

HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ WEEKLY ◆ JUNE 5, 2010 ◆

HIGHER EDUCATION CONTINUES TO ELUDE FILIPINO YOUTH

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EDITORIAL

Higher Education is Passport to Success

Ask Filipino parents what is most important for their children and the majority will reply 'education.' Despite these parents' assertions that education is a primary avenue for upward social and economic mobility, Filipino youth continue to lag behind other ethnicities, especially when it comes to enrollment levels at institutions of higher learning.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, Filipinos comprise nearly 23 percent of the state's population. Filipinos also account for 1 out of every 5 students in the state's public school system. However, the numbers are much lower at the university level. Enrollment levels at the University of Hawaii-Manoa show that out of every 100 students seeking Bachelor degrees, only 13 are Filipino. The numbers significantly drop when it comes to graduate level students—5 Filipinos for every 100 students—a number that leaders in the Filipino community are working to improve. The good news is that progress is being made, albeit in incremental levels.

Studies have shown that in Hawaii, factors such as parental involvement, close ties with one's culture and self-esteem play a crucial role in whether Filipino youth decide to attend college or work upon graduating from high school. For those who are at a decided disadvantage, programs such as GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) are a God-send. GEAR UP aims to boost the numbers of Filipino students pursuing higher education. We cannot say enough good things about GEAR UP and its positive impact at Farrington and Waipahu high schools where the student populations are decidedly Filipino.

The bottom line is that a good education will get our young people to places that they dream of. The higher one's educational attainment is, the better his or her chances are of creating opportunities in life. And the better one's opportunities are, the better is the quality of life. There's no other way to put it.

Gubernatorial Primary Could Divide Filipinos

The recent announcement by Mayor Mufi Hannemann as a Democratic candidate for governor sets the table for a potentially-divisive September Primary Election, particularly among Hawaii's Filipino community.

Hannemann will lock horns with a familiar opponent in Neil Abercrombie, who resigned from his congressional seat earlier this year. For now, the mayor is in the driver's seat, by virtue of not having to resign until July 20—the last day for candidates to officially file papers to run for governor. As top gun at City Hall, Hannemann is constantly in the limelight, while Abercrombie must call press conferences and run television ads to draw attention to himself. Hannemann also has a larger campaign war chest and key endorsements from the ILWU, SHOPO and other unions. But Abercrombie—himself a steadfast union supporter—has his share of endorsements and cannot be underestimated.

Those who expect a civil Abercrombie-Hannemann election have probably forgotten the events of the highly-contentious and downright nasty 1986 special election for Congress when the two candidates faced each other in a bid to replace the late Cecil Hefelt, who had resigned to run for governor. Abercrombie won the Special Election and served for three months in Congress, but the Primary Election went to Hannemann. However, a weakened Hannemann campaign and voters who were turned off by the negative campaigning between the two Democrats allowed Republican candidate Pat Saiki to win the General Election.

This time around, history could very well repeat itself. Unless the Democrats quickly come together, the winner of a drawn-out, contentious 2010 Democratic Primary could be vulnerable to Republican candidate James "Duke" Aiona in the General Election—which is something that the Democrats do not want to happen.

For the Filipino community, even those with little taste for pol-

FROM THE PUBLISHER

A

loha and welcome to the latest issue of Hawaii's top Filipino community newspaper. Before anything, we'd like to congratulate our many high school and college graduates on their accomplishments and for a job well done! The journey we call life is just beginning for these gifted young people. We wish them all the very best in their personal and future endeavors.



In keeping with the graduation theme, our cover story for this issue is about the pursuit of higher education by Filipino students. The world that we adults once knew has changed drastically. A high school diploma no longer is enough in today's competitive job market. Instead, more employers are preferring job applicants with Bachelor's and even Master's degrees. In her cover story, which begins on page 4, contributing writer Fiedes Doctor documents the struggles as well as the successes of several young Filipinos who have strived to improve their future via a college education. One of the main points to remember is that Filipinos who may be financially-unable to attend college should not give up so easily. Many opportunities, including scholarships, grants and other financial aid, are available for Filipino students who wish to pursue a college degree—no matter what age they are. We are indeed so blessed to live in America. No such assistance is available for students in the Philippines. Instead, their college education is totally dependent on their families' finances. We hope that you will enjoy reading and be inspired by this issue's cover story.

To further encourage young Filipinos to excel in their studies, the Knights of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter will be holding the first Rizal Youth Leadership Institute on July 17, 2010 at Leeward Community College (see page 5). The event is designed to not only prepare our youth for leadership roles but to also encourage them to pursue the ideals of Dr. Jose Rizal—the Philippines' national hero—as exemplified in his life, works and writings. If you are a parent, we urge you to enroll your child in this very worthwhile event. More details are available by calling 381-4315.

Now that it's summer, some of you may be planning to travel. If so, you're in luck—particularly if you will be visiting the Philippines. To celebrate its 70th Anniversary, Philippine Airlines is now offering discounted fares to Manila for a limited time. Please read more about PAL's special promo on page 6 in a full-page color ad on page 9. Speaking of summer, our Family Corner column on page 9 offers a boatload of good, common sense advice for those of you who plan to hit the beach in the coming days and weeks. We advise you to take these tips to heart and to protect your loved ones this summer.

We hope you will enjoy reading these and other articles in this jam-packed issue. In closing, we'd like to thank our readers for faithfully supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle these many years. Please feel free to contact us at: filipinochronicle@gmail.com if you have concerns or questions regarding Hawaii's Filipino community.

Until next time... aloha and mahuhay!

Chona A. Montesinos-Sonido

itics are bound to have friends on both sides and may be forced to tread carefully. Filipinos can at least take comfort in knowing that President Obama is friends with Hannemann and Abercrombie. It is unclear if the president will take sides, but one thing is for certain—with prominent Filipino community leaders firmly entrenched behind both candidates, the campaigning for votes among Filipinos will be intense.

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COVER STORY

feelings of inferiority. Low self-esteem and limited parental involvement due to multiple jobs contributes to the low number of those who have finished high school, college or obtained a professional degree." Fonte quotes from a NaFFAA (National Federation of Filipino American Association) report.

