

FILIPINO TIES

A PUBLICATION OF THE COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS DISTRIBUTED WORLDWIDE September 2005- January 2006 Vol. XIII No.1

Gov. Lingle's visit kicks off Hawaii centennial



Portrait of the Governor as: (From L to R), *scholar*, with Manila Mayor Lito Atienza during conferment ceremonies at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila; *tourist*, with Ilocos Sur Governor Chavit Singson aboard a Calesa in Vigan; *diplomat*, with Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo during the stamp unveiling ceremony in Malacañang; *Filipino healthcare workers' advocate*, with Ilocos Norte Governor Bong Bong Marcos during MOA signing ceremonies aimed at improving research and technology competencies of nursing students in the province. Photos: Honolulu StarBulletin, Ilocos Times, CFO.

Governor Linda Lingle, Hawaii's first female governor since it attained statehood in 1959, arrived in the Philippines on 03 January 2006 for an eight-day goodwill visit that brought her and her 174-member delegation to Metro Manila, Pangasinan and Hawaii sister provinces, Ilocos Norte and Ilocos Sur. The goodwill visit kicked off the line-up of activities in 2006 commemorating the centennial of the arrival of the first Filipino migrants in Hawaii in 1906.

In a media conference upon her arrival at the airport, Governor Lingle stressed the important roles of Filipinos played in Hawaii who make up almost 25% of the Hawaiian population. The governor also said, "I have an additional affinity (with

Filipinos) because I have lived with a Filipino family for ten years on the small island of Molokai when I first came to Hawaii." Two of the Befitel family with whom the governor lived with were part of her delegation.

During the courtesy call on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on 05 January 2006, the Governor invited the President to visit Hawaii this year, in line with the celebration. President Arroyo said she would like to visit Hawaii again, but could not make commitments as yet. They touched on a variety of subjects including increasing trade opportunities between Hawaii and the Philippines, decentralizing government and the war on terror.

see Lingle visit, page 10

Stamp design competition concludes: Pampagueño and Manileño cop first prizes



The Hawaii Centennial Commemorative Stamp Design Competition concluded on 14 November 2005, yielding more than 170 entries nationwide. Allen A. Moran, a sophomore student of the Don Honorio Ventura College of Arts and Trades in Bacolor, Pampanga bagged the first prize in the student category while Crisanto S. Umali, a free lance art director based in Sampaloc, Manila, won in the professional category.

Moran and Umali's art works are featured in commemorative stamps issued by the Philippine Postal Corporation on 05 January 2006.

BI issues new rules on dual citizenship

Responding to public clamor for a more rationalized process in reacquiring Filipino citizenship, the Bureau of Immigration issued Memorandum Circular No. Aff. 05-002 or the revised rules governing Philippine citizenship under Republic Act No. 9225 on 16 October 2005, taking effect on 1 November 2005.

Under the new rules, the National Statistics Office's authenticated birth certificate is no longer the sole proof required to determine whether the applicant is a natural-born citizen of the Philippines. Other documents considered as proof of natural-born citizenship include the old Philippine passport, voter's affidavit or identification card, and marriage contract indicating Philippine citizenship of the applicant, among others.

To minimize the delay in the approval of applications, the revised rules also authorize Philippine Foreign Service Posts

see BI issues, page 10

News From Abroad

PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN SAN FRANCISCO SUPPORTS FIGHT AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

San Francisco – The first-ever Filipino-initiated event on Domestic Violence Awareness in San Francisco was held in October 2005 at the Social Hall of the Philippine Center where the Filipino community took concrete steps to prevent domestic violence and extend appropriate assistance to both the survivors and abusers.

The forum, entitled “DV (Domestic Violence): Not in Our Community,” was sponsored by the Filipino American Outreach Task Force of the San Mateo-based private non-profit organization known as Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse (CORA). Consul General Maria Rowena Mendoza Sanchez said the event broke the silence of Filipino American survivors and their families, and brought together advocates, activists and concerned citizens from various sectors.

The heart of the event was the pledging ceremony presided by San Francisco Superior Court Judge Ronald Quidachay, the lone Filipino American on the bench in the nine Bay counties. He led the vow to end domestic violence at home, at work and in the community by fulfilling 10 specific acts such as learning about the dynamics of abuse and its effects on children, as well as reaching out and providing resources to identified survivors or abusers.

Consul General Sanchez and CORA Executive Director Melissa Lukin invited the community to participate in the on-going campaign to end domestic violence, one of the leading causes of death for women worldwide. More than 10 percent of the clients of CORA are Filipino nationals. CORA is the only domestic violence core service agency in San Francisco with a Filipino American specific outreach program.

The event also heard the testimonies of Clara Tempongko whose daughter Claire Joyce was murdered by her still missing ex-boyfriend in October 2000. Television actress Giovannie Pico, a mainstay of the hit series “ER”, spoke about living in an abusive relationship. Both detailed their path to healing.

Though based in San Mateo county, CORA conducted the pledge to prevent domestic violence at the Consulate in San Francisco as a profound symbolic outreach to Filipino Americans.

Source: DFA

LONDON MALL , BLACK CABS SERVE AS VENUES TO PROMOTE PHILIPPINE CULTURE

London- A festival of arts, crafts, costumes, food and food products from the Philippines enjoyed a good run at the sprawling Oriental City Mall in Colindale, North of London, drawing crowds from all over the city. The showcase, billed as “Discover Philippine Treasures 2005” was held from September to October 2005.

