

HAWAII-PHILIPPINE NEWS EDITION

# HAWAII FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S ONLY WEEKLY FILIPINO-AMERICAN NEWSPAPER

## SOLO EXHIBIT TO FEATURE ARTIST JUNO GALANG

By HFC STAFF

Local artist Juno Galang's paintings—including his very latest as well as new limited editions—were on display last Friday and Saturday, July 11 and 12, at a solo art exhibit entitled "Colors of Summer" at the Tabora Gallery, Outrigger Waikiki Hotel.

Those who visited the exhibit were no doubt captivated by Galang's unique use of color and design in his paintings, which capture the colors and flavors of Hawaii. His love and passion for Hawaii is evident in every one of his paintings. The colors are vivid and exuberant. The scenes are full of life and richly-detailed.

"Painting is my first love and passion," Galang says. "I paint what I see, feel and perceive. My works are so full of life, details and colors because I see life in all its entirety. When you

view my art, I want you to see and feel the canvas pulsate with life, so that you are invited to step inside and become a part of them."

Galang was born in Manila in December 1942 and studied Fine Arts at the University of Santo Tomas (UST). He was naturally-inclined towards drawing from an early age and was largely self-taught. He spent most of his youngteens years hanging around art galleries in Ermita and Malate (often considered the Greenwich Village of

(continued on page 4)



## Filipino Community Donates Money For Typhoon Survivors



Lynne Gutierrez, Diana Tran (Consuelo Foundation accountant), Tony Sagayadoro and Rep. Glenn Wakai present checks totaling \$2,100. The donation will be matched by another \$2,000 from the Consuelo Foundation to purchase rice for typhoon victims.

By Caroline JULIAN

More relief is on the way for victims of Typhoon Fengshen in the Philippines, thanks to Hawaii's Filipino community.

Several organizations and a network of friends raised about \$12,000 that will go towards typhoon aid.

Groups such as the Congress of Visayan Organization, the Hawaii International Relief Organization and the Filipino Community Center collaborated in a fundraiser held at the FilCom Center on June 28, 2008. The event included a live broadcast on KNDI radio.

"We've done this every time there are

(continued on page 4)

## RP Tourism Still Growing Despite Economic Slump, Says Durano

By Mayen JAYMALIN

Despite the spiraling cost of travel and the prevailing global economic slump, the Department of Tourism (DOT) expects more foreign tourists to visit the country.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano reported that the number of foreign visitors coming to the country is still growing by seven to nine percent at this time even as many worldwide reel from the oil crisis.

"As we have previously

(continued on page 4)



Palawan's World renown Underground River

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## EDITORIAL

## A Tear for a Sad Tale

There is this thing called news value, and it depends largely on the perception of news editors who man the newsrooms the world over.

The people whose lives are directly affected by the news have no say at all in determining news value.

Giving more news value to one issue over the other is managing the news and is not the same as killing a story. To kill a story is to completely make a story vanish from the public forums managed by the media. Managing a story is simply assigning it some priority.

Managing a story is essential in media operations, especially since the media itself is a business, specifically the business of selling news. As such, stories are products, and like all products, stories also have shelf lives.

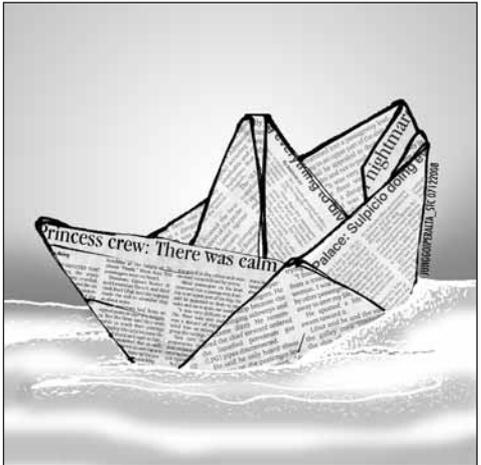
A nice issue to make a case in point is the Princess of the Stars incident. For the past two weeks or so, the saga of the Princess has been making the headlines. It has all the elements or ingredients, if you will, to give it a long shelf life.

Normally, two weeks is already a very long shelf life and most news managers must now be getting quite unnerved by this uncanny longevity. One thing is sure, however. Sooner rather than later, the Princess saga will have to be removed from the front pages and shoved inside.

And it is not that the media is trying to diminish the value of that saga. The saga will always remain important to those whose lives have been affected by the tragedy. In fact, they will carry that story with them for the rest of their lives.

But the media will have to move on. Whatever effect the saga may have had on the personal lives of mediemen will have to be relegated to some quiet place in their own selves. They cannot afford to be more involved in a story than they have to. They have to move on.

So, if they have not done so already, the news managers will pretty soon find newer and fresher products for the news market. And while we



are not supposed to get personal, still there is an element of sadness as we part ways with every great story.

And that is because, from experience, we know the saga of the Princess will go the way of similar great tragedies — straight to the dustbins of history, with little or no lessons learned from the brief moment it was in our consciousness. So, here's a tear for a sad tale. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

## OPINION

# The Philippines and the United States

ROSES & THORNS / By Alejandro R. ROCES

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. — US President Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address, 1863

On July 4, the United States celebrated their Independence Day. It is a day when American families and friends gather together for picnics and barbecues; to watch fireworks and the latest blockbuster movie in the theaters. It is a day when they celebrate the declaration of their independence from colonial British rule. This occurred on July 4, 1776 with the adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress. Interestingly, while the Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, only one man signed it on that date: John Hancock. The rest of the delegates from the original 13 colonies of the United States began to sign it on August 2nd. It was Thomas Jefferson who wrote

the document, with help from Benjamin Franklin and John Adams (second President of the United States), and penned the immortal words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness". It was actually Benjamin Franklin who added the words "pursuit of happiness" in place of the originally drafted "Life, Liberty and Property". Today, we consider the document in light of the nation is birthed, but at that time the document was a declaration of separation and rebellion from their colonial masters.

The story of the Philippines in the 20th century is the tale of a relationship with one nation: the United States. By 1898, the United States had just careened from a Civil War into a war with Spain, a war they eventually won. In the Treaty of Paris, which ended hostilities, a major sticking point was the disposition of the Philippines. After much wrangling, the United States bought the country for \$20 million from Spain. Although we were under American rule for only 50 years, we are arguably closer to that country than any other; this affinity is not only culture or social, but built on the fact that there are four million Filipino-Americans in the United States today. They run the gamut from balikbayans to citizens to overseas foreign workers. In many ways the country and our economy has flourished (despite the recent economic downturn) because of remittances from overseas Filipinos. Before World War II, it was even said that when good Filipinos die, they don't go to heaven, they go the United States. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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# LEGISLATIVE CONNECTION

## A Remedy For What Ails Us: Care in Remote Areas



by Senator Will ESPERO

Access to medical care has always been an issue for residents of rural or remote areas. The federal government established health centers and clinics to provide primary medical care for these distant populations. The increasing numbers of people getting their treatment from the clinics, though, has strained their ability to keep afloat. The two aspects most hit are staffing and financing.

Lower pay, mostly from decreasing rates from insurance companies and other payors, make it difficult to recruit young doctors who have heavy student loan debt to repay. Another factor is that medicine is an evolving field, with some treatment becoming more complex and requiring more specialized care than primary care doctors are equipped to provide. Less access to specialists and diagnostics, a much smaller base of colleagues, and greater distances to continuing medical education, are other disadvantages that deter physicians from establishing a practice outside the city.

The Legislature recognized the difficulties rural communities face in meeting their need for health care. This year we passed SB 2542 and HB 2519 to try to keep these vitally necessary centers operating.

SB 2542 helps with the financial crunch these clinics face by creating a process for them to receive supplemental Medicaid payments and modify the range of medical and dental care they render to patients. The \$1 million it costs – if the Governor releases the funds at all – has far reaching effects on the ability of health centers in rural and underserved areas to operate. Governor Lingle vetoed the bill. On July 8, the Legislature overrode the veto in light of the serious need for these health centers to be able to continue to provide health care to our neighbor island residents.

HB 2519 attempts to recruit more physicians and dentists to practice in rural areas by repaying part of their student loan over a five year commitment of service. Since young practitioners are under heavy pressure to pay back sizeable student loans, the financial relief from that financial burden may be attractive enough to bring them to the neighbor islands.

The Hawaii Health Corps

Program will develop a plan including repayment of student loans, stipends, and other incentives for physicians and dentists who agree to work in rural or medically underserved areas of Hawaii. HB 2519 creates the working group to develop a plan for the program. Up to 20 doctors may be chosen each year to participate in the program in areas designated as underserved and rural. A minimum of 20% of the student loan will be repaid over the five year commitment, a substantial financial incentive to practice medicine in underserved areas.

The Legislature took great care to craft the bills in light of the health care crisis on the neighbor islands. Let's hope the Governor is as concerned for our outer island residents and releases the funds to put the programs into place.