Cearing them up

Parental support cannot be emphasized enough, including inspiration from peers and counselors, "so that they can be fired up and see that they have the ability," says Agbayani. And definitely, information about college requirements and financial assistance.

The federally-funded program GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) at UH aims to slowly change the low statistic of Filipino students pursuing and succeeding in post-secondary education by its presence at Farrington and Waipahu. GEAR UP assists not only Filipinos but all low-income students with academic

preparation, transition assistance and financial aid.

"That's one of the reasons why we have programs reaching out to young Filipinos, to tell them about this opportunity. Filipinos are severely underrepresented at the Manoa campus but well-represented on other campuses," Agbayani says. "These programs make sure that we get more Filipinos. We think they can attend college and work at the same time."

GEAR UP, also provides college visits, tutoring, advising, counseling, test preparation workshops, a student club and academic enrichment activities for students, teachers and parents.

"They show us the opportunities we have for college especially going into UH. We can start at a community college first to build up credits," says Rennel Bautista, a tenth grader at Farrington. "They also show us that college can be fun."

Bautista has been part of GEAR UP since the sixth grade and has received much-needed motivation and encouragement

to pursue either civil or electrical engineering. Community service has also helped to build his self-esteem and confidence.

"At first I didn't feel like going but when I volunteered and the people thanked me, it was great. I was glad I could do something to help others," he says.

Financial help

Economic hardships either push a student to fight harder to attain higher education or dropout to make quick money. Most opt for the easier route but doing so may backfire in the long run, especially when the economy spirals downward and employers cut back. The first to go are the less skilled, less educated and less experienced.

Regardless of age, there are many opportunities for educational advancement. Sources of financial aid are scholarships, student loans, grants, fellowships, part-time employment.

For 20-year-old Joanne Badua, an entrepreneurial studies major at Hawaii Pacific University who will graduate in

December 2010, a Presidential Scholarship is helping to pay for her schooling. Her next step is a law degree.

"I will start looking into scholarships by December. I am really praying for it," says Badua who admits that a student must have "emotional, psychological and financial support" to achieve their goals.

Fifty-one-year-old Angelyn Foshay's associates degree in business administration from Heald College, conferred to her this year, was made possible through a study grant from Del Monte Corporation. It was the company's way of showing gratitude for her 25 years of dedicated service.

"If not for Del Monte, I could not have gone back to college. I'm proud of my achievement and happy to have received it," says Foshay, who is now working at Farrington High School.

Organizations and institutions such as the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii Foundation and the University

of Hawaii offer scholarships and financial aid to deserving Filipino students. School counselors are an excellent resource to help students seeking financial assistance.

Filipino pride

Filipinos have the potential to become the movers and shakers in Hawaii, writes Fonte, given their ranking as the second largest ethnic group in the State.

"Filipinos are well on their way to becoming the leaders of this state but in order to push this along, education in the classroom and guidance at home is imperative for these students to excel," she says, echoing the musings of Ben Cayetano—former and the first Filipino governor of Hawaii.

Aurelio sums up the motivation to succeed in two words—Filipino pride—which is also what motivates Pempengco to achieve both international stardom and a college degree.

And, regardless of fame and fortune, both can proudly say...I have a Bachelor's degree!

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Knights of Rizal to Hold First Youth Leadership Institute

The Knight of Rizal-Hawaii Chapter will hold the first Rizal Youth Leadership Institute on July 17, 2010 at Leeward Community College's Student Lounge.



The leadership workshop will be from 8 am to 4 pm and is available to the first 50 male or female youth, 15-25 years old, college or high school students from public, private or home schools.

Attendees will be provided with free breakfast, lunch and refreshments, conference bag and packet, t-shirt, certificate of participation and dynamic and activity-rich leadership training sessions.

The event is designed to impress upon participants the ideals of Dr. Jose Rizal as exemplified in his life, works and writings, as well as to prepare young men and women for leadership roles in the community.

"This summer youth leadership institute is a response to the call of the Philippine martyr and hero, Jose Rizal, to the youth," says Raymond Liongson, Commander of the Knight of Rizal-

Hawaii Chapter.

In the novel, Noli Me Tangere, Rizal wrote: "Where are the youth who will consecrate their budding years, their idealism and enthusiasm to the welfare of their country? ... We await you, O youth! Come, for we await you."

This program of the Knights of Rizal will focus on democratic leadership, character building, global citizenship, and service to humanity. The training format will include workshops, simulations, hands-on program planning, short lectures and inspirational discourse.

The first Rizal Youth Leadership Institute is in partnership with the Philippine Studies Program of Leeward Community College and the Filipino Community Center, and is funded by Hawaii Filipino Heritage Funds through the Hawaii Community Foundation.

Please contact Liongson at 381-4315 or via email at: rliongson@gmail.com for more details and an application.

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SOCIAL SECURITY UPDATE

Answers to Your Pressing Social Security Questions

By Jane Yamamoto-Burrisay

Q : How do I change my citizenship status on Social Security's records?

A: To change your citizenship status, please complete an application for a Social Security card (Form SS-5), which you can find online at www.socialsecurity.gov/online/ss-5.html. Then locate documents proving your new or revised citizenship status, age and identity. Only certain documents can

be accepted as proof of citizenship. These include your U.S. passport, a Certificate of Naturalization or a Certificate of Citizenship. If you are not a U.S. citizen, Social Security will ask to see your current immigration documents. Then, take or mail your completed application and documents to your local Social Security office. All documents must be either originals or copies certified by the issuing agency. Photocopies or notarized copies of documents will not be accepted photocopies.

Q: My husband and I are both entitled to our own Social Security benefits. Will our com-

bined benefits be reduced because we are married?

A: No. When each member of a married couple works in employment covered under Social Security and both meet all other eligibility requirements to receive retirement benefits, their lifetime earnings are calculated independently to determine their benefit amounts. Therefore, each spouse receives a monthly benefit amount based on his or her own earnings. If one member of the couple earned low wages or failed to earn enough Social Security credits (40) to be insured for retirement benefits, he or she may be eligible to receive benefits as a spouse. To learn more about retirement, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement.

Q: I have never worked but my spouse has. What will my benefits be?