“The mall is a good venue to promote Philippine culture because we are able to reach a considerable number of audience coming from different walks of life,” Philippine Ambassador to the Court of St. James, Edgardo B. Espiritu said.

On its opening day, a special attraction was the presence of the world-famous London black cab, whose body was covered with beautiful Philippine scenery and the slogan WOW Philippines.

CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER ENDORSES FILIPINO VETERANS EQUITY ACT

California - Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has urged President George W. Bush to immediately pass the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, bolstering support for a bill that has been languishing in the U.S. Congress for the last twelve years.

In a letter sent to the White House, Schwarzenegger stressed the need for the present U.S. Congress to enact the bill considering that the number of surviving Filipino veterans is steadily diminishing. The letter was dated December 8, 2005.

House Resolution 302 or the Filipino Veterans Equity Act of 2005 was introduced by Rep. Randy Cunningham and co-sponsored by Bob Filner (California) while Senate Bill 146 was introduced by Sen. Daniel Inouye (Hawaii). The legislation seeks the repeal of the restrictive provisions of the 1946 Rescission Act which stripped Filipino soldiers drafted into US military service in the Philippines during WWII, of their US veteran status and the corresponding benefits they deserve.

Source: Manila Bulletin

Source: DFA, The Philippine Embassy Newsletter

Philippines' coconet tops BBC World Challenge

In the span of two generations, the Philippines has seen nearly all its jungle vanish. With little regard to the future, loggers and squatters have destroyed watersheds. The inevitable result has been landslides sweeping away topsoil. In 1995, agricultural engineer Justino Arboleda started Juboken Enterprise to combat soil erosion. The company makes nets that act as surrogate tree roots by holding loose soils together, the project came to be known as coconet.

Arboleda of Legazpi, Albay in the Philippines won the first prize in the First World Challenge contest sponsored by BBC World television, Newsweek and Shell in London on 17 November 2005 for his soil erosion control net or coconet project.

Coconet, made from waste coconut husk, was adjudged the best environmental grassroots project in the world, from among 456 entries from 90 countries. Malta, which introduced a biodiesel product, took the second prize, while Vanuatu was in third place for its rechargeable battery project.

Arboleda's victory was announced at a ceremony in London. He also received a US\$20,000 grant from Shell, which will be invested in further developing other uses for the different waste products generated in his coconut farms. These include doormats, stuffing for car seats and mattresses, and fertilizer from coconut dust suitable for organic farms. But the flagship product is still going strong: coconets are now being produced at a rate of 30,000



Left, coconet acts as surrogate tree roots by holding loose soil together. Top right, Coconut husk, usually considered waste material is processed into coconet, mattresses and other products. Photos: www.theworldchallenge.co.uk

square meters per month for markets throughout the world. This continuing success has improved the lives of more than 1,500 families in the Philippines: each family involved in the project earns an additional income of around US\$5 per day.

"With the world recognition, it would be very easy for us to promote our cocofiber products throughout the world," Arboleda said. He expressed confidence that the increased demand for coconet would help alleviate poverty in the country because more jobs would be created. He stressed that the demand for coconut materials would also benefit thousands of poor Filipino coconut farmers.

Source: *The Philippine Embassy Newsletter*, www.theworldchallenge.co.uk

Fil-Am poet wins Academy of American Poets prize



Above, Ms. Reyes in a 1997 photo at a poetry reading session in San Francisco. Photo: www.poeticdream.com

Barbara Jane Reyes was selected as the recipient of the 2005 James Laughlin Award for her second collection of poems, *Poeta en San Francisco* (Tinfish Press). The James Laughlin Award is given to commend and support a poet's second book of poetry. The award was established in honor of the poet and publisher James Laughlin (1914 - 1997).

Ms. Reyes was born in Manila, Philippines, and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area. She received her undergraduate education at the University of California Berkeley where she also served as Editor-in-Chief of the Pilipino American literary publication *Maganda*. She earned her Masteral Degree in Fine Arts (MFA) for Creative Writing (poetry) at the San Francisco State University.

Noted scholar and poet, James Longenbach says of Ms. Reyes' collection of poems, "If William Blake were alive and well and sitting on a eucalyptus branch in the hills above the bay, this is the poetry he would aspire to write." Reyes poems examine the ideas of immigration, transnationalism, location and the language of San Francisco as an urban center.

Her first book, *Gravities of Center*, was published by Arkipelago Books (SF) in 2003.

Source: www.tinfishpress.com



FILIPINO TIES

Editorial Board

Adviser : Jose Z. Molano, Jr.
Jennifer O. Gonzales

Assoc. Editors : Golda Myra R. Roma
Regina G. Galias
Rino D. Paez
Cherry Joy G. Veniles

Contributors : Jerry V. Colasito
Marita Del Rosario
Olivette A. Gabito
Marjualita T. Malapo
Thea May M. Rabe
Frencel Louie T. Tingga

ISSN 1655-1664

Filipino Ties is now available online! E-mail us at cfodfa@info.com.ph to receive a copy on your e-mail three times a year or view the latest issue at www.cfo.gov.ph



Quotes from the Quill

"Where have all the Filipinos gone?"

