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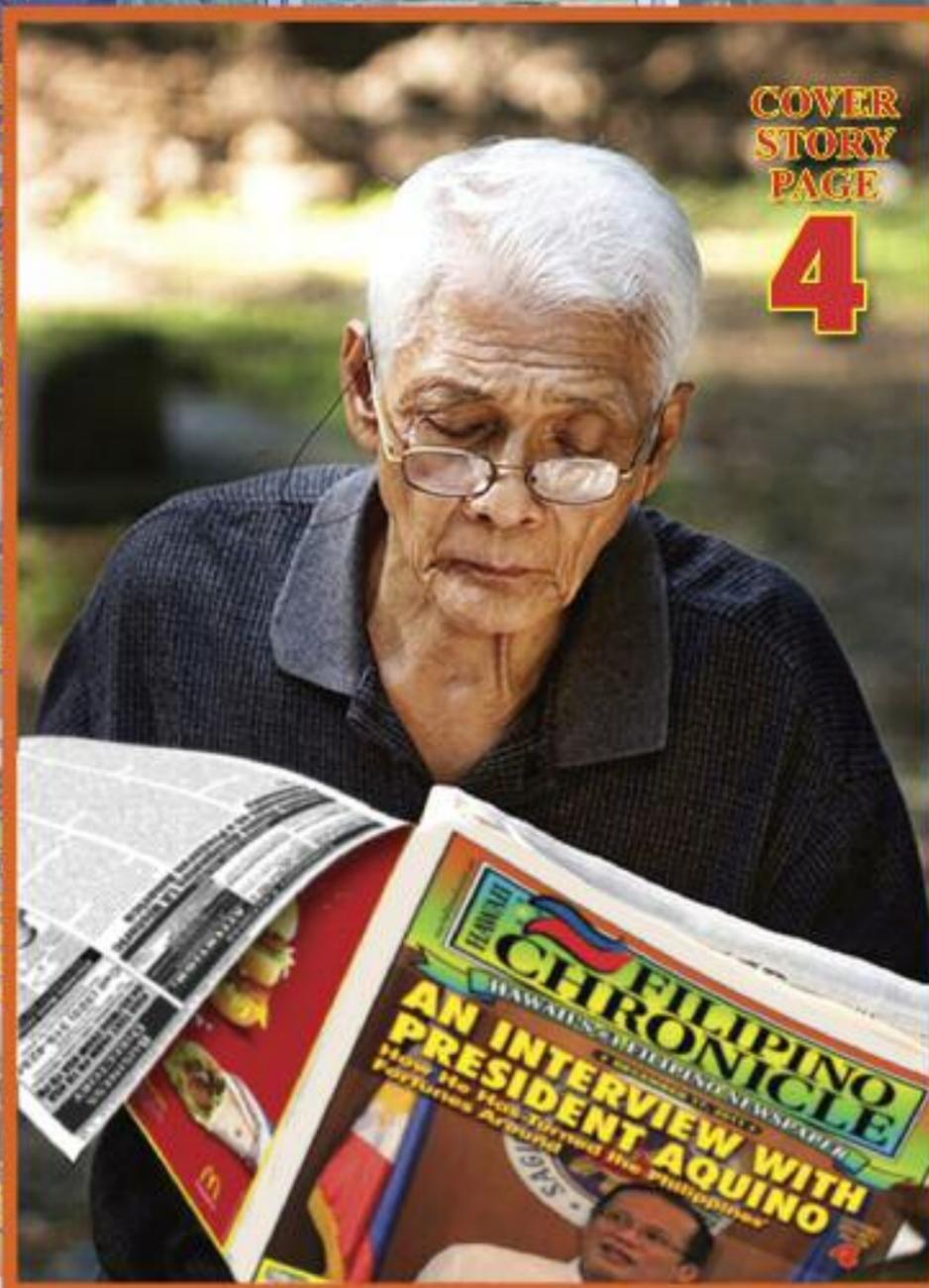
FILIPINO CHRONICLE

HAWAII'S #1 FILIPINO NEWSPAPER

◆ JANUARY 7, 2012 ◆

2011: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Featuring The Top Ten Stories of 2011



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EDITORIAL

New Year of Hope & Challenges

The year 2012 will prove to be pivotal in several ways. For starters, 2012 is an election year for the U.S. presidency. It will be as important as any in our history as the American people must choose who will lead the country out of the its burgeoning national debt. Whether it be Barack Obama or a challenger from the Republican Party, the president must provide strong leadership that can bring together both major political parties to address our nation's continuing economic downturn, unemployment and soaring debt.

Locally, the task ahead is no less daunting for lawmakers, despite Governor Neil Abercrombie's recent projections for a budget surplus. While tourism revenues have rebounded slightly, we are far from being out of the woods. At the City level, the focal point of Oahu's mayoral race will be whether to continue the \$5.4 billion rail project. The project got a boost from federal transportation officials who late last month cleared the project for final design work. Pro-rail supporters understandably want to begin construction right away before calls to place rail on the November 2012 ballot grow louder. Taxpayers will also begin to feel the economic pinch from increased water and sewer hikes needed to pay for well over \$1 billion in infrastructure upgrades.

Globally, there is apprehension as to what looms ahead for 2012. In Asia, the world is keeping a close eye on the transition of power in North Korea as well as on China's expansionist posturing. In Europe, the European Union and its euro are teetering on the brink of financial ruin, while in the Middle East, Islamists are locked in a power struggle over who will assume control in countries like Egypt and Libya. It will take all but a spark for armed conflict to erupt in the region.