A: You can be entitled to as much as one-half of your spouse's benefit amount when you reach full retirement age. If

you want to get Social Security retirement benefits before you reach full retirement age, the amount of your benefit is reduced. The amount of reduction depends on when you will reach full retirement age.

For example, if you file at age 62 and your full retirement age is 65, you can get 37.5 percent of your spouse's unreduced benefit. If your full retirement age is 66, you can get 35 percent of your spouse's unreduced benefit. If your full retirement age is 67, you can get 32.5 percent of your spouse's unreduced benefit.

The amount of your benefit increases if your entitlement begins at a later age, up to the maximum of 50 percent at full retirement age. If your full retirement age is other than those shown here, the amount of your benefit will fall between 32.5 percent and 37 percent at age 62. However, if you are taking care of a child who is under age 16 or who gets Social Security disability benefits on your spouse's

record, you get the full spouse's benefits, regardless of your age. Learn more about retirement benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/retirement.

Q: My doctor said he thinks I'm disabled. Who decides if I meet the requirements for Social Security disability benefits?

A: We first will review your application to make sure you meet some basic requirements for Social Security disability benefits, such as whether you worked enough years to qualify. We will then send your application to the disability determination services office or agency in your state which completes the disability decision for us. Doctors and disability specialists in the state agency ask your doctors for information about your condition and consider all the facts in your case. They use the medical evidence from your doctors and hospitals, clinics or institutions where you have been treated and all other information.

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HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

PAL Drops Fares to Manila

Overseas Filipinos longing to visit their homeland or others planning a vacation to the Philippines, should start packing their bags now as Philippine Airlines (PAL) has unveiled yet another round of special fares to Manila.

The new sales promo, dubbed "Freedom Low Fares," coincides with the celebration of the Philippines' 112th Independence Day on June 12. PAL will offer heavily discounted round-trip fares on specific flights to Manila for a two-week period from June 12-25, 2010.

For Hawaii residents, PAL's "Freedom Low Fares" promo means a round-trip Honolulu to Manila economy class ticket will cost \$620, while a business class ticket will cost \$1,528.

For an additional \$50, passengers will receive a round-trip domestic flight between Manila and 1 of any 15 destinations in



the Philippines—Bacolod, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, Dipolog, Dumaguete, Iloilo, Kalibo, Legaspi, Puerto Princesa, Roxas, Tacloban, Tagbilaran and Zamboanga.

The promo fares are good for round-trip economy-class travel during the period of August 16-November 27, 2010. Fares are inclusive of surcharges but do not cover required government taxes and fees. Philippine travel tax and airport fees are not included. Seats are limited.

PAL's Independence Day

promo is part of the year-long countdown to the carrier's 70th anniversary celebration dubbed "Soaring to 70." The sales promo also serves as a toast to the forthcoming inauguration of a new Philippine President.

PAL, which began flying on March 15, 1941, is Asia's first airline. Today, PAL flies to 13 countries and maintains extensive networks inside Asia and the Philippines.

Please visit www.philippineairlines.com or call 1-800-435-9725 for bookings or further details on PAL's promo.

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IMMIGRATION GUIDE



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Oh God, Make Us All Blond, Blue-eyed, Beautiful, Brown, and English-speaking Before We Get to Phoenix

By the time I make Albuquerque she'll be working She'll probably stop at lunch and give me a call
 But she'll just hear that phone keep ringin' Off the wall that's all

By the time I make Oklahoma she'll be sleeping She'll turn softly and call my name out loud
 And she'll cry just to think I'd really leave her
 Tho' time and time I try to tell her so
 She just didn't know I would really go."
 — "By The Time I Get to Phoenix," written by Jimmy Webb and sung by Glen Campbell
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mUg5p3BncQ>

language discrimination we are experiencing, and the animus behind immigration laws, including Arizona's, is due to an Act of an angry God? Seriously, bro, do you believe this?

Pray with Us

If you do, then pray with us, because it will take an Act of a compassionate God to undo it: "Oh God, make us all blond, blue-eyed, beautiful, brown, and English-speaking. And make us remember to always carry our green card or naturalization certificate."

I actually asked my doctor while operating on my cataract to change the lens to blue. He laughed saying I will look weird with one eye blue and the other brown. I told him to operate on the brown eye, too. He demurred, saying it was not ripe for operation. "Are you afraid Medicare might not pay?" I asked.

Racial Profiling

Many object to Arizona's newly-enacted legislation (SB 1070) requiring law enforcement officers "where reasonable suspicion exists that the person is an alien who is unlawfully present in the United States" to make a "reasonable attempt" to "determine the immigration status of the person." The law allows law enforcement officers, without a warrant, to "arrest a person if the officer has probable cause to believe that the person has committed any public offense that makes the person removable from the United States." Being an "illegal alien" is a crime? What is wrong with the police being directed to do their duty to investigate crimes and arrest those who commit them? What would be wrong if the police were told not to do their duty.

Objectors say the law is racist and will result in racial profiling - using race as a factor in criminal investigation. But racism is enshrined in the Bible. You don't believe in the Bible? The U.S. census form and the application for naturalization ask people their race? The rap sheet of people arrested has questions on race and citizenship. When the suspect is an alien, immigration authorities are notified. Why

aren't the Arizona law protesters objecting to these?

There was a Filipino immigration officer whose supervisor sometimes attended alien interviews to determine his performance. I did the same when I was Dean of the College of Law of Northwestern University - to evaluate the professor's performance. The supervisor, a white, always asked the officer the nationality of the alien to be interviewed. "Mexican," the officer said. "Call me when you have something exotic - like an Egyptian or Ethiopian. All you hear from these Mexicans is that they are being persecuted by the PAN or the PRI (the political parties in Mexico)." "How about a Filipino?" "Oh yeah, call me. I want to hear about persecution by the NPA," she laughed.

Que horror! Racial profiling by the immigration service whose mission is to service (or disservice) immigrants of another race.

Filipino Racists

Thousands of Filipinos are

racists. Do you know of any father who gleefully wants his lovely only daughter to marry a Bombay, even if he is an heir to Tata Motors? Do you know of any mother who enthusiastically wants her only begotten (or misbegotten) son to marry a black girl, even if she looks like the U.S. First Lady? How about the many Filipinos in the mainland who prefer white immigration lawyers over their kababayan lawyers, notwithstanding notorious reports of whites losing otherwise defensible deportation cases involving Filipinos?