It turned out that Filipinos born in Hawaii, as soon as they reached the age of reason, and the Filipinos migrating from the Philippines, as soon as they left the airport, became Chinese-Spanish or Spanish-Chinese-Singaporean or Spanish-Portuguese-Basque or Chinese-American-Irish or some such combination.

(Not like) Maria Makulelat, who migrated the same time I did 37 years ago. The very first thing she did when she got her green card was to go to court to change her name to Mary McCloy. Alas, again, the Philippines' loss was Scotland's gain."

... Corky Trinidad, Honolulu Star Bulletin columnist on the vanishing Filipinos in Hawaii

From Mabuhay to Aloha and beyond: Filipinos in Hawaii by the numbers



Mabuhay Filipino!

√ Of the 912,324 Filipinos who migrated to the U.S. as permanent residents from 1981 to 2004, 92,702 or 10.16% listed Hawaii as their final destination in the U.S. Hawaii ranks as second top destination state next only to California which took in 46.69% of all registered Filipino emigrants.

√ Of this number, 27,179 are males and 33,564 are females. In the last 16 years, there are 100 females for every 80 males who leave for the Island State of Hawaii.

√ From 1988 to May 2005, children 14 years old and below make up 22.11% of the total number of Hawaii bound Filipino emigrants. Those aged between 15 to 19 years old make up 11.8% at 7,357 and are followed closely by those in the 25 to 29 age bracket at 9.09% with 5,670.

√ 2.94 % or 1,834 of all Hawaii-bound Filipino emigrants from 1988 to May 2005 are in the 70 years old and above age group.

√ Students make up the biggest grouping of Hawaii bound emigrants making up 27.14% or 16,924 of the total. Housewives make up 22.3 % or 13,905 and those engaged in agricultural, animal husbandry, forestry and the fishing industry make up 6.76 % or 4,214. professional, technical and related workers make up 5.01% or 3,122 emigrants.

Aloha Hawayano!

√ There were 275,728 people in Hawaii reported as Filipino or part Filipino in the 2000 U.S. Census, or about 22.8 % of the state population. Among the 50 U.S. states, Hawaii ranked 2nd in terms of total number of Filipino and part-Filipino residents but first in terms of percentage against the total population at 3.2%.

√ Of Hawaii's four counties, Kauai hosts the largest percentage share of Filipino-Americans with 31.7%.

√ The median age of a person of Filipino or part-Filipino ancestry was 29.3, lower than the state median of 36.2.

√ The average household size for Filipinos and part-Filipinos was 3.96, more than the state's 2.92.

√ Among Filipino and part-Filipino households, 58.3 percent were homeowners, higher than the state's 56.5%.

√ Among Filipinos and part-Filipinos 25 years old and above, 75.2 % were high school graduates, less than the state's 84.65%.

√ Median household income for Filipinos and part-Filipinos was \$51,985, higher than the state median household income of \$49,820.



Source: CFO, 2000 U.S. Census, Honolulu Star Bulletin



Mailbox

Buhay Pilipino sa Alemanya

Magandang araw! Naninirahan ako ngayon dito sa Germany habang hinihintay ang araw ng aking kasal. Maayos naman ang aking kalagayan dito at mabuti ring mayroon akong kapit-bahay ditong Filipina.

Minsan, talagang klima lang ang medyo di ko gusto dito pero baka makakasanayan ko rin pag tumagal-tagal na. Nahihirapan din ako sa paggamit ng kanilang salita. Pero ang pinkamahirap sa akin ay ang makisama sa mag-iinang kahati namin sa bahay na aming tinitirhan dahil sa masamang pakikitungo at turing sa akin.

Maganda ang serbisyo ng CFO dahil nabibigyan nila ang mga kagaya ko ng impormasyon na pwede kong gawin o support network na matatawagan sa panahon ng mga problema. Nararapat lamang na gawin nilang mas malawak ang pakikipag-ugnayan sa iba pang mga organisasyon at komunidad ng mga Pilipino sa iba't-ibang lugar.

Ang mga network na ito ng mga Pilipino ay maaring makatulong upang makagawa ng magandang imahe ng Pilipinas at mabago ang negatibong ipinapakita dito sa Deutschland na ang mga Pilipino ay karaniwang naninirahan sa ilalim ng mga tulay. Sana din ay makatulong ang CFO at ang mga samahang Pilipino na ibahagi ang magagandang tanawin, malilina at malilinis na dagat, at ang makinang na sikat ng araw sa Pilipinas. Dahil laging makulimlim at malamig dito, baka sakaling maenganyo silang bumisita sa Pilipinas at sa ganoon ay makatulong sa pag-angat ng pamumuhay at ng ekonomiya ng ating bayan.

Salamat sa inyong lahat!

ELEANOR PELAUSA
Bad Pyrmont, Germany

Liham mula sa Korea

Isa po ako sa mga nabigyan ng gabay ng CFO tungkol sa pag-aasawa ng *foreigner*. Nandito na po ako sa Korea at nais kung magpasalamat sa CFO at sa aming mga naging counselor dahil marami kaming natutunan tungkol sa buhay dito.

Masama na may kasamang kalungkutan ang buhay may asawa dito. Hindi madali ang mag-asawa lalo na kung hindi ka sanay sa buhay may-asawa. Bilang asawa ng isang *foreigner*, lahat ng sakripisyo dapat mong gawin para sa ikakatatag ng inyong relasyon. Mabait naman ang napangasawa ko lalo na ang ang aking biyenan at tanggap ako ng buo niyang pamilya.