### HOW TECHNOLOGY CAN HELP

Most of us are familiar with the situation: taking the time and trouble to fill out a medical history form each time you go to a different doctor. Doctors need to know a patient's prescriptions, drug sensitivities, allergies, blood type, and pre-existing medical conditions when deciding on treatment. Often the patient's symptoms and condition lead a doctor to order tests to find out additional information before proceeding. Consider how much safer and more efficient it would be if each doctor could see what other doctors had diagnosed, prescribed or ordered as treatment. This could save money and time in eliminating lab tests and other diagnostics dangerous; drug interactions or allergic reactions could be avoided; and treatment could be started sooner. Besides enhancing safety and efficiency, IT is projected to be able to cut \$77.8 billion (roughly 4%) off the \$2 trillion tab in the nation's health care industry.

The Kaiser system already uses the electronic medical record so that each doctor can see the patient's history, and be better able to prescribe treatment for the patient. Being able to view a patient's complete record at all times keeps costs significantly down and allows care to be rendered much more efficiently.

Health care is one of the last industries to be transformed by information technology (IT). We're already comfortable with e-tickets

when flying, internet shopping, on-line banking, electronic stock buying and selling, distance education, and ordinary business processes like sending documents via e-mail. The lack of standard data exchange in health care contributes to the high costs of health care. Doctors, hospitals, and other providers use systems that are individually tailored to their own needs, and so, patient information stored on these systems are inaccessible between entities.

IT is safer, more efficient, and less expensive than manual or individualized data processing. Michigan's electronic system caught more than 85,000 prescriptions that generated drug interaction or allergic alerts, enhancing the safety of medicines taken by patients. Medicaid beneficiaries in Tennessee have their own personalized electronic health record, giving each provider the medical information needed to more carefully and appropriately treat patients. Time spent in intake and history is eliminated, as are errors due to memory and incomplete information. A bill is currently in Congress to require Medicare doctors to prescribe electronically by 2010.

The VMR is not new. Hawaii physician Brian Martin, founder of Martin Information Systems (MIS) and former product architect with WebMD, was one of the pioneers in the field. In 1989, he developed the "virtual medical record" (VMR) and a few years later, a health claims processing system. Diagnostics as well as medical history could be viewed via the VMR, enabling doctors in separate locations to confer and consult while simultaneously viewing patient records. Being able to share information would enable physicians to select the most appropriate and effective course of treatment. The VMR could make treatment more timely, more efficient, and less costly, especially for neighbor island patients, who wouldn't have to fly to Oahu to see a specialist. Access to a patient's complete medical record increases patient safety by reducing errors that may arise from drug interactions, allergies, existing conditions, and so forth. Dr. Martin's claims processing system could also give doctors and providers the prompt payments they'd appreciate, as well as save money lost to possible

drug abuse and fraudulent health claims.

Queen's Task Force 2000 likewise tried in the early 1990s to get doctors comfortable with using technology in their practices. Unfortunately, at the time, the medical field was not yet ready to get on-board with technological advances. Kaiser Health Foundation's success with its version of electronic patient records is raising the comfort level among health

care practitioners, so we should see technology making inroads in health care.

In Japan, Broadband is being used to enable rural health clinics to get diagnostic evaluations made remotely by specialists in city medical centers. The improved access to expert medical care is helping many people living in Japan's countryside receive the care they need without the expense and time of going to the cities.

IT and Broadband can help Hawaii's rural and underserved areas secure the medical care they need. ■



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# HEADLINE NEWS

(cont. from page 1; Solo Exhibit...)

(Manila), where he learned painting techniques from the old masters.

Although he paints in various mediums, Galang is best recognized for the vibrant photo-realism in his watercolors of Hawaii's favorite places and people. Unlike oil paints, where the medium may be mixed, mused and retouched, watercolor paint can only be applied once to the paper.

Galang likes to try new and innovative techniques, whether enhancing or highlighting his images or creating new color combinations. He also combines exquisite traditional painting skill with contemporary abstraction.

As he creates new paintings in his light filled studio in a sleepy Honolulu neighborhood, Galang never forgets the original sources that animate his paintings.

Never the reclusive type, his

work radiates first-hand experience of all aspects of island life. It's no surprise that he's equally happy meeting serious collectors of his original watercolors as he is the visitor who treasures a small print as an island memento.

"If you are looking for detailed, photo-realistic, watercolor and oil paintings of Hawaii, past and present, look no further. I know that you will enjoy your visit and my work," Galang says.

Customers like Teresita Bernales, a Kailua resident and Coordinator of the Global Youth Center Hawaii, would agree that Galang's style brings to life the magic and beauty of the islands.

"Juno is a well known artist and a proud UST Alumna," Bernales says. "I bought two of his artwork in the past and we enjoy them very much."

(cont. from page 1; Filipino ...)

calamities in the Philippines," says volunteer Tony Sagayadoro. "You'll never know if one day you'll be needing help. If you are in that situation, you won't know what to do, but knowing that people are helping can make you feel better.

"Life is a matter of giving and receiving," he adds.

About \$8,000 in donations was collected at the fundraising event. A group of anonymous donors gave \$2,100. The Consuelo Foundation generously matched that donation with \$2,000 of its own money.

Community leaders have entrusted the Consuelo Foundation as stewards of the \$4,100 or about 185,320 Philippine pesos.

Reach Out Pacific—an organization that brings humanitarian aid to Micronesia and the greater Pacific—served as a bridge that brought together the Consuelo Foundation and Hawaii's Filipino Community for the first time in support of disaster relief in the Philippines. Headquartered in Hawaii, the Foundation helps disadvantaged women and children in the Philippines.

The money given to Consuelo will go towards purchasing rice, a much-needed staple, for survivors of Fengshen.

"The current price of rice—if bought from the National Food Authority—is P 913.00 per sack (50 kilos) so the combined donation will be able to buy almost 203 sacks of NFA rice," said Rayden Salvasa, managing director of the Consuelo

Foundation Philippine Branch.

"The price is much higher—'You'll never know if one day you'll be forced to buy from the outside markets.'

Fengshen struck the Philippines on June 21, leaving more than 300 people dead. More than 700 were killed when the typhoon capsized the ferry Princess of the Stars.

Some 235,000 families are still rebuilding after their homes were damaged or destroyed. About 38 provinces have been severely affected.

Originally predicted not to strike land, Fengshen took the country by surprise. Wind gusts up to 195 km per hour and heavy rains caused landslides, flash-floods, and several marine disasters.

Eleven billion pesos (US\$242 million) in damages were caused to agriculture, including rice fields, according to the latest figures from the National Disaster Coordinating Council.

"The damage to the rice fields wrought by this typhoon is going to aggravate an already bad situation," Salvasa says. "The typhoon has caused more price increases because delivery to certain typhoon affected areas has been delayed due to damaged roads and floods."

The Consuelo Foundation will ensure that the delivery of goods is accountable and will make sure the money will go towards helping the survivors.

Hawaii's Filipino community



Community volunteers Lynne Gutierrez and Tony Sagayadoro are teaming with the Consuelo Foundation to help typhoon victims in the Philippines

leaders are confident the money will reach the victims.

"There's no doubt in what they do. I witnessed myself what they do, knowing the mission of Consuelo Foundation," Sagayadoro says.

According to Salvasa, the Consuelo Foundation operates through a network of non-governmental organization (NGO) partners nationwide who are contracted to deliver the services to intended beneficiaries.

"These NGOs have been vetted and accredited and have passed our organizational and service delivery standards, he says. "For emergencies like this one, we select partners in the devastated areas who already doing relief work for the victims and channel the funds through them." ■



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(cont. from page 1; RP Tourism ...)

projected, the growth of tourist arrivals is still within the range of seven to nine percent on a year-on-year basis," he explained.

"I believe the Philippine tourism industry will continue to grow despite the challenges and the global economic slump," he said.

Durano noted that the DOT was able to position the country's tourist destinations in Europe and in other emerging markets, whose economies continue to grow.

"Our past marketing mission is now fueling the growth momentum we are experiencing at this time," he said.

The increasing cost of transport, Durano said, is partly absorbed by all the components of the tourism supply chain, so that the cost to be passed down to the tourist is very minimal.

"We were also able to introduce in the market at the right time higher value tourism products like wellness, medical education, and shopping which contributes to higher spending by tourists in the country," Durano pointed out.

In the first quarter of the year, DOT reported that the local tourism industry has already generated earnings of \$1.02 billion with the arrival of more foreign tourists in the country.

Durano said tourist spending reached \$1.02 billion in the first quarter of the year alone as the country continues to capture more big-spending foreign tourists.

Meanwhile, the DOT signed with the Ministry of Tourism of India an agreement providing for the implementation of projects mutually benefiting the travel industries of both countries.

"Tourist arrivals from India to our islands grew at an average of 11.4 percent over the past five years. With the many things happening for the Philippines with regard to this market, the signing comes at an opportune time to discuss ways and means that will enable both countries to seize the potentials and enhance tourist traffic," Durano said in a statement.