What about horizontal discrimination against Ilocanos by Tagalogs (except my girlfriend) and Visayans (except Imelda?), saying they are "kuripot" and "saluyot-eaters". Bolshevik. There is an Ilocano lawyer who spent two weeks in the Philippines. He stayed at Bayview Hotel across the U.S. Embassy seeking to interview the new U.S. Ambassador and at the newly-renovated Palacio de Laog to conduct an immigration seminar. Hindi nakikitira at

nakikikain sa mga kamanaganak. He dined in fine restaurants which did not serve saluyot, which increases stamina, believed to be a favorite of Cleopatra (and Anthony, too?). Anyway, he didn't eat any exotic food because he couldn't engage in any erotic adventures. His beloved who remained in Hawaii confiscated the Viagra in his computer case.

(ATTY. TIPON has a Master of Laws degree from Yale Law School and a Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the Philippines. He practices in Hawaii, specializing in immigration law and criminal defense. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: flamlaw@yahoo.com. Website: www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. He is from Laog City and Magsingal, Ilocos Sur. He served as an Immigration Officer. He is co-author of "Immigration Law Service, 1st ed." an 8-volume practice guide for immigration officers and lawyers. Listen to the most funny, witty, and useful radio program in Hawaii on KNDD at 1270. AM dial every Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. and on KHBC at 1060. AM dial every Thursday at 8 p.m. This article is a general overview of the subject matter discussed and is not intended as legal advice. No warranty is made by the writer or publisher as to its completeness or correctness at the time of publication.)

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

No to Total Gun Ban - Noynoy

By Aurea Calica /
Thursday, June 3, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - President-apparent Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III said yesterday that he was not in favor of the imposition of a total gun ban in the country because it might not be the answer to the crime situation.



Noynoy Aquino, a longtime lover of guns.



Photo from
www.goodmorningclass.wordpress.com

Aquino, a gun enthusiast, had said in various interviews that he would like to have the empirical data not just from the Philippines but other countries as well to see whether a total gun ban was an effective tool to combat crime.

He said the country only has 250,000 security forces to protect some 100 million Filipinos, noting that the population doubled from 50 million in 1986.

Given this situation, Aquino said the response time – now covering bigger area and larger population – would be much slower.

He also said he was not inclined to support total gun ban because the records showed that crimes related to licensed firearms comprised only one percent.

"The proposal is to come up with a law to control the behavior of the outlaws. By definition, the outlaw is beyond the law, not to live within the law, so I don't (see) the logic of a law controlling the behavior of somebody who does not follow the law," Aquino said, promising to review studies in other countries to

see if the liberalization of the law allowing people to carry firearms indeed causes an increase in crime incidents.

Aquino said it would be better to consider proposals for stricter enforcement of laws banning the carrying of firearms outside of residences.

He added that people applying for permits to own guns should be made to attend seminars before being granted the privilege to bring their weapons outside their homes.

"Gun ban is a law that says you cannot bring your firearm outside your residence. Who will follow that? People who are law-abiding. Who are the targets of the criminals?"

He said that if laws are rigidly enforced, good police work can solve crimes committed by outlaws.

To ban or not to ban

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel, on the other hand, said he is supporting a stricter gun ban on the streets as a measure to ensure peace.

He also batted for a total ban on gun sales.

"Stricter gun ban on streets needed, not compulsory sex education in schools," he said.

He said only the members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) should be allowed to carry firearms.

Pimentel made the statement after the PNP pushed for a permanent total gun ban, noting a marked decline in the crime rate since its implementation on Jan. 10.

The PNP revealed that about 3,000 people, including 200 government employees, have been arrested since the Commission on Elections ordered the ban from Jan. 10 to June 9.

The Gunless Society of the Philippines stressed that it has nothing against responsible gun owners but stressed it is against the carrying of guns in public places.

The Peaceful, Responsible Owners of Guns (Progung), meanwhile, said it would be impractical and unrealistic to push for a total gun ban.

Meanwhile, Malacañang directed PNP Director Gen. Jesus Versoza to make sure that all sides are heard and all opinions are weighed before coming up with a final decision on whether

to lift or not the total gun ban next week.

Executive Secretary Leandro Mendoza, who once served as PNP chief, issued the statement as various organizations, including lawyers' and judges' groups, pressed Versoza to lift the total gun ban as scheduled.

The directive also came on the eve of a summit organized by Versoza to discuss whether to lift the ban or not.

"In the summit, we expect the pros and cons to be heard," Mendoza said. "In my experience, the issue is really equally divided on both sides. The decision is not easy to make."

He, however, said that there is merit in the argument of legal gun owners that a total ban would only benefit criminals who do not care about regulations.

A newly formed multi-sectoral group on Tuesday expressed strong opposition and threatened to file a lawsuit against the PNP in case it insists on extending the implementation of the gun ban beyond June 9.

"We are not only fighting to allow us to carry our firearms but to protect our lives," said lawyer Banjo Navarro III, A2S5 Coalition interim spokesman. (www.philstar.com)

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By Dr. Panos D. Prevedourous

A collaborative experiment with great implications for Hawaii's long term sustainability took place off Oahu on Wednesday, June 2, 2010. Partners in this experiment include Pacific Power Sails (PPS), Star of Honolulu and UH engineering professors Ghorbani and Prevedourous. This brief article summarizes the research and development (R&D) effort for power sails in Hawaii.

A modern sail system developed by Maui's PPS (www.pacificpowersails.com) was attached to the large dinner cruise ship Star of Honolulu to provide oil-free propulsion during a number of trial runs. Back on December 8, 2008, Governor Lingle presented Pacific Power Sails (it was named Kite For Sail at that time) with an innovation award for ingenuity and commitment to developing creative ways to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Why are power sails a big deal? Because they provide free renewable energy. Below I explain why this energy savings is important.

To begin with, over 95% of consumer goods, foods and construction materials used by Hawaii's population arrive in marine vessels. In other words, Hawaii is almost totally dependent on ocean transportation in order to survive. Unfortunately ocean transportation is energy intensive and exclusively dependent on oil.