Hindi rin maiiwasan na hindi kami mag-away minsan. Dito ko higit na napatunayan na kahit hindi ako nasasaktan ng pisikal, higit na mabigat ang emosyonal na pananakit at mas mabigat pa ring dalahin ang ikasama ng iyong kalooban.

Gusto ko lang pong i-share ang karanasan ko dito para mai-share niyo din sa iba.

Salamat sa inyo.

JOANA TOTO
Korea

Sincere thanks from CLAN

I have recently returned to Australia from a wonderful trip to Manila, and I wanted to pass on my sincerest thanks to your office for your excellent assistance to Congenital Adrenal Hyperplasia: Living as Neighbors (CLAN) in bringing medication to the Philippines. My passage through Customs went incredibly smooth. The medicines had safely reached the children with whom the medicines were intended for, and we really believe it will make a big difference in many families' lives.

Again, accept my sincerest thanks. It has been an absolute pleasure working with you.

DR. KATE ARMSTRONG
CLAN
Sydney, Australia

Credit history for new immigrants

Almost all major purchases for cars, cellphones, electrical services require credit checks. As new immigrants who do not have credit history yet, this is one difficulty we experience. Good for those with relatives who are US citizens or permanent residents who can provide them assistance on this matter.

STEPHANIE JOY B. BINWAG
Unit 212, 2210 N. Sch Noor Avenue
Madera, California

The FILIPINO TIES welcomes your opinions, comments, and suggestions. You can write to us at the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, 1345 Quirino Ave., cor. South Superhighway, Manila, Philippines, send us a fax at (632) 561-8332, or e-mail us at cfodfa@info.com.ph.

Balikbayanis:

Filipino migrants find their way back home



Photos: Pesocard Philippines Magazine, www.unisonoxonhealth.org

Balikbayan, n. returning former Filipino citizens including spouses and children travelling with them; Filipinos who have been continuously out of the Philippines for at least one year; overseas Filipino workers.

Balikbayani, n. a successful Filipino who has built a wonderful life abroad and then comes home to rebuild the country of his roots. (PDI, 22 January 2006)

From 1996 to 2005, remittances of Filipinos overseas reached a total of US\$77 billion, significantly contributing to the country's foreign exchange reserves, strengthening of the peso and directly contributing to economic and social development. The figures, however, do not tell the whole story.

From Bayanihan Spirit to Bayanihan Builds

Across the 180 countries where Filipinos can be found, a renewed sense of the *Bayanihan* spirit lives on. In January this year, around 80 Filipino-Americans including a few non-Filipinos, participated in the *Gawad Kalinga Bayanihan Build* in various areas in the Philippines. "You want to give back the blessings you have received," said Marietta Mayuga Pascua, a California based *Balikbayani* who helped pass along building materials, make hollow blocks and mixed cement, in Tumauni, Isabela.

Vehicles for Return Migration

In Palawan, Physicians for Peace (PFP), a United States-based nonprofit organization, has turned a Philippine Coastguard ship into a well equipped medical facility to provide free medical services and health education to residents of Coron town, a far flung municipality off the coast of Palawan, normally with very little access to medical services. At least 10 foreign and 25 Filipino-American doctors make up the medical mission team.

"What we intend to do is to become a vehicle for return migration. We also want it to be an avenue for foreign doctors to come here and see how beautiful

the Philippines is," says Dr. Teodoro Herbosa, chair of the PFP's Philippine chapter.

In Tarlac, Rizal, Isabela and Banaue, the Feed the Hungry, Inc. (FtH), a non-profit organization in Washington, D.C. composed mostly of Filipinos from all walks of life including doctors, engineers, retirees and employees of the World Bank, began 2006 with a series of gift-giving activities, medical missions, feeding and livelihood projects,



through to March this year. The FtH, remains to be the biggest donor to the CFO's Link for Philippine Development Program (LINKAPIL).

Balik Po Kayo!

In 1992, while on vacation in the Philippines, husband and wife Pablito and Tessie Alarcon met a young boy, barely twelve years old who unabashedly asked them for food. Surprised, they took him to a restaurant and let him eat what appeared to be his first meal in days. He ate voraciously, oblivious to everyone around him. On their way out, the boy stopped trafficked on the busy street outside the restaurant to make sure that the couple's car could move out. For this, the

couple tried to give the boy a roll of bills, which he refused with a wide grin on his face "OK na po yong pagkain Sir, Ma'am," he said sheepishly. "Balik kayo ha!"

Thus, began Feed the Hungry Inc., which, in the past twelve years has been involved in various development projects across the country. "Balik kayo" became an invitation to take stock of what they had, and to share with others the blessing of a better life abroad.

About 80 *balikbayan* groups every year are assisted by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas in facilitating donations for less privileged Filipino *kababayans*. These donations range from medical missions, gift giving and feeding activities, livelihood projects, small-scale infrastructure and provision of scholarship to deserving students.

It is January, a time for most people to bring down, and pack up their Christmas decorations, and perhaps rein in some of that Yuletide cheer. For our *Balikbayanis* who have just discovered a new sense of pride in being Filipino, January is the time of the year to find their way back home, and renew their faith in their roots by spreading the *bayanihan* spirit.