The agreement includes a seven-day exchange program to allow each party to share experiences in tourism product creation, promotion and marketing, cultural and medical tourism as well as manpower and infrastructure development.

The two parties will further look into enhancing the industry's human resources by organizing



Sec. Ace Durano

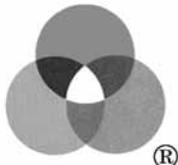
and facilitating seminars, workshops and conferences with focus on cultural and ecological tourism, hospitality, health and wellness tourism.

The plan also states the participation in travel fairs and other similar events organized in both the Philippines and India. This will provide a venue for travel agents, hotels and resorts, transport services and other tourism-related establishments to meet for potential tie-ups and other business prospects.

Business missions, trade invitations events and discussions will be set up to further promote investment in the tourism sector. The DOT and its Indian counterpart will also establish a transfer system for relevant updates and data.

At the moment, air transport services between the countries include stopovers at either Singapore or Malaysia. The DOT sees the co-operative projects to strategically increase travel in the long term and thus create a stronger demand for seats.

Indian tourist arrivals from January to May 2008 grew by 24.4 percent over the same period last year while expenditures reached \$53.9 million in 2007. (www.philtar.com) ■



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# HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

## Over \$11 Million in Federal Grants Available For Local Organizations

**HONOLULU MAYOR MUFU** Hanemann recently announced that the City is accepting applications from organizations and non-profit agencies for \$8 million in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and \$3.5 million in HOME Investment Partnership funds. Both programs are funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

CDBG funds are available for projects that principally benefit low- and moderate-income persons. Previous recipients of CDBG funds include Easter Seals, Goodwill Industries,

Catholic Charities, Helping Hands Hawaii, Hina Mauka Alcohol Rehabilitation Services of Hawaii, Institute for Human Services, Lanakila Rehabilitation Center, Mutual Housing Association of Hawaii, Pacific Gateway Center, Parents and Children Together (PACT), Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii, Wai'anae Coast Comprehensive Health Center, and the YMCA.

HOME money, meanwhile, is available to community housing development organizations and other qualified private nonprofit organizations to develop and support affordable rental housing and

homeownership affordability. Community housing development organizations seeking to develop multi-family rental housing are given top priority.

Previous recipients have included Saint Francis Healthcare Systems, Hawaii Housing Development Corporation, Housing Solutions, and Pacific Housing Assistance Corporation.

"The CDBG/HOME program is a prime example of an effective partnership," Mayor Hanemann says. "Using federal dollars, the City's Department of Community Services and Budget & Fiscal Services Department are able to

help private organizations do great things for Honolulu's residents."

The request for proposals is available at the Division of Purchasing, Department of Budget and Fiscal Services, Honolulu Hale, 530 South King Street, Room 115, or online at [www.honolulu.gov/pur](http://www.honolulu.gov/pur). The City will hold an informational meeting for applicants on July 18, 2008 at 9:30 am at the Mission Memorial Auditorium.

Consultations will be offered following the meeting to give interested parties an opportunity to submit statements and supporting testimony on the community de-

velopment and housing needs to be considered in the development of the City's Action Plan that is required to be submitted to HUD.

The deadline for applications for both grant programs is 4 pm on August 29, 2008.

The City's online e-mail notification system implemented last year will continue to allow applicants for federal grants, available through the City's CDBG and HOME programs, to receive e-mail notification of funding opportunities whenever they become available. Applicants may register at: <http://www.honolulu.gov/budget/cdbg.htm>.

## Hirono Announces Federal Funding for Molokai Residents

**CONGRESSWOMAN MAZIE** K. Hirono (D-Hawaii) today announced a \$437,800 USDA Rural Development grant for Molokai Community Rural Health Association, Inc.

These funds will be used to provide long term care services, which, in turn, will create job opportunities for caregivers and trainers, as well as nurses and doctors. The funds will go toward helping educate and expose students to the various career paths in health care by taking them to visit Oahu's health facilities.

The Molokai Community Rural Health Association will now be able to build state-of-the-art facilities with on-site training rooms where physical therapists, caretakers and families can receive quality training. Expansion of site services,

which include adult-daycare and respite care for caregivers, in addition to being able to provide home care, will now be possible.

Currently, there are no long-term care facilities on Molokai. When Molokai General Hospital began phasing out its long term care program eight years ago, it served about 10 to 12 patients. Today, two patients remain and the Hospital is not accepting any more.

"With the current economy, Molokai's kupuna cannot afford to travel to neighbor islands for care, nor can they afford to hire caretakers from neighboring islands," Hirono said. "I am proud to announce that with this grant, Molokai can start developing the necessary infrastructure for a long term care facility, so the kupuna of Molokai can receive the care they



Congresswoman Mazie K. Hirono

need and deserve." According to statistics from the Molokai Rural Development Project, Filipinos make up about 27 percent of the island's total population.

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## Filipino For Kids Program Holds Finale

**PARTICIPANTS IN THE** "Filipino For Kids" Program performed a short program on July 12, 2008 at 10:30 am at the Filinipino Community Center to demonstrate what they have learned about the Filipino culture.

The program was entitled "Munting Palabas." The 32 children, ranging in age from 5 to 12, performed for their families and the public before a "Salu-Salu" to end the summer program.

"Filipino For Kids" is a one-of-a-kind summer cultural enrichment program designed specifically for children of all ethnicities. Its goal is to perpetuate and spark an interest in the Philippines' rich culture and heritage through fun and interactive activities such as songs, dances,

language, storytelling, food, martial arts, games and more.

Last year, the children watched an eskrima martial arts demonstration and learned how to dance the *tinikling*—a popular Philippine folk dance. Children also learned how to make *halo-halo*, a popular dessert. Along the way, they also learned basic Tagalog through colors, tastes and numbers.

This year marks the program's third year. The program began in 2005 with a \$1,000 grant from the UH SEED Diversity Grant, \$200 from the University of the Philippines Alumni Association-Hawaii (UPAA) and a discounted rate at the Fil-Com Center.

"Filipino For Kids" is sponsored by the UH Katipunan Club Alumni & Friends, Filipino & Philippine Literature Program, UPAA-Hawaii, and the Filipino Community Center. ■

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# PHILIPPINE NEWS

## RP's 'Cyber Corridor' Completed



**PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO** on Monday said the best response to rising global commodity prices is to generate compensating gains on the country's asset side, such as outsource business processing.

In her speech at the recent 8th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Science and Technology Week and the 50th anniversary of the Department of Science and Technology held at the World Trade Center, the President said the completion of the Philippines' so-called "cyber corridor"—which encompasses the business processing outsourcing (BPO) centers—is ranked second in the world in out-sourcing cities in Asia and the Pacific.

"If on the liability side of the national balance sheet we sustained a loss from rising prices of commodities that we import, then

we would endeavor to generate compensating gains on the asset side to the commodities that we can export," the President said.

The asset side, she said, consists of hard commodities such as primary products supplemented by soft commodities such as outsource business processing.

The cyber corridor consists of BPO centers in Metro Manila, Tuguegarao, Baguio, Dagupan, Urdaneta in Pangasinan, Cabanatuan, Clark and San Fernando in Pampanga, Subic, Cainta, Bacoor, Sta. Rosa, Lipa, Batangas City, Camarines Sur, Legaspi City, Iloilo, Bacolod, Dumaguete, Cebu, Leyte, Cagayan de Oro, Davao and General Santos City.

The President said that with the completion of the new international broadband links of the two telecommunications giants—

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT) and Globe Telecommunications—will be operational in 2009, no tsunami, nor earthquake can interrupt the gateway services to the Philippines.

She thanked ASEAN members for working together to achieve one caring and sharing ASEAN community through a feeling of empowerment provided by science and technology.

She said the event is an important one as the region moves closer to economic integration, which poses both enormous development challenges and opportunities.

"This is an opportunity to showcase to the world the various advances our country has achieved in the field of S&T," she added. (*Philippine Consulate General of Hawaii*)

## Bill Gates Donates P23 M to 'Frank' Victims

**THE FOUNDATION OF MICROSOFT** chairman Bill Gates has reportedly pledged to donate an estimated P23 million to the families affected by typhoon "Frank."

According to CBCPNews, the official news service provider of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), the American billionaire's Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation would be donating \$500,000 through the Catholic Relief Service (CRS) Philippines, the social action arm of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

CRS representative to the Philippines Michael Frank said they are scheduled to sign a contract within the week to seal the endowment.

Manila Archbishop Broderick Pabillo, chair of the CBCP-National Secretariat for Social Action Justice and Peace (Nassa), said that those in Sibuyan Island, Romblon could also become beneficiaries.

Aside from the Gates foundation, Frank said other Filipino-American groups have expressed intention to help those affected by the typhoon.