For example, a medium size container ship carrying 2,000 containers consumes about 28,000 tons of oil per year. That's 186,229 barrels or 7.8 million gallons of crude oil! As a result, ocean cargo is very sensitive to oil supply and oil pricing. This makes Hawaii very vulnerable. We have seen this with the fuel surcharges that were going up and up during 2008 and 2009 as oil prices climbed. As we look deeper in the future, oil prices will go up, and oil supply will decrease, not only because the Earth's supply is drying out but also because more nations and peoples require more oil.

We can reduce oil dependency by

looking back into sails, but not the fixed kind of sails that are impossible to retrofit to modern ships. Power-sail has the form of a very large purpose-designed and controlled kite. Light weight, maneuverable, largely indestructible and, depending on wind direction and speed, very powerful.

Marine transportation in Hawaii alone consumed 151 million gallons of fuel in 2007. A 10% savings attributable to the use of wind energy corresponds to over \$45 million in cost of fuel. Here is another example: An ocean tug powered by a CAT 280 engine consumes ~80,000 gallons of fuel from Honolulu to Seattle. If a power-sail is useful for one third of a roundtrip at a 40% savings, then the fuel saved is about 11,000 gallons.

Power sails are useful beyond Hawaii. Ocean trade was conducted by a world fleet of 34,822 vessels in 2007. Lloyd's database indicates that about 23,000 industrialized fishing vessels were operational in 2007. In the US alone, the number of recreational boats increased from 11.2 million in 1990 to 13.1 million in 2007. These numbers do not include tug-and-barge operators which are common in the Pacific Islands and Alaska. In addition, many non-stealth operations of navy fleets worldwide can benefit from the renewable energy pull provided by power sails. Overall, the potential market for power sails is very large and the potential oil consumption savings are immense.

One of the businesses that was contacted PPS is Global 168 Corporation which is based in General Santos City, the Philippines; it is a fishing company operating small sized purse seiner boats such as the one pictured here.

It is significant that sustainability efforts succeed in Hawaii and other large populated island communities which depended on the arrival of visitors and goods in order to survive.

(This article is part three in a series on Sustainability by Dr. PANOS PREVEDOUROS, Professor of Civil Engineering at UH-Manoa. For questions or comments, please contact him at 956-9698 or via email at pdp@hawaii.edu.)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

Militants Storm Israeli Embassy in Makati

By Rhodina Villanueva /
Wednesday, June 2, 2010

MANILA, Philippines – Members of the militant group Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) picketed the Israeli embassy in Makati City today to protest the killings of pro-Palestine activists who were part of a flotilla headed for Gaza.

The Israeli government's actions against the flotilla have drawn widespread condemnation worldwide.

"We join the whole world in condemning in no uncertain terms the Israeli massacre of civilians who participated in the humanitarian mission to bring aid to Gaza. The Israeli terrorist state has again shown that it does not recognize any law, nor adhere to any international norms when it carried out the

brutal attack," said Bayan secretary-general Renato Reyes, Jr.

"We demand that the ships and those on board be immediately and unconditionally released and allowed to bring aid to the people of Gaza. The Israeli government must also be made accountable for the carnage that happened last Monday," he added.

Bayan's overseas chapters have joined similar protest actions in the US, Canada and Hong Kong. The group has called on the Philippine government to formally express its protest over the incident.

"We urge presumptive president-elect Benigno Aquino III to shun any meeting with any representative of the Israeli government as a sign of protest over the killings," Reyes said.

"The US-backed Israeli government has long violated

the rights of the Palestinian people, from the inhumane economic blockade and the large-scale destruction it inflicted when it bombed Gaza in 2008. The Israeli government now extends its atrocities to international waters after it blocked and boarded the six aid ships and opened fire on the people on board," he added.

Various estimates say the number of dead could be from 10 to 19 people. The six ships

reportedly had civilians on board, including Nobel laureate Mairead Corrigan Maguire of Northern Ireland, European legislators and 85-year-old Holocaust survivor Hedy Epstein.

"Both the Israeli government and its chief backer, the United States government, are responsible for the continuing occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people. The statement of regret over the loss of lives expressed by the US



government falls short of the basic position condemning the atrocity. The US government cannot wash its hands off this mess, or sit idly by and express feigned concern," Reyes said. (www.philstar.com)

2.6 Million Null Votes for Vice-President Discovered

By Paolo Romero /
Wednesday, June 2, 2010

Smartmatic-TIM Corp., to explain on Wednesday the 2.6 million null votes for vice-president, which could have an impact on the results of the vice-presidential race.

A lawyer of Liberal Party vice-presidential candidate Mar Roxas made a manifestation before the Joint Committee on the huge number of

votes for the second highest position of the land that were invalidated during the May 10 automated elections.

"One of the questions to be thrown is why such a large number of null votes," Senate Majority Floor Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri said.

House Speaker Prospero Nograles said that aside from the vice-president, about 1 million votes were also considered null for the position of president.

He said the invalidated votes could have bearing on the vice-presidential race considering the close fight between Mar Roxas of the Liberal Party and Jejomar Binay from the Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino.

The Philippine presidential and local elections were held on May 10. The president and vice-president will be proclaimed in the first half of June after the congress finishes canvassing. (www.philstar.com)



RP Seen to Benefit from Free Trade Agreement Between Australia, NZ

By Ma. Elisa P. Osorio /
Saturday, May 29, 2010

MANILA, Philippines – Employment and investments in the country are expected to surge after the signing of the Australia New Zealand Free trade Area (AANZFTA), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) said yesterday.

In a speech before Australia and New Zealand-based businessmen at the Peninsula Manila yesterday afternoon, Trade Secretary Jesli A. Lapus said a medium-sized specialist car parts manufacturer has already said they will increase their employment by 25 percent this year in order to take advantage of the AANZFTA exporting opportunities.

Likewise, the same firm said they would have to double their plant capacity in a couple of years in order to keep up.

Meanwhile, a small enterprise said that the AANZFTA tariff reduction in its coconut oil derivatives was increasing its sales to both Australia and New

Zealand. Also, an Australian business process outsourcing (BPO) firm in the country said they will be expanding their presence here.

"AANZFTA is indeed a very good deal, and yet it can only be as good as we, the partner-builders of the agreement, implement it," Lapus said. "The AANZFTA experience can help us in the effort to put better order into this sea of trade agreements, and thus draw the greatest possible benefit for them."