BALIK KAYO!

LINKAPIL updates



Top: (L-R Standing) Executive Director Jose Z. Molano, Ms. Yolanda Ortega Stern, Ms. Celia Molano and Dr. Thomas Stern join the volunteers in re-packing and marking the donated medicines prior to distribution.

Foreign donations coursed through CFO's *Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino* (LINKAPIL) Program have reached a record high in 2005 when a California-based husband-and-wife team arranged for the

Balikbayan couple brings P250 million worth of medicines to the Philippines

distribution of an estimated P250 million-worth of antibiotics and topical medication to the Philippines in October.

For the past 12 years, Dr. Thomas Stern and his wife, the former Yolanda Ortega, have provided the country with about Php250 million worth of medical goods and health care services under the flagship of the One World Institute, a registered 501 (c) (3) U.S. tax-exempt non-profit organization that they have founded in Berkeley, California.

In 2005, the dynamic couple achieved a milestone in their humanitarian work when AmeriCares selected the One World Institute as its partner for Philippine

projects. AmeriCares is an international disaster relief and humanitarian aid organization, backed by former U.S. First Lady Barbara Bush, that solicits donations of medicines, medical supplies and other relief materials from U.S. and international manufacturers, and delivers them quickly and efficiently through indigenous health care and welfare professionals around the world.

For their initial collaboration, AmeriCares consigned to Dr. and Mrs. Stern for distribution to the Philippines more than 2.7 tons of medicines which included 3.3 million doses of the antibiotic Cefditoren Pivoxil, a drug used to treat respiratory and

see Balikbayan, page 10



FtH jumpstarts 2006 with series of activities in the Philippines

The officers and members of the Feed the Hungry, Inc. of Washington, DC are in the Philippines starting January 2006 to personally implement their projects in various parts of the country. Led by its Executive Director, Ms. Teresita Calderon, the FtH has initiated the implementation and monitoring of gift-giving activities, medical missions, ocular inspections and visits to project sites where classroom, feeding and livelihood projects are currently being implemented. Thousands of indigent Filipinos, especially those in the countryside are expected to benefit from these activities, which are scheduled until March.

In January, gift giving activities have been implemented in the provinces of Camarines Sur, Rizal and Tarlac. Beneficiaries, who were identified with the

help of non-government organizations, local government units and civic oriented groups operating in these areas, were given gift packs containing mostly food and household items. In the next two months, other activities of this nature will be conducted in Isabela, Guimaras, Aurora, Banaue, Sagada, Batangas, Dumaguete, Siquijor, Pateros, Las Piñas City, Masbate, Davao del Norte, Batanes, Zamboanga Sibugay, and Occidental Mindoro.

In coordination with other volunteer doctors from the US, the FtH has also conducted a medical mission in two barangays in the town of San Mateo, Rizal on 20-21 January 2006. About 1,200 indigent patients benefited from this mission, aside from getting free medications also donated by the organization. The FtH also intends to

see FtH, page 11

Weaving hopes in Aurora

Shortly after typhoons *Winnie*, *Violeta*, *Yoyong* and *Unding* hit the country in 2004 taking thousands of lives and destroying properties in Eastern Luzon, the Hawaii Filipino-American Relief Committee of the Filipino Community Center in Hawaii and the Feed the Hungry, Inc. (FtH) extended much needed help to their "kababayans" in the Province of Aurora by donating US\$15,000 (P810,000.00) to fund a rehabilitation project.



In April 2005, Governor Bellaflor Angara-Castillo of the Province of Aurora envisioned

putting up a weaving center to aid in the production of *Sabutan* woven products for international export. Through the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, in

see Weaving, page 10

Coinciding with the month of Filipinos overseas, the AIM Policy Center, in partnership with the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Fidel V. Ramos Foundation organized a one-day forum, *Aginaldo Para Sa Bayan: Overseas Filipino Resources for Philippine Investment and Development Projects*, held on December 13, 2005 at the Hotel Intercontinental, Makati.

Gathering more than 200 participants from the Philippine migrant sector, government and non-government organizations, development agencies, migrant advocates and media professionals, the forum highlighted the shared experience of Filipinos overseas, civil society organizations, government and the private sector in channeling overseas Filipino resources for national development projects.

One of the speakers was Atty. Loida Nicolas Lewis, founding-chair of the National Federation of Filipino-American Association (NAFFAA), U.S.A., who related that, several years ago, she invested in a blast freezing plant in the hope of helping hog farmers in her hometown Sorsogon. But since she was away from the country, she did not get her rent money and completely lost it to her agents.

Now that she chose to spend most of her time in the Philippines and is able to closely monitor the progress of her ventures, her investments have been highly successful. The Peoples' Alternative Livelihood Foundation in Sorsogon, Inc. (PALFSI), a credit cooperative which she helped establish, has lifted thousands of families from poverty by providing poor women in barrio seed capital for business which they otherwise would not have access to.

