, the measure of a great hotel was never in its marble or its stars, but in the way it **made both guest and employee feel valued**. His management philosophy turned workplaces into communities of purpose — each person aware that they were not just performing tasks, but upholding a tradition.

Art's influence extends beyond buildings and brands. He is as much a teacher as a trailblazer, a mentor to generations who now lead their own properties and enterprises. His approach to mentorship is characteristically deliberate: he imparts wisdom the way he leads — quietly, with conviction, and always by example. For those who have trained under him, lessons about service, punctuality, and dignity have become lifelong principles.

Today, as the hospitality landscape evolves with technology and changing guest expectations, **Art Lopez remains the compass** — pointing toward a standard where excellence is



63
MEMBER COMPANIES
200
MEMBER HOTELS
40,000
ROOM INVENTORY



Under Art's presidency, the Philippine Hotel Owners Association (PHOA) experienced renewed growth, industry unity, and a forward-looking agenda that strengthened professional standards and sustainability initiatives nationwide.

inseparable from ethics, and innovation is guided by humanity. His leadership is not the kind that fades with titles or time; it reverberates in the tone of service, in the calm confidence of every manager he has influenced, in the enduring respect his name commands across the industry.

In the end, Art Lopez stands not merely as a professional success story, but as a **paradigm of leadership** — one defined by intellect, integrity, and an unwavering belief that true hospitality begins where ambition meets heart.

INTERCLUB EVENT

Rotary Club of Tagaytay City's 6th Handover and 7th Induction Ceremonies



President Raoul Creencia attended the 6th Handover and 7th Induction Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Tagaytay City on November 11, 2025.



President Raoul Creencia with RC Tagaytay City President Mildred Bernardo

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

District Area Meeting for the Month of November



DSG Hermie Esguerra was formally introduced as the newly-proclaimed District Governor Nominee Designate.

DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra, Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday, and President Raoul Creencia attended the District Area Meeting for the month of November last November 5, 2025 at the Gloria Maris Shark's Fin Mall of Asia Annex Building, Pasay City.

They are shown in this photo with DG Mary Mei V. Rodrigo.



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra delivering his response after his formal proclamation as District Governor Nominee in an announcement as part of the District Area Meeting for the month of October.

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

District Area Meeting for the Month of November



President Raoul Creencia in the roll call of United Chosen Presidents during the District Area Meeting



President Raoul Creencia, as Chairman of the District Raffle entitled, “Be a United Chosen Millionaire”, explaining the mechanics of the raffle.



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra introducing the members of the District Fundraising Committee which he chairs.



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra, District Fundraising Committee Chairman, and President Raoul Creencia, District Raffle Chairman, hyping up the District Raffle to entice the United Chosen Presidents to get their ticket lots.

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

District Area Meeting for the Month of November



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra winning a Starbucks Gift Card during the raffle conducted at the District Area Meeting



President Raoul Creencia representing the Rotary Club of Manila, which was recognized for placing second (2nd) in TRF (The Rotary Foundation) contribution for the month of September.



President Raoul Creencia, representing the Rotary Club of Manila, when the club was recognized as a Major Co-Host of the Governor's Cup Fishing Tournament



President Raoul Creencia was the winner of a special prize among the United Chosen Presidents whose clubs are co-hosts of the Governor's Cup Fishing Tournament.

DISTRICT ACTIVITY

District Area Meeting for the Month of November



President Raoul Creencia named one of the Stars of the Night Awardees



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra and President Raoul Creencia with the winners of Php 5,000.00 from among the first takers of ticket lots for the District Raffle.



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra, District Fundraising Committee Chairman, and President Raoul Creencia, District Raffle Committee Chairman, drawing the winners of Php 5,000.00 each from the first takers of ticket lots.



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra, Special Assistant to the Governor-Manila SDG Albert S. Alday and President Raoul Creencia in a photo with district dignitaries during the District Area Meeting.