Meanwhile, Bureau of Customs (BOC) Commissioner

Napoleon Morales said his agency would send 19 containers of seized used clothing and rice to areas devastated by last month's calamity.

Ten of the 19 container vans were filled with rice, while the used clothing were stored in the remaining nine containers.

Morales admitted they encountered problems in releasing the goods since they were required to pay storage and wharfage fees to the Philippine Ports Authority.

It was only after Malacañang exempted them from paying the charges that they turned over to the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

Importation of second-hand clothes is prohibited under the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines. The ban on importation of such articles is part of the government's protection of the local garments industry.

"We have never sold these items, or destroyed them since these can be used by victims of calamities and other disasters. When we donate these items, these are counted through the DSWD," the BOC chief added.

([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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## Pentagon Commits Firm Support to AFP Coast Watch in South

by Jaime LAUDE

**PRESIDENT ARROYO'S VISIT** to the Pentagon as part of her recent official trip to the US has gained strong support for the Philippine military's Coast Watch South in deterring terrorists from entering and exiting through the southern backdoor, Armed Forces chief Gen. Alexander Yano said.

Yano said the Australian government is also supporting this anti-terror program.

"The President's visit to the Pentagon gained a firm commitment of support for our Coast Watch South from the US," Yano said at the Manila Overseas Press Club (MOPC)'s Night of the Generals forum held at the Inter-Continental Hotel in Makati City Tuesday night.

During her US visit last month, the President also pressed for support for the government's military modernization program by way of obtaining additional "hard assets" as well as military training.

Coast Watch South entails sustained maritime surveillance and maritime patrols involving ships and planes on known routes being used by terrorist groups in going in and out of the country.

Areas covered by the Coast Watch



South are the long-shores and vast sea-lanes of Davao, Sarangani, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

This effort is presently being undertaken under the Fleet-Marine concept with direct participation of the Philippine Navy and the Philippine Marines as well as the Philippine Air Force (PAF).

"This program is also funded by the US government with assistance from Australia to

guard the southern backdoor used by terrorist groups coming from our ASEAN neighbors," Yano said.

He admitted that with limited naval and air assets, the military could only do so much to guard the country's porous borders.

Aside from the US and Australia, the Armed Forces of the Philippines has standing cross-border patrol agreements with Malaysia and Indonesia which also result in the reduction of transnational crimes like smuggling and piracy.

Before Coast Watch South was put in place, Jemaah Islamiyah terrorists were crossing freely into the country's southern backdoor to link up with the homegrown Abu Sayayf militants and renegade rebels from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front. ■

PHILIPPINE NEWS

More Subsidies Coming; GMA to explain VAT to CBCP

by Paolo ROMERO

**MORE SUBSIDIES FROM** the P4-billion excess collection from value-added tax (VAT) on oil would be handed out to the poor to help them cope with rising fuel and food prices, Malacañang said yesterday.

President Arroyo and her economic managers will meet with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) to hear their views on how to bring relief to the masses reeling from rising prices of basic goods.

Speaking to reporters yesterday, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said he was just awaiting a certification from the Department of Finance on the actual VAT revenue on oil.

The government had projected over P70 billion in VAT revenues from oil prior to the surges in the price of crude in the last few months, he added.

Andaya said among the possible new social welfare projects and assistance are grants for the victims of typhoon "Frank."

"We're concentrating on spending what we collected so we can now expect a second round of subsidies," he said.

"P4 billion came in the first quarter and about P4 billion in the second quarter, and that's where we are focusing our attention on how these funds will be spent.

"The health sector can use another boost and the favorite of the President is hospital upgrading

so we might accelerate this also."

On the other hand, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the government will go on deficit spending this year by about P75 billion for more social services and safety nets in light of surging prices.

"It's important to point out to the agencies that it's not that we don't have enough money but for them to spend properly. Some agencies ask for (fund) releases and then we find out that their absorptive capacities are under question," he said.

"That's why the President gets mad when she sees projects that have fallbacks in implementation, yet the funding has been released."

Meanwhile, Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran told reporters the projection for social services could go higher as oil prices continue to rise.

Since January, the government has collected about P9 billion in VAT revenues from the oil price increases alone, he added.

Ermita said Mrs. Arroyo intends to inform the Catholic bishops about the programs being implemented by the government to help ease the burden on the masses.

Mrs. Arroyo and her economic team are expected to explain to them why lifting the VAT on oil would be difficult to implement, he added.

Mrs. Arroyo would cite to the



CBCP the subsidies to the poor from the excess revenues of the VAT on oil, Ermita said.

**CUSTOMS THANKS PALACE**

The Bureau of Customs (BOC) thanked yesterday Malacañang for not removing the EVAT on imported oil.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said the agency would lose 40 percent of its revenue if the government removes the 12-percent EVAT on oil. "Well, since they have started zero tariff on oil, if they completely remove EVAT, we will end up with zero collections," he said.

Morales said the collection from the EVAT is expected to contribute to their target revenue for 2008.

The agency is expected to earn P254 billion for 2008, he added.

Morales said removing the EVAT could also hamper the gov-

ernment's performance since the delivery of basic services depends on the availability of funds.

"How can you run the machinery of government without these funds?" he said.

**VAT REDUCTION PUSHED**

The chairman of the Federation of Philippine Industries pushed yesterday for the reduction of VAT on oil from 12 percent to 10 percent.

Speaking at the 30th annual scientific meeting of the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) at the Manila Hotel, Meneleo Carlos said the 12-percent VAT on oil comprised a "very big chunk" of government revenues.

"It should be brought down from 12 to 10 percent... you can't really remove taxes on fuels," he said.

NAST is an agency under the Department of Science and

Technology.

The government is targeting some P87 billion revenues this year from the VAT on oil.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said lifting the 12-percent VAT on oil would result in substantial losses in tax collection.

The proposal would mean P73.1 billion in foregone revenues which the government could use to fund pro-poor programs amid rising oil and food prices, he added.

Teves said the suspension of the 12-percent VAT on oil will favor only those with high incomes.

On Monday, the CBCP proposed a review of the laws on VAT and oil deregulation.

For his part, Benjamin Austria, chairman of the Energy Committee of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the PCCI is also not in favor of lifting the VAT on oil.

"Government revenues can still be maintained by reducing the EVAT," Austria, who was also a participant at the scientific meeting, said.

Earlier, Economic Planning Secretary Augusto Santos said the Cabinet was considering lowering the VAT rate on oil to make it revenue-neutral.

However, the move needs congressional action, he added.

This year's annual scientific meeting focused on "Energy Security and Sustainability: Assessing the present and foreseeing the future." ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

Senate, House Set to Fast-track New Wage Hike

by Paolo ROMERO

**THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE** of Representatives are likely to fast-track the approval of another round of salary increases for government workers through a resolution to be proposed by Malacañang next month, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya Jr. said yesterday.

But while the one million-plus state workers are due for the third round of increases under the Salary Standardization Law, Ex-

ecutive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said it would be too early for employees in the private sector to seek the same despite the continued rise in consumer prices.

"It is definitely reasonable to say that the present condition does not warrant an increase (for private sector)," Ermita said.

He pointed out the minimum wage was raised just last month by the regional wage boards and there is a one-year ban before another round of increases for private sector

workers can be implemented.

The last wage hike granted was still the one-year ban since the minimum wage was increased in August but regional wage boards allowed the increases due to "supervening conditions."

Andaya said a resolution has been drafted for another round of salary increases for government employees under the Salary Standardization Law 3 (SSL3) totaling P20 billion.

"We are ready with our reso-

lution and the funding would be incorporated in the 2009 budget. This will cover all employees although the increases would be different per salary level," he said.

He said Senate President Manuel Villar and Speaker Pros-

pero Nogrates expressed willingness to fast track the resolution during initial consultations with them.

The resolution, he said, would be filed in Congress after President Arroyo delivers her State of the Nation Address on July 28.

([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

Prices of Canned Goods up by 6-7%

by Elisa OSORIO

**PRICES OF CANNED GOODS** including corned beef, sardines, and luncheon meat are expected to rise by six to seven percent by the end of the month on the back of higher tin costs.

"There will be two increases in the prices of canned food products this month because some manufacturers opted to adjust their prices twice instead of implementing one big price increase," Henry Tañedo, chairman and president of Tin Can Manufacturers Association of the Philippines, told THE STAR in a telephone interview.

He said the cost of tin plates

is rising steadily due to the surge in demand in China ahead of the Beijing Olympics.

"HRCs (hot rolled coils) are very expensive because of the great demand produced by the Beijing Olympics," Tañedo said.

"We cannot do anything. Tin plates are all imported and the peso has already dropped almost 5 percent," Tañedo noted.

"We really tried not to increase our prices but because of several factors it has become impossible," he said.

The prices of tin plates have gone up by 41 percent since the beginning of the year.

The price of 202 cans, which

are used for packaging sardines, is P3.40 from only P3.05 early this year.