Luckily for migrants nowadays, there are organizations such as the Economic Resource Center for Overseas Filipinos, Philippines, Inc. (ERCOF), and the OFWNet

Foundation which were established to provide assistance to business and livelihood projects put up by migrants who are away from the Philippines. The OFW International Holdings Inc., a subsidiary of the OFWNet, provides small business loans to its members who are implementing their own livelihood projects. On top of the loan, technical assistance, consultancy and monitoring services are being offered to help members implement their projects. Moreover, the Philippine Franchise Association, a network of successful local and foreign industries, suppliers, and industry service providers offers strategic

see CFO, page 10

100 Years of Filipino Migration to Hawaii Literary Competition launched

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts formally launched the 100 years of Filipino Migration to Hawaii Literary Contest as part of the series of activities for the centennial celebration of Filipino migration to Hawaii in early January this year.

With the theme, *100 years: The Filipino Legacy in Hawaii*, the literary competition is open to all Filipino writers, students and professionals who can interpret the long and fruitful relationship of the Philippines and the state of Hawaii through poetry, essay or one-act play. Winners of the competition have the chance to win Php 15,000, 10,000, and 7,500 for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes respectively, for each category.

All entries must be original and must meet the submission deadline set on **31 March 2006**. For the poetry writing competition, entries must be a collection of 5 to 10 poems and may be rhymed or in free verse. Essay writing entries must be 2,000 to 3,000 words in length. Entries to the one-act play category should translate to 30 to 45 minutes in actual performance and must be accompanied by a one-page synopsis and a list of the cast of characters.

For more information on the *100 Years of Filipino Migration to Hawaii Literary Contest*, please contact the Secretariat at 561-8329 or 5618321 locals 600-604 or browse through www.cfo.gov.ph and www.ncca.gov.ph.



SEARCH FOR THE YEAR 2006 PRESIDENTIAL AWARDS FOR FILIPINO INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS OVERSEAS NOW OPEN

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas is formally opening the nominations for the Year 2006 Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas. The Presidential Awards is a biennial search for overseas-based individuals and organization which, by their exceptional achievements or humanitarian efforts, have given form and substance to Filipino excellence and the time honored values of *pakikipag-kapwa*, *pagtutulungan* and *bayanihan*. Since its inception in 1991 through Executive Order No. 498, the Presidential Awards have so far been conferred on 235 Filipino and foreign individuals and organizations overseas based in 36 countries.

The Presidential Awards has four categories:


- Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LINKAPIL) Award** which is conferred on Filipino associations or individuals for their exceptional or significant contribution to reconstruction, progress and development in the Philippines;
- Banaag Award** which is conferred on Filipino individuals or associations for their contributions which have significantly benefited a sector or community in the Philippines, or advanced the cause of overseas Filipino communities;
- Kaanib ng Bayan Award** which is conferred on foreign individuals or organizations for their exceptional or significant contribution to Philippine reconstruction, progress and development, or have significantly benefited a sector or community in the Philippines, or advanced the cause of overseas Filipino communities; and
- Pamana ng Pilipino Award** which is conferred on Filipinos overseas, who, in exemplifying the talent and industry of the Filipino, have brought the country honor and recognition through excellence and distinction in the pursuit of their work or profession.

Nominations to the awards are first coursed through and evaluated by the Philippine Embassy or Consulate nearest the place of residence or base of operations of the nominee. Nominees endorsed by Philippine Embassies and Consulates must then be transmitted to the CFO Awards Secretariat *on or before 15 May 2006*. Nominations sent by mail must be postmarked not later than the date of the deadline.


Nominees who have successfully passed the screening of the technical and executive committees and the Office of the President shall be conferred the 2006 Presidential Awards by the President of the Philippines in an Awarding Ceremony to be held in December 2006 at Malacañan Palace, Manila.

Nomination forms for the awards may be obtained from the nearest Philippine Embassies or Consulates or may be downloaded at the CFO's official website www.cfo.gov.ph. For more information, please contact the Awards Secretariat at Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Citigold Center, 1345 Quirino Ave. cor. South Superhighway, Manila, tel. no.: (632) 561-8329 or 561-8321 loc. 600-604, and e-mail: cfodfa@info.com.ph.

The Presidential Awards Logo is derived from the Alibata, pre-Hispanic syllabary characters of the Philippines, translated as "Gawad ng Pangulo".



The much anticipated
**Hawaii Centennial
Commemorative
Stamps**
are here!



Limited Offer Only
Get Them Now!

Yes, please send me the following:

P6.00 stamp in 50s (\$15.00)	Qty: _____
22.00 stamp in 50s (\$30.00)	_____
First day cover (\$3.00)	_____
Souvenir folder (\$10.00)	_____
2 stamps souvenir sheet (\$1.00)	_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

No.	Street	City	
State	State	Country	Zip Code

E-mail address: _____ Tel. no. _____ Fax no. _____

Payment method: (Please check one)

Bank transfer Check

*Please make check payable to the Commission on Filipinos Overseas and send to 1345 Quirino Avenue cor. Osmeña Highway, Manila, Philippines. Payments may be sent via bank transfer to Landbank Intramuros Branch account no. 000 12 1149 23. Please email proof of payment to cfodfa@info.com.ph.

CFO...

continued from page 8

information and business matching not only among Filipinos in the country but also to those who have gone overseas and have eventually acquired enough resources to invest in the country. In terms of funding assistance to needy communities in the Philippines, the Ayala Foundation, USA assures US-based Filipino donors that grant recipients and projects are legitimate and deserving, knowing that the risk involved in the transfer of resources may discourage overseas donors.