DISTRICT EVENT

District Bowling Tournament of RI District 3810



DGND/DSG Hermie Esguerra in true bowler's form as he participated in the District Bowling Tournament of Rotary International District 3810 hosted by the Rotary Club of Manila San Miguel, daughter club of the Rotary Club of Manila, last November 4, 2025 at the SM Bowling Center, SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City.



DISTRICT EVENT

District Bowling Tournament of RI District 3810



The spirit of Rotary fellowship was on full display as members from across the district gathered for a day of friendly competition and camaraderie.



Rotarians Pay Tribute to **FVR** in Golf Fellowship



In a poignant display of fellowship and remembrance, Rotarians honored the late President Fidel V. Ramos, a respected leader and avid sports enthusiast, by visiting the commemorative marker which reads:

"This hole is dedicated in loving memory of the late president Fidel V. Ramos - an esteemed statesman, a visionary leader, a passionate sportsman, and a cherished friend and supporter of Southwoods Golf and Country Club."

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

RC Manila and RC Jinju Jeil Strengthen Sister Club Ties

The Rotary Club of Manila recently had the pleasure of hosting our sister club, the Rotary Club of Jinju Jeil from South Korea. This special visit reinforced our shared commitment to fellowship and service, creating lasting memories and strengthening our international bond.



The fellowship began on November 5 with a warm airport welcome for the visiting delegation.



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT



The following day, after joining the RCM's Weekly Membership Meeting, the guests from RC Jinju Jeil visited the *Artisans of Hope* art exhibit, where they shared their support and purchased several paintings.





The evening continued with a delightful dinner at the Last Chukker in the Manila Polo Club, filled with engaging conversation and camaraderie.



President Raoul Creencia, Director Rami Chahwan, Treasurer PJ Garcia, Assistant Internal Auditor Mike Roxas, and Rotarian Ingill Ra at Manila Southwoods in a golf fellowship with the delegation from the Rotary Club of Jinju Jeil.



**MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH**



**DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT**

FELLOWSHIP



On November 7, President Raoul Creencia and Internal Auditor Nick Locsin accompanied the RC Jinju Jeil delegation to the Philippine General Hospital's Spine Center, showcasing one of the key service projects our clubs support.



The visit concluded with a farewell dinner at Dong Won Korean Restaurant in Makati City. This final gathering was a perfect capstone to a few days of wonderful exchange.



First Friday Mass for the Month of November



The RCM members celebrated the First Friday Virtual Mass on November 7, 2025. The presider for the Mass was Father Larry Tan, SDB.

Present were Director Rami Chahwan (Pre-Mass Intercessory Prayer, Rtn. Bertel Bertelsen (First Reading and Responsorial Psalm), Rotarian Chris Bello (Prayer of the Faithful), Past Director Bida Fajardo (Oratio Imperata for Justice, Truth and Peace), Rtn Emman Dela Cruz (Novena Prayer for the Sacred Heart of Jesus), and Past District Governor Obet Pagdanganan.



Rotary
Club of Manila



**UNITE
FOR
GOOD**

RCM'S ANNUAL **SPORTSFEST** **2025**

SAVE THE DATE

11.15.25

PALMS COUNTRY CLUB

1410 Laguna Heights Dr, Muntinlupa

REGISTRATIONS @ 8:00 AM
FEE: P3,500.00 / ALL IN
WITH LUNCH/DINNER

SCHEDULE:

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|----------|
| • Ping Pong | (8-9am) | • Futsal | (2-3pm) |
| • Tennis | (9-10am) | • Pickle Ball | (3-4pm) |
| • Badminton | (10-11am) | • Tag-of-War | (4-4:30) |
| • Self-defense | (11-12pm) | • Bowling | (5:30pm) |
| • Lunch Buffet | (12-1pm) | • Billiard | (5:30pm) |
| • Basketball | (1-2pm) | • Dinner Buffet | (7-10pm) |



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