Trade Undersecretary Zenaida Maglaya confirmed that during the first week of July, the prices of two brands of sardines went up by P0.35 to P0.40.

"Only 555 and Mega sardines adjusted the prices because the cost of tin cans went up," Maglaya said. "The price of processed meat like corned beef and luncheon meat also increased," she said.

Maglaya said other brands might follow. "It's stiff competition. Some would like to wait and see." ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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# PHILIPPINE NEWS

## ISAFP Tapped to Assess Food, Energy Situation

by Paolo ROMERO

**AMID WARNINGS OF POSSIBLE** civil unrest over soaring food and fuel prices, President Arroyo has included the military intelligence service in a superbody that would implement preventive measures to address the crisis.

The President has included the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) in the newly created Energy Contingency Task Force (ECTF), a superbody under the supervision of the National Food and Energy Council (NFECE) that will monitor the food and energy situation in the face of possible food riots.

Mrs. Arroyo signed Executive Order No. 731 activating and re-organizing the Energy Operations Board created in 1990 into the ECTF.

The ECTF will be headed by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita who will report to Mrs. Arroyo as chairman of the NFECE.

The ECTF will have almost all members of the Cabinet and appropriate agencies giving their inputs on how to address the deteriorating economic situation.

The ISAFP, headed by former Presidential Security Group chief Maj. Gen. Romeo Prestozza, has been tasked to make "timely intelligence assessment of political and security developments related to the oil price issue and alert government offices on the same."

Palace officials said this means the ISAFP will provide advice on matters affecting national security.

Ermita explained the inclusion of the ISAFP in the economic superbody is necessary considering the national security implications of soaring food and fuel prices.

"In fact, this (oil and food crisis) should be everybody's concern," Ermita said. "There is a need to detect on time possible irregularities on the ground."

He said the ISAFP would be on board the NFECE only to give advice and assessments on security issues.

Ermita drew analogies from transport strikes where military or police trucks were used to ferry stranded commuters, or during disasters and calamities where the Armed Forces are sent to help in rescue efforts.

Militant groups earlier warned of food riots over the tightening supply and rising prices of rice.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) earlier this week also warned of civil unrest if the government fails to address the increasing consumer prices.

A top security official revealed the intelligence community is currently validating reports of extreme elements exploring the situation to create political turmoil.

Press Secretary Jesus Dureza, however, assured food riots in the country are a remote possibility. "Filipinos are not like that," he said.

The creation of the superbody

with the inclusion of the ISAFP came on the heels of the record-high 11.4-percent inflation rate that hit the country due to the runaway increase of food and fuel prices.

The ECTF, under the EO No. 728 signed last June 2, has been tasked to advise the President and Congress "if and when the exercise of emergency presidential powers shall be required to address food and energy problems."

Mrs. Arroyo also invited representatives of concerned committees in Congress, sectoral groups, the academe and non-government organizations to join the ECTF as full members or observers.

Each Cabinet official has been tasked to monitor a certain situation, as in the case of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), which will monitor the impact of rising oil prices on basic commodities and implement mitigating measures.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), on the other hand, will identify the beneficiaries of subsidies for the poor and administer the distribution of the assistance.

The Budget and Management department will provide budgetary allocation for the projects of the ECTF, sourced from additional value-added tax revenues and royalties from the Malampaya gas fields.

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), as vice chairman of ECTF, will assist the energy secretary in pro-



Oil depot in Pandacan, Manila

jecting oil prices and formulate mitigation measures and policies for implementation.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) would provide student loans and scholarships while the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) will be responsible for the information drive of the ECTF.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes has been tasked to closely monitor oil prices and ensure the implementation of energy efficiency, conservation and other mitigating measures.

Reyes said the Department of Energy is seeing to it that the oil companies are not charging "unreasonable" prices.

"We want to assure the public that we are continuing our efforts to see to it that the products being sold by oil companies are reasonably priced," he said.

Some oil companies, on the other hand, revealed they could no longer afford another price reduction in the coming weekend.

Flying V, which initiated the recent P1 per liter rollback on gasoline, said they could no longer afford another price reduction this week.

Flying V chairman Ramon Villavicencio said the P1 per liter rollback on the prices of gasoline was prompted by a very slim margin that "the company sees as an opportunity to give relief to consumers."

"Flying V had decided to implement the rollback despite the very thin margin. We just want to give relief to motorist and car owners," he said.

Villavicencio said they could not do the same price cut on diesel since they still have under-recoveries.

Due to competitive pressures, other oil companies - Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Chevron Philippines, Total Philippines, Unioil Philippines, Eastern Petroleum, Seacol Philippines, PTT Philippines - made similar P1 price reductions.

Reyes said the rollback is a 'welcome development despite the continued criticism of some transport groups.

"What we don't understand is why people are not satisfied," Reyes said.

"They are angry when prices go up and still angry when prices go down," he said. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

## 'Hot Money' Flees RP in H1

by Des FERRIOLS

Foreign portfolio investments that fled from the country during the first half of this year amounted to \$411.19 billion, reversing last year's \$2.552-billion net inflow.

Preliminary data from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) showed that total portfolio inflows

from January to June 27 amounted to \$5.236 billion, about 33 percent lower than last year's gross inflows of \$7.781 billion.

The decline in gross inflows was accompanied by an increase in total outflows amounting to \$5.647 billion compared with last year's total outflow of \$5.228 billion.

The BSP has drastically scaled down its projected portfolio investments inflow this year from \$3.2 billion to only \$1.1 billion.

Despite its strong fundamentals, the country was not spared from the global stampede that sent stock prices falling in the wake of record-high oil prices and the unresolved credit crunch in the US.

Monetary officials said the worsening anxiety of foreign fund managers over prospects in emerging markets led to even bigger withdrawals of portfolio investments.

BSP Governor Amado M.

Tetangco Jr. said the continued increases in oil and other commodity prices, the slowdown in economic growth and reports of mixed corporate earnings results in the first quarter, as well as the weakening of the peso contributed to the negative investor sentiment during the period.

Although officials expect investors to differentiate among emerging markets, monetary authorities said the Philippine market was not deep enough for this rule of thumb to work.

According to Tetangco, foreign portfolio investors were not differentiating the Philippines from other emerging markets despite

its steady and positive economic fundamentals.

"Our stock market is just not that deep," Tetangco said. "A deeper market attracts more investors," adding that "if you have a bigger market with more liquidity, then investors will prefer that over a market that is relatively small and does not really have the kind of liquidity that investors are looking for."

According to Tetangco, portfolio investors prefer to be able to go in and out of a market on any given day. This kind of flexibility, he said, could not be found in a market the size of the Philippine stock market.

"If your market is small, a single fund manager can drop \$20 million in and prices would go haywire. If they take that much out, prices would go haywire too," he explained. "What's \$20 million to fund managers? That's a drop in the bucket."

According to Tetangco, foreign portfolio investors end up paying for such fluctuations that they could cause merely by doing normal market play. "If they want to buy in, the very act sends prices up so it end up being more expensive for them. When they want to get down, their sheer size sends prices down and they lose." ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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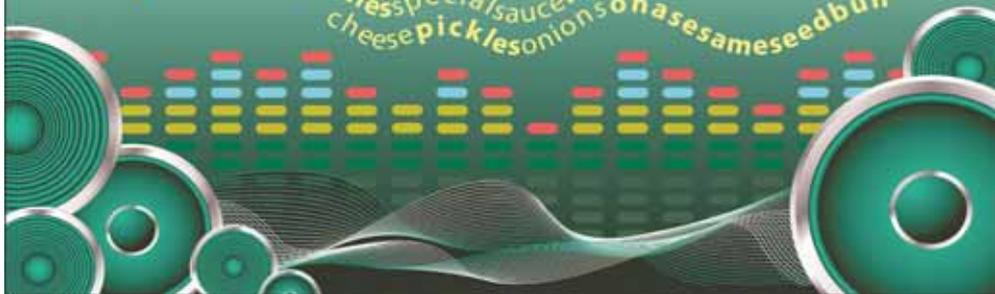
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# PHILIPPINE NEWS

## Another Tremor Rocks Metro, Luzon As Part of 'Earthquake Swarm'

by Helen FLORES

**AN EARTHQUAKE OF 5.4** magnitude rocked Metro Manila and other Luzon provinces anew yesterday, but government seismologists said no damage and casualties were reported.

Almost 200 aftershocks were recorded as of yesterday morning generated by the 5.4-magnitude quake that hit the same areas Sunday night, Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) director Renato Solidum said.

Solidum explained that the quake was part of an "earthquake swarm" or series of tremors that started last Thursday caused by the movement of the East Luzon

Trough off the northeastern seaboard.

The Phivolcs chief, who earlier dismissed a report that the Philippines will be hit by an 8.1-magnitude earthquake on July 18, said earthquake swarms were common and could last for over a month.

Solidum said the tremor struck at 9:41 a.m. with its epicenter traced at 98 kilometers southeast of Baler, Aurora.