It was clear from the string of discussions that there are many opportunities and prospects for constructive partnerships between Filipinos abroad and the homeland. The government, private sector and civil society groups only have to work together to encourage the inflow of resources, address bureaucratic obstacles and establish sustainable linkages for the development of our country.

Weaving ...

continued from page 7

coordination with the Provincial Government of Aurora, Barangay Buhangin in the Municipality of Baler has been identified as the beneficiary of the "Sabutan Production Center Livelihood Project".

After seven months of careful planning and coordination, the groundbreaking ceremony was held on 15 November 2005. CFO also turned over funds and materials, and as counterpart for the project, the beneficiaries and the local government of Aurora allocated P78,743.10 to cover the cost of labor. The groundbreaking ceremony was attended by Provincial Administrator Alex Ocampo, Baler Vice-Mayor Neliante C. Bihasa, Ms. Thea May Rabe of the CFO and officials from local governments of Aurora.

The livelihood project will be inaugurated on 09 February 2006 and will be attended by FtH Executive Director, Ms. Tessie Alarcon. Aside from its livelihood project, the FtH is also committed to ensuring a brighter future for the children of Aurora. The FtH will also be conducting an ocular inspection in Brgy. Agues in Casiguran, Aurora, for a proposed classroom project construction.

Balibayan ...

continued from page 7

skin infections. Also included in the donation are 4,000 tubes of the anti-fungal topical suspension Ciclopirox, and 1,200 tubes of Benzoyl Peroxide gel for acne treatment.

The Commission on Filipinos Overseas and the Presidential Management Staff assisted Dr. and Mrs. Stern in facilitating the release of the donated medicines at the Bureau of Customs through Presidential Memorandum Order No. 36 (PMO 36). Said issuance authorizes the importation of food, medicine and equipment for use in government relief and rehabilitation programs for calamity-affected areas free from tax and import-duties.

Among the beneficiaries of the donation were the calamity-affected communities in Quezon and disadvantaged *barangays* in Aklan and Metro Manila, the Veterans Regional Hospital in Nueva Vizcaya, and the civic group Zonta Club Philippines.

Dr. and Mrs. Stern hope to duplicate the success of their partnership with AmeriCares to benefit more Filipinos in the future.

Lingle visit ...

continued from page 1

The President and the Governor also unveiled the Philippine stamps commemorating 100 years of Filipino migration to Hawaii. The stamp design was selected after a national competition was sponsored by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Philippine Postal Corporation. (*See related article on page 1*)

Governor Lingle also signed agreements with the University of Northern Philippines and the Virgen Milagrosa University in Ilocos Sur and Pangasinan respectively. These agreements focused on nursing and agricultural development initiatives. Part of the Governor's itinerary included the inauguration of development projects in Ilocos Norte. It is expected that more projects will be implemented to enhance economic opportunities for the Governor's people in Hawaii and the Philippines after discussions with local government leaders. About 80 percent of Hawaii's Filipino residents come from the Ilocos region.

BI issues ...

continued from page 1

to issue the order of approval of the application. As a result, identification certificates may now be issued by Posts to those whose applications have been approved. Previously, the Posts merely accept petitions and forward applications to the Bureau of Immigration in Manila for processing.

Processing fees have also been rationalized, whereas the BI used to charge P2,500 or US\$50 per application, the new rules stipulate that beneficiaries of the principal applicant (or applicant's children below 18 years of age) will only pay a fee of P1,250 or US\$25 to reacquire Filipino citizenship.

Previous rules also stipulated that evaluation officers require the applicant to present his/her certificate of naturalization to complete the application process. Under the new rules, applicants may submit an affidavit explaining the circumstance on how the foreign citizenship was acquired, should the latter be unavailable.

The relaxed rules are expected to encourage more former Filipinos to reacquire their Filipino citizenship. Senate President Franklin Drilon, a staunch supporter and co-author of the law, lauded the move to make the process simpler. Under the new implementing guidelines, Drilon said that applicants shall be "presumed to be natural-born Filipino citizens unless proven otherwise."

Directions...

continued from page 12

- ◆ From 1970 to 2000, the proportion of the world's migrants living in North America rose from 16% to 22%, and in the former USSR from 4% to 17%.
- ◆ From 1970 to 2000, the proportion of the world's migrants living in other parts of the world decreased from 35% to 25% in Asia; 12% to 9% in Africa; 7% to 3% in Latin America and the Caribbean; 23% to 19% in Europe, and 4% to 3% in Oceania.



Photo: www.un-instraw.org

On causes of migration

- ◆ *Wage disparities:* 46% of people earn less than \$1 per day in Sub-Saharan Africa; 14% in South Asia, and 10% in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- ◆ *Unemployment rates:* 12% in the Middle East and North Africa; 11% in Sub-Saharan Africa, and 7% in industrialized economies.
- ◆ *Differentials in life expectancy:* 58 years in low income countries; 78 years in high income countries.
- ◆ *Education gaps:* 58% in women and 68% in men literacy rate in low income countries while almost full literacy in high income countries; 76% primary school enrollment in low income countries while almost full enrollment in high income countries.

On migrants' economic contributions to host countries

- ◆ In 2000, over 50% of the world's migrants were economically active in their host countries.
- ◆ Foreign workers comprise over 5% of the labour force in 8 European countries.
- ◆ From 1975 to 2001, the number of foreign workers in Japan increased from 750,000 to 1.8 million.
- ◆ Skilled immigrants and family members constitute over 50% of migrants entering Australia, Canada and New Zealand.