Lapus said the Philippines has been able to effect on-time EIF and actual implementation through EO 851 which prescribes the Philippine tariff rate schedule for imports from the FTA partners (the nine other ASEAN Member States, and Australia and New Zealand). Similarly, Australia and New Zealand have extended their tariff concessions to the Philippines with effect from Jan. 1, 2010, and this has been influential in the improved export performance of Philippine manufacturers. (www.philstar.com)

'Half of Funds for Infrastructure Projects Go to Corruption'

By Dennis Garcamo /
Wednesday, June 2, 2010

MANILA, Philippines – A former government financial officer said half of the public funds for infrastructure projects and programs go to graft and corruption.

Prof. Leonor Briones, former chairperson of the Commission on Audit, said 20 percent of funds for government projects goes to unscrupulous government officials and employees.

"But it goes up as much as 50 percent during election time," Briones told a media forum this morning in Greenhills, San Juan City.

She also said citizens' groups, as well as the media, should be vigilant in monitoring government projects to ensure that the money intended for them re-



main intact. As of the result of the too much spending on infrastructure projects, many of them have been unfinished, she added.

"Sometimes only 18 percent of the original fund is left for the project," she said. (www.philstar.com)

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FAMILY CORNER



By Grace Fong, Ed.D. and Sylvia Yuen, Ph.D.

A Day at the Beach



School's out and many families will be heading outdoors, especially to the beach, more often to enjoy summer. These outings can provide many opportunities for learning while having fun. Here are some simple things you can do with your young child at the beach:

- Show your child the footprints she makes when she walks on the sand.
- Ask her to compare the size of her footprint with the footprints of other family members. Talk about which footprint is biggest or smallest and which is in-between.
- Play follow-the-leader.

Make a trail of footprints and ask your child to follow the trail. Count her steps as she follows the trail.

- Ask her to step softly in the sand and look at her footprints. Then ask her to jump up and down in the sand. Talk about the difference in the two sets of footprints. For example, "When you jumped, your footprint got deeper."
- As a variation, make handprints in the sand. Encourage your child to make different designs in the sand using her handprints.
- Have your child make a footprint and handprint next to each other. Ask her how the footprint and handprint

are alike or different. For example, you can talk about numbers of toes and fingers, their length and shape, and what feet and hands help us do.

To keep everyone safe while enjoying a day at the beach:

- Use sunscreen of at least 15 SPF—higher for young children. Put it on half an hour before you'll be in the sun to make it work best. Don't forget to reapply it every couple of hours or after swimming or sweating a lot.
- Set up your towels and beach blankets under a tree, beach umbrella, or portable canopy, and use hats when in the sun. Infants should spend most of the time in the shade and wear protective clothing and hats to shield their delicate skin and eyes from the sun.
- Make sure family members drink enough liquids—about 4 to 8 ounces of liquid every 15 to 30 minutes—to replace all the fluids lost from perspiration. Water, iced tea, and 100 % fruit juices are better choices than sodas and sugary "fruit" drinks.
- Check for symptoms of heat exhaustion—nausea, headache, cramps, and dizziness—caused by the body being overheated and unable to cool itself on its own. If this happens to your child, put her in a cool bath, give her liquids, and let her lie down in a cool, shaded spot or anyplace with air conditioning. If your child has a rapid heartbeat, a high temperature, or difficulty breathing, or is disoriented, she may have the more serious form of heat exhaustion called heat stroke; take her to the emergency room immediately.
- Always supervise young children as they play in and around water. A young child can drown in as little as two inches of water. Even if your child can swim, she should never be left unattended at the beach.
- Supervise use of water toys. Water wings, inner tubes, and blow-up mattresses are not official flotation devices and may not be able to protect a child from drowning. Have fun playing with

them—but keep an eye on your child and be ready to help if needed.

- Watch out for sand holes deeper than your knees (either ones that you have dug or ones left by others. Collapsing walls of sand holes can quickly bury and/or trap a person, especially a child.
- Avoid box jellyfish, sea creatures that look like tiny floating clear plastic bags, with bright blue stringy tentacles that give a painful red welt that stings for hours and may leave a scar. They float in to many beaches on the south and east shores, usually 8-10 days after the full moon; check for warning signs on the beach. If you see box jellyfish on the beach, don't touch them (they can sting while on land, too.) and stay out of the water. If you get stung, see a lifeguard. Try remedies such as vinegar or meat tenderizer on the sting.
- Be careful around sea urchins (wana) and coral. While sea urchins are beautiful and fascinating as their spines move in the water, if you step on a spine, your foot can become easily infected. Remove any pieces of spine broken off in the wound as soon as possible and put on antiseptic. If you're swimming over or walking on coral, try to avoid kicking it or banging your knee. Coral cuts also get infected easily, so clean them well and put antiseptic on them.



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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Taiwan May Hire More OFWs Due to Thai Crisis

By Mayen Jaymalin /
Monday, May 31, 2009

MANILA, Philippines - Local job recruitment agencies reported yesterday that Taiwanese employers might hire more overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) due to the prevailing political crisis in Thailand, which is a major source of workers for Taiwanese factories.

Jackson Gan, a recruitment industry leader, said more than 40,000 workers are needed in Taiwan this year alone.

He said workers who are interested to work in Taiwan might apply with licensed job agencies accredited by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office.

Recruiters said the political crisis that has severely affected business in Thailand could serve as a blessing in disguise for Fil-

ipino factory workers.

They said many South Korean and Japanese electronic factories have reduced production quotas from Thai firms with no permanent solution seen to resolve the political unrest in Thailand.

Some of the foreign-owned factories in Thailand are reportedly planning to transfer to other countries.

The Manila Economic and Cultural Office and local recruitment agencies reported that an increase in export orders for Taiwanese factories is expected to result in additional job orders for Filipino factory workers.

Taiwanese employers hired about 35,000 Filipino workers, mostly in factories, last year. (www.philstar.com)

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LEGAL NOTES

H-1B Option for Physical Therapists



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Physical Therapists continue to be in demand in the U.S. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that their employment will grow by 30% from 2008 to 2018. A recent report by the American Physical Therapy Association shows that the vacancy rate of physical therapists ranges from 13.1% in outpatient settings to 18.6% in long term care settings.