The quake was felt at Intensity 4 in Baler, Manila, Quezon City, and Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija; Intensity 3 in Makati City; Dingalan, Aurora; Baguio City; La Trinidad, Benguet; Santiago, Ilocos; Pasig City and Taguig City;

Intensity 2 in Lucban, Quezon; Carmona, Cavite; Calamba, Laguna; Muntinlupa, Alabang; and Intensity 1 in Daet, Camarines Norte.

Solidum said there is no organization that could predict an earthquake, its exact magnitude and date.

The so-called doomsday quake predicted by 47-year-old Brazilian teacher Jesusleono Nobule Darosse has been circulating in e-mails, blogs and online journals.

"Occurrence of strong earthquakes in the country should be prepared for although when exactly they would occur can't be predicted," Solidum stressed.

"We should make houses, offices, and schools strong to resist quakes and be aware of what to do

before, during and after quakes by conducting building inspections and drills," he added.

The Philippines sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" where colliding plates in the earth's crust cause frequent earthquakes and volcanic activity.

Solidum said about 20 quakes hit the country everyday but only few are felt.

### QUAKE SIMULATION EXERCISE

In observance of National Disaster Consciousness Month and following yesterday's mild quakes in Metro Manila, the city government of Makati will lead a Joint Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Earthquake Simulation Exercise and Static Display today in Taguig.

The activity will be held at the old Headquarters of the National Capital Region (NCR) National Command Disaster Group, Army Reserve Command (ARESCOM) in Fort Bonifacio.

The exercise will showcase various response capacities of Metro Manila local government units (LGUs), national government agencies, NGOs and volunteer groups.

To join Makati are Pasig, Olongapo and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA). The earthquake response exercise will also demonstrate response capabilities and equipage.

Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay said the activity is very timely, given the series of minor tremors that occurred in the metropolis and outlying areas in the past few days. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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## Beijing Okays Pacman as RP Flag-bearer

by Joey VILLAR

**THE BEIJING OLYMPIC** Games Organizing Committee (BOGOC) yesterday approved Manny Pacquiao's accreditation, officially making the boxing icon as the country's flag-bearer in next month's Beijing Olympics.

Moving Martelino, who heads the country's advance party to Beijing and in charge of the technical aspect of RP's Beijing participation, informed the Philippine Olympic Committee of the latest Beijing communiqué.

"Pacquiao is now an official RP team delegation member," Martelino told The STAR.

Martelino, however, said Pacquiao will still need to get a Chinese visa to complete his



The POC executive committee, headed by Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr., has given its official nod on Pacquiao to head the country's participation in the quadrennial meet slated Aug. 8-25.

The recently-crowned World Boxing Council lightweight champion is taking over from swimmer and 2007 Thailand Southeast Asian Games Most Outstanding Athlete Miroy Molina after President Arroyo had asked that Pacquiao be made the country's flag-bearer in the Games in recognition of his ring exploits.

Meanwhile, the POC General Assembly also unanimously agreed to come up with amendments on the POC charter as recommended by the International Olympic Committee. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

## MRT in Danger of Overloading – DOTC

**WITH TRAINS FILLED** to more than maximum capacity, especially during rush hours on weekdays, overloading and wear and tear have caused serious concerns regarding the Metro Rail Transit (MRT).

MRT general manager Roberto Lastimoso said that the "extremely high number of passengers" at the EDSA rail line has exceeded the maximum capacity of trains at peak hours.

Lastimoso said that with rising bus and jeepney fares in Metro Manila and the traffic snarls on EDSA, the MRT has been seeing a continued increase in the number of passengers in the past weeks.

"We're going over the maximum capacity, and it's unbelievable during Fridays and paydays," he said.

To make up for the strain on the trains, Lastimoso said that the



management is focusing on thorough rolling stock inspections for wear and tear and maintenance.

"We're giving high priority to maintenance. We're closely checking our maintenance contractor to ensure that our trains are being inspected and given the necessary preventive maintenance and repairs, if needed," he said.

He said he is also pushing vigorously for the buyout of the build-operate-transfer contract of the MRT Corp. (MRTC) by the government so that a capacity ex-

pansion can be conducted, such as the one made by the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) on the LRT Line 1 from Baclaran in Parañaque to Monumento in Calocan.

He explained that the current MRT operated by the MRTC is not inclined to undertake any capacity expansion during their 25-year contract.

In a buyout, the government could undertake a capacity expansion. Lastimoso said. ([www.philstar.com](http://www.philstar.com)) ■

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### COMMON GROUNDS

Date: July 14, 2008  
Location: SBRC, 1041 Nuuanu, Honolulu  
Cost: FREE!  
RSVP: 526-1001 or hwbcbadmin@hwbc.org

This month's topic: Independent Contractors vs. Employees  
Hawaii Women's Business Center (HWBC) announces "Common Grounds" a FREE peer-group mentoring circle held every second Monday of each month where established women business owners can meet informally over a cup of coffee and discuss their issues and experiences. HWBC provides the coffee and facilitator. (This is not "networking" to sell each other things)

### SBA RESOURCE DAY

Central Pacific Bank Milliani Branch  
Date: July 15, 2008  
Time: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Location: 95-720 Lanikuhana Ave., #100  
Cost: FREE!  
RSVP: 541-2990, ext. 211, or Mary.dale@sba.gov

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• SBA's (8a) Business Development Program - Government contracting assistance  
Appointments for the 30 minute confidential discussions are highly recommended and scheduled by SBA. Walk-ins will be assisted as time permits.

### SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE WORKSHOP

Date: Thursday, July 17, 2008  
Time: 2:00 - 4:00 pm  
Location: SBRC, 1041 Nu'uanu, Honolulu.  
Cost: FREE  
RSVP: 526-1001 or hwbcbadmin@hwbc.org

Knowledge is power! In a friendly and informal environment, learn about the resources Hawaii Women's Business Center and the Small Business Development Center have to offer aspiring or existing business owners. Find out about SBA initiatives to assist you in achieving your business objectives. Whether you're looking to start-up or expand your business, we'll help take your ideas to the next level.

### ENHANCING YOUR BUSINESS SUCCESS

Date: July 17, 2008  
Time: 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.  
Location: SBDC, Kauai Community College  
Cost: FREE  
RSVP: Call 241-3148 or www.hawaii-sbdc.org Kauai

This workshop agenda includes a briefing on the current economic outlook for the State and what that means for your small business. Other topics to be covered include business planning, marketing, and growth opportunities to assist small business owners with the task of assessing their company's strengths and weaknesses and make necessary changes that will enhance your likelihood of a profitable venture. Identifying the financial resources will also be discussed. Presented by the Hawaii Small Business Development Center, Kauai office.

### SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCE WORKSHOP

Date: Thursday, July 17, 2008  
Time: 2:00 - 4:00 pm  
Location: SBRC, 1041 Nu'uanu Ave.  
Cost: FREE  
RSVP: 526-1001 or hwbcbadmin@hwbc.org

Knowledge is power! In a friendly and informal environment, learn about the resources Hawaii Women's Business Center and SBA have to offer aspiring or existing business owners. Find out about SBA initiatives to assist you in achieving your business objectives. Whether you're looking to start-up or expand your business, we'll help take your ideas to the next level.

### SUCCEEDING WITH CURRENT ECONOMIC REALITY

Date: July 17, 2008  
Time: 11:30 to 12:30 p.m.  
Location: Maui City Business Resource Ctr  
Cost: FREE  
RSVP: (808) 873-8248 Maui

SCORE consultants will present this "Brown Bag" Course on real life strategies to help small business owners deal with the economic slowdown. Explore how to identify and use best practices, use global economic wisdom to plan and implement different business actions. Counselor Richard Kehoe is a CPA & MBA who owns an accounting and tax firm. Brian Thomas is an independent fee-based wealth manager in Kahului. Reservations are required because seating is limited. (Located in Maui Mail by IHOP)

### EVALUATING YOUR IDEA

Date: July 18, 2008  
Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Location: Maui City Business Resource Ctr  
Cost: FREE  
RSVP: (808) 873-8248 Maui

Understand the basic model for analyzing the feasibility of a business with special focus on marketing research and economic analyses. David Fisher, Director of the Maui Center of the Hawaii SBDC Network, will facilitate the process of evaluating good business concepts. Learn about resources available to start and grow your business.



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- The Lord's Team Ministries-Rocky LaRocco
- New Hope Christian Fellowship-Wayne Cordeiro
- Korean Christian Broadcasting
- Around a Cup of Coffee
- Voice of Zion-Lyons Welch
- Remnant Church-Benjamin Pascal
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# MAINLAND NEWS

## Fil-Am Foundation Leads Community Health Initiative

**WEST BAY MULTI-SERVICE** Corporation, a leading non-profit foundation received a \$49,040 grant from the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) for its project "Healthy Neighborhoods, Healthy Lives."