On the demographic impact of migration in host countries

- ◆ From 1990 to 2000, international migration accounted for 56% of the population growth in the developed world, compared with 3% in the developing world.
- ◆ Immigration accounted for 89% of population growth in Europe from 1990 to 2000 and 75% of population growth in USA from 1995 to 2000. From 1995 to 2000, Europe's population would have declined by 4.4 million without immigration.

On remittances

- ◆ Formal transfers of remittances were worth about \$150 billion in 2004 while an estimated \$300 billion were transferred informally.
- ◆ Formal remittance transfers are almost triple the value of Official Development Assistance and are the second largest source of external funding for developing countries after Foreign Direct Investment.

- ◆ The top 3 remittance-receiving countries in 2004 were: Mexico (\$16 billion per year), India (\$9.9 billion), and the Philippines (\$8.5 billion).
- ◆ The top 3 remittance-sending countries in 2001 were: USA (\$28 billion per year), Saudi Arabia (\$15 billion), and Belgium, Germany and Switzerland (\$8 billion).



Photo: www.un-instraw.org

On irregular migration

- ◆ An estimated 2.5 to 4 million migrants cross international borders without authorization each year.
- ◆ Some 20 million migrants with irregular status live in India and about 10 million in the USA.
- ◆ In 2000, an estimated 4.8 million or 50% of the Mexican-born population in USA had irregular status while at least 10% of Europe's 56 million migrants are irregular. Some 500,000 undocumented migrants arrive in Europe each year.
- ◆ An estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked each year from which migrant smugglers and human traffickers make an estimated \$10 billion annual profit.



Photo: Windshoes Photo Gallery

On refugees and asylum seekers

- ◆ 6.5 million of the world's 9.2 million refugees live in developing countries.
- ◆ From 2000 to 2004, the global refugee population decreased by 24%.
- ◆ Refugees represent 23% of international migrants in Asia; 22% in Africa, and 5% in Europe. Pakistan hosts the largest number of refugees (11% of the global total).
- ◆ From 1994 to 2003, some 5 million people applied for asylum in the industrialized countries; refugee or equivalent status was granted to 1.4 million of them (28%).
- ◆ In 2004, 83,000 refugees were resettled, mainly in the USA (53,000), Australia (16,000) and Canada (10,000).

FtH ...

continued from page 7

provide assistance to children with harelips, heart ailments and others.

The FtH plans to monitor its other existing projects in 77 provinces across the country including classroom projects in Isabela, Batangas, Cavite, and Aurora that have been constructed or are still in the planning / construction phase. Also, the livelihood programs for victims of calamities in Aurora and Quezon will be inspected. They also expect to meet with beneficiaries of the projects, such as their scholars, local fisherfolks, and students in their classroom projects.

Directions and Trends in International Migration: A Report of the Global Commission on International Migration



The Global Commission on International Migration in its October 2005 report entitled *Migration in an interconnected world: New directions for action*, highlights the following key facts and figures relating to numbers, patterns, causes and consequences of international migration today. The report relies on the latest available data from: UNDESA, World Bank, International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Labor Organization (ILO) and United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).

On the number of international migrants

- ◆ There are nearly 200 million international migrants in 2005 – a number equivalent to the population of the 5th largest country – Brazil. It is more than double the figure recorded in 1980, only 25 years ago.
- ◆ 1 in 35 people is an international migrant; or 3% of the world's population.

On migrant women

- ◆ Almost half the world's international migrants are women (48.6%).
- ◆ Some 51% of migrant women live in the developed world, compared with 49% in the developing world.
- ◆ There are more female than male international migrants in Latin America and the Caribbean, North America, Oceania, Europe and the former USSR.



Photo: www.abs-cbn.news.com

On the whereabouts of migrants (Year 2000)

- ◆ Most of the world's migrants live in Europe (56 million or 8% of its population), Asia (50 million or 1% of its population); and North America (41 million or 13% of its population).

- ◆ There are 16.3 million migrants in Africa (2% of its population), 5.9 million in Latin America (1% of its population); and 5.8 million in Australia (19% of its population).

On the top host countries of migrants (Year 2000)

- ◆ The top destination countries of migrants are the U.S. (20% or 35 million), Russia (8% or 13.3 million), Germany (4% or 7.3 million), Ukraine (4% or 6.9 million) and India (4% or 6.3 million).
- ◆ Migrants comprise more than 60% of the total population in Andorra, Macao Special Administrative Region of China, Guam, the Holy See, Monaco, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

On the top origin countries of migrants

- ◆ The largest migrant group comes from China (35 million migrants), followed by India (20 million migrants), then the Philippines (7 million migrants).

On the trends of distribution of migrants

- ◆ From 1980 to 2000, the number of migrants grew from 48 million to 110 million in the developed countries, and from 52 million to 65 million in developing countries. Some 60% of the world's migrants live in the developed world.

see Directions, page 11

Commission on Filipinos Overseas
1/F - 7/F Citigold Center,
1345 Quirino Ave., corner South Superhighway
Manila, Philippines
P.O. Box 1388

ARE YOU MOVING?

In case you are moving or changing your address, the Commission on Filipinos Overseas would like to request you to inform us of your new address, so we can serve you better.

Thank you.