Many physical therapists are recruited from foreign countries such as Philippines and India. There are two ways that they enter the U.S., namely, as

nonimmigrants or immigrants.

The most common nonimmigrant option is the H-1B route. H-1B is reserved for specialty occupations and has an annual cap of 65,000. Hospitals and other health care facilities may be exempted from the cap if they are nonprofit organizations affiliated with an institution of higher education.

The position of physical therapist is a specialty occupation. But there was a question over a year ago as to whether a bachelor's or master's degree was required for H-1B. The Occupational Outlook Handbook in its 2009 edition stated that the minimum requirement for a physical therapist in the U.S. is a master's degree so the USCIS denied H-1B petitions for physical therapists that did not have a master's degree.

But the issue was resolved

by the USCIS in a memo dated May 20, 2009. In that memo the USCIS said that in adjudicating H-1B petitions filed on behalf of beneficiaries in health care specialty occupation, the Occupational Outlook Handbook is only a starting point and that other authoritative sources such as the state licensing board standards must be consulted.

The USCIS memo went on to state that if the beneficiary has a valid license to practice physical therapy in the state of intended employment, the beneficiary will be considered to meet the qualifications to perform services in a specialty occupation, regardless of whether the said beneficiary has a bachelor's degree or a master's degree.

The license may be unrestricted or restricted. If it is unrestricted the H-1B petition is

approvable for up to 3 years. If it is restricted (e.g., license approved except for mandatory supervised practice) the petition may be approved for one year or for the duration of the license, whichever is longer.

There are states that do not issue a license because of a lack of social security card and/or evidence of employment authorization. So long as the beneficiary complies with the requirements for licensure and has filed an application for a license in accordance with the state rules and procedures, the H-1B petition may be approved but only for a period of one year.

If the beneficiary is abroad and therefore cannot take the licensure examination as it's given only in the U.S., the H-1B petition may still be approved for one year provided

the physical therapist has completed all the licensure requirements and is allowed to take the test once he/she arrives in the U.S.

A visa screen certificate is required to be submitted with the H-1B petition. This may be obtained from the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (CGFNS) or the Foreign Credentialing Commission on Physical Therapy (FCCTP). The certificate which is valid for 5 years certifies that the physical therapist's education, experience and training and English proficiency are equivalent to those of a U.S. worker.

REUBEN S. SEGURITAN has been practicing law for over 30 years. For further information, you may call him at (212) 695 5281 or log on to his website at www.seguritan.com

PHILIPPINE NEWS

RP Scores Diplomatic Feat in UN by Leading Nuke Treaty Review

By Pia Lee Brago / Sunday, May 30, 2010

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippines succeeded yesterday in convincing States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) to set aside their differences and throw their support behind a compromise formula that Manila put together to move the stalled nuclear disarmament process forward.

The 189 member-nations adopted a detailed plan of small steps toward nuclear disarmament, including a sharply debated proposal to move toward banning doomsday arms from the Middle East.

The Philippine Mission to the United Nations said Ambassador Libran Cabactulan, president of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, was able to bring the nuclear disarmament agenda back on track after States Parties adopted by consensus the last-minute action plan he presented to avoid what could have been a repeat of the failed 2005 Review Conference.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo welcomed the successful outcome of the conference at the United Nations in New York, saying the consensus agreement is historic and un-

precedented as never has the world come together before to firmly put in place a coherent and comprehensive plan to work closely together to eliminate nuclear weapons.

"Today, the world took one bold and determined step towards being rid of nuclear weapons. That step was taken under the firm leadership and guidance of the Philippines," said Romulo, who was also the head of the Philippine Delegation to the 2010 Review Conference.

"Because of the leadership of the Philippines, the world will be a much safer place, there is more hope for peace, and there is good reason to dream of a world free from nuclear weapons. The success of the Philippines is the success of the world. It is a success for all Filipinos, particularly those in areas of tension and potential conflict," he added.

In its report to Romulo, the Philippine Mission said Cabactulan, who is also the Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations, was given a standing ovation after sealing the first agreement in 10 years for the treaty.

"This is a major victory not only for the Philippines but also for the entire world," Cabactulan said after the 189 member nations approved the 28-page final

document that includes 64 so-called action items related to the three pillars of the NPT—disarmament, nonproliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

"We have agreed on a final document. Over the past four weeks, the States Parties achieved a better understanding of each other's positions and a clearer appreciation of the need to strengthen the main pillars of the NPT," Cabactulan said.

"I have listened very carefully to all views presented by States Parties and this document is the very best that can be offered given the complexities of the issues and the diverging and sometimes even diametrically opposed positions taken on some issues," he added.

Saying that the adoption of the final document was a significant step forward, Cabactulan expressed his appreciation to States Parties for their flexibility and cooperation.

"I would like to point out that there was agreement on the vast majority of issues facing the Review Conference. We agreed on many of the issues, both procedural and substantive," he said. "The common desire to push nuclear disarmament forward fueled many of the understandings and helped to resolve any remaining differences of opinion on a small number of issues and differences on certain details."

The Cabactulan proposal

called for, among others, the convening of a conference in 2012 on the establishment of "a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction" to be held under the auspices of the UN Secretary General and to be attended by all states of the Middle East.

The document also called on China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States to commit to accelerate concrete progress on the steps

leading to nuclear disarmament, take steps to further diminish the role and significance of nuclear weapons; and report back on progress by 2014 - a year before the next Review Conference.

The conference, which takes place every five years, seeks to review and advance the objectives of the NPT. Under the treaty, which took effect in 1970, so-called Non-Nuclear Weapons States vowed not to acquire such weapons while so-called Nuclear Weapons States made commitments to move toward their elimination. (www.phlstar.com)

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MAINLAND NEWS

JP Morgan Sees RP Economy Growing by 6.8% This Year

By Iris C. Gonzales /
Saturday, May 29, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - US-based investment bank JP Morgan expects the Philippine economy to grow by 6.8 percent this year, revised from its earlier economic growth forecast of 4.5 percent following the country's higher-than-expected first quarter growth of 7.3 percent.