The project aims to increase community awareness among Filipinos living in San Francisco about the causes of being overweight and obese. The project also promotes solutions like improved access to recreational facilities and access to high quality food.

"The grant will enable the Fil-Am community to be on equal footing with mainstream America in addressing an important systemic health issue," said Rudy Ascension, West Bay Executive Director and Convener of Global Filipino Nation (GFN).

GFN is an international association of global Filipinos, their families and onshore Filipinos committed to good governance. GFN has an initiative that addresses the health issues facing Filipinos in the homeland.

Aimee Afable-Munsuz, PhD, UCSF research specialist in clinical pharmacy, brought the program to the attention of the UCSF University Community Partnership Council. She has volunteered with the West Bay on breast can-

cer prevention issues for several years and has taken an interest in West Bay's commitment to change in health, community strengthening and youth development.

"We will look at factors of disease that focus on physical activity, diet, and substance abuse," Afable-Munsuz said. "The broad goal of our project is to understand the causes of disease, particularly overweight and obesity at the neighborhood level—access to healthy food and recreational facilities—and to promote community-led solutions based on what we learn."

Among the initiatives the UCSF grant will support is the purchase of cameras for West Bay children to document what they believe to be the causes of being overweight and obese in their community.

The project "Healthy Neighborhoods, Healthy Lives" will use "photo-voice" and participatory video film-making to investigate this neighborhood level causes among Filipinos living in San Francisco's South of Market area. The project's ultimate goal is to increase the community's capacity to identify their own culturally-appropriate solutions to such health problems. ([www.phil-fortune.com](http://www.phil-fortune.com)) ■

## Filipina Shines as CNN's White House Reporter

**FILIPINA-AMERICAN ELAINE** Quijano has quickly gained a reputation as one of CNN's top reporters, as she covers the most powerful heads of state in the world.

Quijano, CNN's White House correspondent, covers the activities of the president and the administration, domestically and internationally. Named to this position in January 2006, she is based in the network's Washington, D.C. bureau.

According to CNN's website, Quijano joined CNN NewsSource in December 2000 as a Washington, D.C.-based correspondent and in 2004, became a general assignment correspondent for CNN/U.S.

Since 2000, Quijano has covered such stories as the inauguration of President George W.

Bush, Bush's 2005 trips to Asia and Argentina, the 9-11 terrorist attacks, the Washington, D.C. sniper pursuit and capture, as well as the continuing coverage of the ongoing war on terrorism.

During the 2004 election year, Quijano traveled with Bush on the campaign trail in Washington, D.C., Crawford, Texas and stops throughout the U.S.

In the spring of 2003, Quijano traveled to Kuwait City, where she remained for one month to report on the war in Iraq.

In September 2003, Quijano reported live as Hurricane Isabel lashed the North Carolina coastline. In February 2003, she was part of a team of correspondents who covered the Space Shuttle Columbia tragedy.

Before joining CNN New-



Elaine Quijano

source, Quijano worked as a general assignment reporter for WFTS-TV in Tampa, Florida and as a reporter/producer for WCIA-TV in Champaign, Illinois.

She earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois.

(*Good News Filipinas*) ■

## Filipino Martial Artist Develops New Fighting Style

**ONE OF THE FASTEST-GROWING** martial arts styles in the San Fernando Valley region in California is Jedokan—a modern Filipino martial arts system that utilizes a unique training method that incorporates the most effective martial arts training methods for self-defense into one comprehensive dynamic system.

Jedokan was developed by martial artist Jeff Suministrado, who began training in the Philippines as a young age under the tutelage of a Filipino Military Ranger. When Suministrado's family moved to the U.S., he continued practicing and learning new martial arts such as Tae Kwon Do, Hapkido, Muay Thai, Krav Maga and Shotokan.

Suministrado also trained extensively with Bobet and Ben Torres, founders of the Kuroi-Samurai Karate-Do system of martial arts. Bobet is a champion in Armor Full Contact and Empty Hand Points System fighting, while Ben, an ex-U.S. Special Forces member and member of the Korean Tigers military elite group, trained directly under General Choi Hong Hi, who later founded Tae Kwon Do.

While training with the Torres brothers, Suministrado also learned another fighting style from Dr. Guillermo "Doc" Barcelona Lengson, founder and president of KAFEPHIL-USA Chapter. From Dr. Lengson, he

learned the Black Banders fighting system.

Suministrado trained under these different forms of martial arts, analyzing and comparing the different styles and systems. Slowly, he developed a new martial arts style which integrated methods he learned from the Torres brothers and Dr. Lengson, techniques from other styles he had studied, as well as his experience in both fight competitions and actual street fights.

Thus, Jedokan Martial Arts Academy was founded in August 2000. Suministrado's unwavering passion and dedication to promote martial arts as a life-long commitment has been the catalyst behind Jedokan Martial Arts Academy's explosive growth from a small group of dedicated members into several training centers located throughout the San Fernando Valley region.

"The academy is an ideal environment for people of all ages to develop the mind, body and spiritual self, while learning the path of righteousness, strength and discipline," Suministrado says. ([www.fil-annation.com](http://www.fil-annation.com)) ■

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PHILIPPINES

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LEGAL NOTES

Faster Route to Green Card



by Reuben S. GURITAN

With the unavailability of visa numbers this month in the employment-based third preference category (EB-3) and the backlog in the second preference (EB-2) for India and China, attention is focused on the first preference category (EB-1).

This category has rarely reached the numerical limitation since October 1991 when the current immigration law took effect.

The processing for EB-1 is quicker since apart from the availability of visa numbers, there is no requirement for a labor certification to test the job market.

There are three sub-cate-

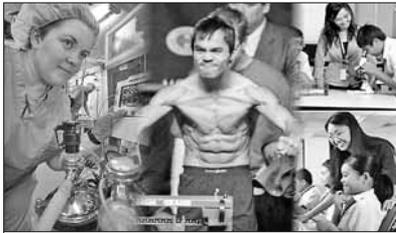
gories under EB-1 and they are also known as priority workers: persons of extraordinary ability, outstanding professors and researchers and multinational executives and managers.

This column discusses only the first sub-category of persons of extraordinary ability.

For EB-1 priority workers of extraordinary ability, the individual is not required to have a petitioning employer. He/she may petition for himself/herself without a job offer.

For EB-1 priority workers of extraordinary ability, the individual is not required to have a petitioning employer. He/she may petition for himself/herself without a job offer.

Extraordinary ability refers to expertise in the sciences, arts, education, business or athletics as demonstrated by a major achievement of international or national renown



It is not limited to top awards such as a Nobel Prize. The requirement could also be satisfied by documenting recognition in other areas.

These include: lesser national or international award for excellence in alien's field, membership in associations in a field that requires members to have shown outstanding achievements as judged by acknowledged experts, and published material about the alien in major publications or media.

Recognition could also in-

clude selection of alien to judge others in his/her field of expertise, original contributions of importance in his/her field, authorship of scholarly articles in major publications or media, display or exhibition of his/her work, performance of a leading role for distinguished organizations, com-

paratively high salary or remuneration in his/her field and/or commercial success in the performing arts.

Documentation must be in at least only three of the above. Other comparable evidence is also acceptable.

When filing Form I-140 (Petition for Alien Worker), either by an employer or by the individual, evidence of substantial benefit to the U.S. should be included. The form may be filed at either the USCIS Nebraska Service Center or the Texas Service Center. ■

EDITOR'S NOTE: REUBEN S. GURITAN has been practicing law for over 30 years. For further information, you may call him at 212 695 3281 or log on to his website at www.seguritan.com

MAINLAND NEWS

Filipino Rotarians Attend Convention in Los Angeles

A RECORD 700 ROTARIANS from Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Macau, Malaysia, Taiwan, India, Pakistan and the Philippines attended the Asia Pacific Breakfast Meeting during the 99th Annual Rotarians International (RI) Convention last month in Downtown Los Angeles.

RI president Wilfrid Wilkinson commented that it was among the most diverse group of attendees he has joined for a breakfast meeting. A large contingent of Filipino Rotarians attended the meeting.

Guests of honor at the breakfast meeting included Wilkinson, several Past RI Presidents and spouses, incumbent RI directors and other dignitaries.

Keynote speaker Matt Caparas, an RI director during the 1980s and the only Filipino Rotarian ever to be elected RI president, reminded members of the Historic Filipinotown Rotary Club members and Philippine Rotary Clubs in attendance that the campaign to eradicate polio world wide was inaugurated in the Philippines during his term as International Director.

Many of the nearly 20,000 Rotarians from 140 countries worldwide that registered for the LA convention brought children's books representing their home cultures and languages for the organization's World of Books Project. The book drive, co-sponsored by the Los Angeles Times' Reading by 9 program,

will donate the books to public school students in grades K to 3 throughout the Southern California region.

The L.A. convention was led by Wilkinson, who is from Ontario, Canada. On July 1, Dong-Kun Lee of Seoul, South Korea took over as president. His term will focus on programs to reduce childhood mortality rates.