"Even with a bit of payback forecast this quarter, we have had to revise up our 2010 gross domestic product (GDP) forecast to 6.8 percent from 4.5 percent previously. It is important to note though that much of this is statistical in nature and we do expect sequential growth to moderate from its blistering pace recently," it said.

With government expecting the economy to continue growing this year, JP Morgan said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) may finally hike interest rates by 25 basis points at next week's meeting to siphon off excess liquidity in the system.

The BSP's borrowing rate currently stands at four percent while its lending rate is at six percent.



However, JP Morgan said that monetary policy would really depend on heightened risks emanating from global financial markets and sovereign stress.

The investment bank noted that growth was driven primarily by external demand in the first quarter, with exports, government spending and consumption all registering significant improvements.

Similarly, Capital Economics, a global investment and securities research firm said that growth is likely to rise to 5.5 percent this year, higher than its previous forecast of 4.5 percent.

It expects growth to be sustained on the back of robust dollar remittances from overseas Filipinos.

"The first quarter GDP data will probably be as good as it gets for this year and in 2011," it noted.

The National Statistical Co-

ordination Board (NSCB) reported that the Philippine economy expanded by 7.3 percent in the first quarter of the year, the highest quarterly growth recorded since the 8.3 percent growth registered in the second quarter of 2007.

The 7.3 percent gross domestic product growth is a marked improvement from the 0.5 percent recorded in the first quarter of 2009 and is above the National Economic and Development Authority's growth forecast for the period of 2.9 percent to 3.9 percent.

With first quarter growth surpassing expectations, Acting Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos has said that the interagency Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC) would soon meet to revise upward the 2.6 percent to 3.6 percent economic growth target for the year. (www.philstar.com)



2010 NPT Review Conference President Ambassador Libran Cabaculan with UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon

RP Pushes for Global Disarmament

By Rainier Allan Ronda /
Saturday, May 29, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - The Philippines has made a final push to move the stalled global disarmament agenda forward at the last day of the month-long 2010 Review Conference of State Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in New York.

In a statement, the Department of Foreign Affairs said that Ambassador Libran Cabaculan, president of the 2010 NPT Review Conference, presented the draft of a final document he formulated and which is hoped to be approved by states-parties before the conference adjourns last night.

"We have worked and toiled together these past four weeks. Our work is about to come to an end. Let us share in successfully concluding all our exertions and all our work," Cabaculan said.

"It is my hope that we can mark that success by adopting

this document tomorrow. It is my fervent wish that all the little seeds of hope that we planted together throughout the Review Conference will bear fruit," he said.

Cabaculan, the Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations, said he had decided to put together the draft final document after States-Parties could not agree on a number of proposals intended to advance the NPT agenda, such as a timeline for disarmament, the proposal to set up a nuclear weapon-free zone in the Middle East, mandatory nuclear inspections and penalties for withdrawing from the treaty.

Saying he had listened very carefully to all views presented by NPT States-Parties, Cabaculan said the action plan he presented was "the very best that can be offered given the complexities of the issues and the diverging and sometimes even diametrically opposed positions taken on some issues." (www.philstar.com).

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June 4, 2010 • Hawaii Prince Hotel, Maunakea Ballroom • 7 pm • Contact Danny Villanuz at 778-0233 and Mario Palma at 397-8626 and Daveilyn Quijano at 489-8782

PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATING WITH THEME: PILIPINO, ANG GALING MO! / SATURDAY

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and Maggie Domingo at 783-0068

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June 16, 2010 • Empress Restaurant • 6:30 pm • Contact: Maggie Domingo at 783-0068 and Janice Sevilla at 595-8000

UFCH GOLF TOURNAMENT / THURSDAY

June 17, 2010 • Kapolei Golf Course • for Registration • Contact: Eddie Agas Sr. at 783-3327 for more info

UFCH-MRS. HAWAII FILIPINA PAGEANT / SUNDAY

June 20, 2010 • Hawaii Prince Hotel, Maunakea Ballroom • 7 pm • Contact: Eddie Agas Sr. at 783-3327, Carlota Ader at 450-9821, Cleo Bala at 832-5169 and Jema Geronimo at 295-5571

OFCC CONVENTION / SUNDAY

June 29, 2010 • Philippine Consulate • 8 am • Contact: Convention Chair-Leo Gozar at 632-6268, Danny Villanuz at 778-0233 and Mario Palma at 397-8626

GLOBAL NEWS

RP Urged to Start Talks for Lower Tuna Tariff in US, EU

By Marianne V. Go / Thursday, May 27, 2010

MANILA, Philippines - Philippine trade negotiators should start negotiating for the inclusion of Philippine tuna under the Generalized Scheme of Preferences of both the United States and the European Union, Francisco Buencamino, executive director of the Tuna Canners Association of the Philippines, said yesterday.

In an interview with The STAR, Buencamino pointed out that the country's GSP quota allocation is set to expire this year. He said the entry of Philippine tuna products to the European Union continues to remain dim due to the preferential tariff treatment extended to tuna imports from ACP countries.

ACP countries include those in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific Islands, which enjoy a preferential zero percent tariff on their tuna exports to the EU compared to the 24 percent slapped on Philippine tuna exports to the EU, except for a specified 9,000 tons under a Tariff-Rate Quota which is entitled to a 12 percent rate.

The ACP countries have closer ties with the EU because they used to be former colonies.

The Philippines, while colonized by Spain, which is part of the EU, is more closely identified to its US colonizers.

According to Buencamino, there still appears to be no inclination on the part of the EU to lower the 24 percent tariff on Philippine tuna imports. Because of this,

Philippine trade negotiators should work harder on getting a higher GSP quota allocation for tuna products to both the US and EU, he added.

Under the GSP, the preferential tariff for the US is three percent while that for EU is 3.5 percent.

Buencamino said the Philippine tuna industry is encountering more pressure as supply continues to thin out especially since Filipino fishermen are no longer able to fish in waters shared with Indonesia and must instead venture out further to Papua New Guinea. As a result, he said prices are going up.

Another approach Philippine trade negotiators could take is appeal for a parity adjustment by the EU whereby the ACP countries would be slapped with a 12 percent tariff and the 24 percent tariff imposed on Philippine tuna imports be reduced to 12 percent, Buencamino said. (www.philstar.com)

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