The next RI Convention will be hosted by the city of Birmingham, England in June 2009.

The purpose of the RI is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. (*Asian Journal Online*)

Filipino Community Helping to Return Domestic Violence Victim's Body to RP

LEADERS IN THE FILIPINO community, domestic violence workers and friends have established a memorial account at First Hawaiian Bank to help the family of domestic violence victim Grineline "Elaine" James return her body and her son to the Philippines.

On July 2, 2008, police found the bodies of Michael James, 43, Grineline James, 39 and Michael

James II, 7, in their Mililani Mauka home. Michael James apparently murdered his wife and son, and then killed himself.

Esther Pascual, a townmate and friend, is supporting Grineline and her family's wishes.

"Her mom and siblings want her brought back as well as her son but we need to raise funds to make this happen," Pascual says. "At this time, a wake service is pending, as well as the transfer of their bodies back to the Philippines."

State Rep. John Mizuno said that he recently spoke with Michael James' sister Wanda James.

"Wanda told me that her brother was sick, but he wasn't an animal," Rep. Mizuno said. "My heart goes out to Grineline's family."

Anyone wishing to donate may do so at any First Hawaiian Bank branch. Please make checks payable to "Friends of Grineline and Michael James II." ■

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# GLOBAL NEWS

## New Zealand Schools Looking to Teach Tagalog

**NEW ZEALAND** has expressed interest in studying the Filipino language as a second language in their schools as a way to forge a broader and deeper cultural exchange with the Philippines.

Presidential Adviser on Education Dr. Mona Valisno and New Zealand's Minister of Education Chris Carter met at the 4th annual Asia Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) Education Ministerial Summit and agreed to adopt Tagalog as the chosen foreign language to be taught in New Zealand's schools.

The APEC education summit focused on international exchange in education and culture.

"This would be a major accomplishment for the Philippines' international relations and our image abroad," Valisno said. "If we

can push this through, maybe we can have other countries do the same."

There are some 13,000 Filipinos living and working in New Zealand. If the proposal becomes reality, New Zealanders will stand a better chance of understanding the Filipino culture and language.

Another result would be the expansion of trade and cultural exchanges between the two countries. Jobs would also be generated since the schools would have to hire Pinoy teachers specializing in teaching Tagalog.

"If New Zealand will study and learn our language, they'll have a greater understanding of our OFWs there which would be good for our countrymen," Valisno said.

Valisno took the opportunity to meet with Carter during a small



Dr. Mona Valisno

group discussion on the importance of studying each other's languages and encouraged Carter to include Tagalog as the second language to be studied in New Zealand schools. Carter was won over.

"We agreed that there should be a greater effort at learning each other's language. We agreed that this is critical because we now live in a global economy," Valisno said. (Good News Pilipinas) ■

## UN Honors Philippine Peacekeepers in Haiti

**THE UNITED NATIONS** recently awarded peacekeeping medals to Filipino troops and police officers serving in Haiti in recognition of the dedication and spirit of sacrifice they have shown in defending the cause of peace.

The medals were awarded to 155 officers and enlisted personnel from the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and 17 officers from the Philippine National Police (PNP), serving with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH).

The medals were presented by Ambassador Hedi Annabi, Special Representative of the Secretary General and head of

MINUSTAH, during ceremonies at the headquarters of the Philippine peacekeeping contingent in the Haitian capital city of Port-au-Prince.

In his speech, Annabi emphasized the role of peacekeepers in Haiti, saying the country has benefited greatly from the presence of the Filipino troops and police officers since they were first deployed in 2004.

"Filipino soldiers and police officers have contributed to our efforts to build, together with the Haitian authorities, a solid foundation for the stability of Haiti and a better future for the country," Annabi said.

In response, Col. Rodrigo



Diapana, commander of the Philippine military contingent, said receiving the medals was an honor for both the police and military contingents.

"It was a day of honor for the Philippines and a moment of pride for all of us," Diapana said. The medal ceremony coincided with the 110th anniversary of Philippine independence.

The first batch of Filipino peacekeepers—a company-sized unit from the Army, Navy and the Air Force—was deployed to Haiti in December 2004 and was tasked to carry out administrative duties and secure MINUSTAH dignitaries as well as the mission's headquarters and other sites.

The Philippines also deployed another batch of Filipino peacekeepers consisting of PNP officers who were tasked to assist MINUSTAH in building up the capacity of the Haitian National Police. Filipino police officers also helped provide support and training to the Haitian police and participate in the coordination of operations as well as in the conduct of local elections.

At present, the Philippines has a total of 670 peacekeepers deployed in UN missions in Afghanistan, Cote d'Ivoire, Darfur, Georgia, Haiti, Kosovo, Liberia, Nepal, Sudan and Timor-Leste. (DFP) ■

## "Proudly Filipina" Wins Global Gold Camera Award

**"PROUDLY FILIPINA"** stood tall among 1,100 entries from 23 countries and won a Gold Camera Award at the 2008 U.S. International Film and Video Festival.

The award is impressive, considering that "Proudly Filipina" is celebrating its first anniversary this month. Program manager Melo Esguerra said the Gold Camera Award makes the celebration all the more sweet.

"It's great to be receiving the Gold Camera because it recognizes all of the efforts that have been put into bringing empowered Filipinas to the forefront," Esguerra said.

"We feel honored that these women allowed us to tell their stories and to share it with everyone.

To be able to compete with 23 different countries and over 1000 entries and come out a winner is a wonderful recognition for the effort of the entire team—from the host to the director, the executive producer and the entire production crew."

Esguerra and the program's executive producer Nenacelle Dumol traveled to Hollywood, California to accept the award, which was under the Motivational, Inspirational Production category.

Festival chairman Lee W. Gluckman said "Proudly Filipina" stood out from among the other entries from all over the world because it focused on one particular segment of society, the female

sector, and showed its growth, along with the success of many members of that sector over the years.

"Proudly Filipina's entry was the episode featuring recording artist Regine Velasquez and the three Filipino mountaineers who reached the summit of Mt. Everest—Noelle Wenceslao, Carina Dayondon, and Janet Belarmino.

"We chose this episode because the subjects were very open with their stories and their struggles," says Gigi Santiago-Lara, assistant vice president for production. "At the same time, even though they recognize that they've succeeded in their goal, they were still humble in their triumph."

For the program's first anniversary this month, viewers can expect equally inspiring stories of influential women all over the Philippines.

"Proudly Filipina" will be visiting schools in Metro Manila for "The Proudly Filipina Dialogues." With program host Charlene Gonzalez-Muhlach as facilitator, "The Proudly Filipina Dialogues" will feature successful and empowered women—all previous guests of the show—who will share their secrets of how they became who they are today.

"We always make sure that each woman we feature has a unique, inspiring story to share," Esguerra said. (Good News Pilipinas) ■

## World's Top Billiards Player Wins Qatar Tourney

**DENNIS ORCOLLO** trounced opponent Niels Feijen of the Netherlands, 13-5, to win the inaugural 2008 Qatar International Open 9-Ball Championship at the Qatar Billiards and Snooker Federation in Doha.

It was the World Number 1's third title this year after the Quezon City 9-Ball Championship and the All-Japan Open last March 2008, fortifying his tag as the best and most fearsome cue artist today.

"I'm very happy for this win which I dedicate to my countrymen," said Orcollo, a member of the Billiards Managers and Players Association of the Philippines.

The 29-year-old Surigao del Sur native pocketed the \$40,000 (P1.8-million) top purse at stake in the week-long event participated by over 100 world-class players from around the world.

Orcollo was among 18 Filipinos who were seeded in the 96-man main draw. He swept his group stage matches against



Dennis Orcollo

Subah Habib of Bharain (9-1) and Darren Appleton of England (9-6) to easily barge into the knockout stage.

From there, he blasted former world champion Oliver Ortmann of Germany (11-6) in the Last 32, Warren Kiamco (11-6) in the Last 16, Ramil Gallego (11-9) in the quarterfinals and reigning world 8-ball champion Ralf Souquet of Germany (11-8) in the semis.

Against Feijen, Orcollo romped off to a blazing start, quickly building an 8-3 lead to set the tone for the unexpected rout. (Good News Pilipinas) ■



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## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### AUGUST 15, 2008 FRIDAY

Candonians of Hawaii – 8th Annual Scholarship Fund Drive & Installation of Officers • 6:00 P.M. to 12:00 Midnight at Pacific Beach Hotel – Grand Ballroom • For details, please call: Bernadette Fajardo 342-8090 • Sam Sonson-392-7047 • Dr. Ignacio Torres - 375-6995 • Delia Wong - 499-8971

### SEPTEMBER 5, 2008 MONDAY

Oahu Filipino Community Council (OFCC), Inauguration and installation of officers • 6:00PM at Ala Moana Hotel • For details, please call: Cirivalina Longboy 375-0828 • Danny Villaruz 778-0233 • Carlota Ader 688-3215

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