That's quite a full agenda to consider and it's only the first week of the new year. Who knows what the coming weeks and months will bring? If you are lacking courage or confidence in facing the challenges that lay ahead for 2012, join the club. You're not the only one.

Let's not be dismayed but instead look to God for strength and place our trust in Him this new year. Let Him direct our paths. Then we can be blessed and triumph over whatever comes our way. Happy New Year and may God's blessings rest on those who put their trust in him!

Political Races to Dominate 2012

Oncumbent Honolulu City Councilman Tom Berg wasted little time this new year in announcing his re-election campaign. The outspoken Berg faces a stiff challenge from former State representative Alex Santiago. Berg's seat is 1 of 5 Council seats up for re-election. Facing term limits are veteran councilmen Romy Cachola and Nestor Garcia, both of whom may run for the State Legislature.

Perhaps the biggest political race for 2012 is the U.S. presidency. If so, we'd best forget December 21, 2012 as the end of the world as predicted by the Mayans. For Americans, the apocalypse is more likely on November 6, when voters decide whether to yank Barack Obama from office and allow someone else to lead the nation.

Other big races for 2012 include the U.S. Senate seat formerly held by the retiring Daniel Akaka and the U.S. House seat vacated by Mazie Hirono, who wants Akaka's job. Her leading challengers are former congressman Ed Case and former Gov. Linda Lingle. Expect a contentious Hirono vs. Case Democratic Primary, with the winner to face Lingle. In the Second Congressional District, the clear frontrunner is former Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann who has name recognition and fundraising experience. So far, his Democratic challenger is Councilwoman Tulsi Gabbard. No Republican has yet to announce a bid for the seat. In the First Congressional District, Republican Charles Djou will likely face incumbent Democrat

FROM THE PUBLISHER



Happy New Year to our readers and welcome to our very first issue of 2012! According to the Chinese zodiac, 2012 is the Year of the Dragon. Those inclined to believe such things expect the Year of the Dragon to be marked by excitement, unpredictability, exhilaration and intensity.



As Hawaii residents rang in the New Year, fireworks once again took center stage. In most neighborhoods across Oahu, the amount of fireworks was considerably less than last year, thanks to a new law prohibiting non-firecracker consumer fireworks. Far fewer fireworks, aerials included, were set off prior to December 31st. However, there were still areas where fireworks went off like crazy. Fireworks opponents bemoaned a lack of enforcement by HPD which released statistics showing 40 percent fewer fireworks complaints than a year ago. There were 27 citations issued for fireworks violations, down from more than 300 in 2010. Despite problems with smoke, noise and other fireworks-related complaints, Oahu can't even begin to compare with the Philippines where firecrackers and gunfire injured nearly 500 people during the New Year's weekend. The Philippines is by far one of the world's most dangerous places to ring in the New Year.

As is customary here at the Chronicle, our cover story for this first issue is a review of the top stories we reported that impacted Hawaii's Filipino community in 2011. It is important to review past events because how can we as a community know where we are headed to, if we don't know where we've been? Looking back at the events of the past 12 months also allows us to relive our successes and provides valuable lessons from any mistakes we have committed. The top stories of 2011 that impacted Hawaii residents were the tsunami in Japan and the APEC conference. We'll never forget the video footage of the tsunami that wiped entire coastal cities and villages off the map, killing as many as 20,000 people. Equally unforgettable was the traffic that ground to a halt in and around the convention center in Waikiki due to road closures and parking restrictions. We hope you will enjoy reading the Top 10 news events of 2010 beginning on page 4.

The New Year got off to a bad start for Hawaii's Plantation Village, which suffered a break-in and theft of several items estimated at approximately \$2,500. Based in Waipahu, HPV is a living history museum and ethno-botanical garden featuring 32 original and authentically-reproduced buildings, circa early 1900s. The theft does not bode well for the struggling non-profit which struggled financially to stay afloat in 2011. If you would like to assist HPV, please call 677-0110.

In closing, thank you once again for supporting the Hawaii Filipino Chronicle. It has truly been a pleasure to serve all of our readers over the past year. We will always strive to serve the community and to provide you with timely and useful news.

Chona A. Montesines-Sonido

Colleen Hanabusa. The two squared off in 2010 with Hanabusa winning by narrow 6 percent margin.

The Honolulu mayor's race will include incumbent Peter Carlisle, who has failed to impress anyone during his term. Potential challengers include former City managing director and acting mayor Kirk Caldwell, as well as former Gov. Ben Cayetano—if provoked. Observers feel that Cayetano, an outspoken rail critic, has an excellent chance of winning, particularly if Caldwell decides to run since he and Carlisle would split the pro-rail vote.

At the State Legislature, all 76 Senate and House seats are up for re-election due to redistricting. However, the Hawaii Supreme Court has ordered the State Reapportionment Commission to file a new reapportionment plan that allocates legislative seats based on the distribution of permanent residents. Big Island Democrats complained that the Commission unfairly included military and students as permanent residents. If things go their way, the Big Island could very well end up gaining a state Senate seat at the expense of Oahu.

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OPINION

2012 Just Got More Exciting With Cayetano's Possible Run For Mayor

By Edwin Quinabo

What a way to start 2012 and an exciting election year, the lead story on the front page of the Honolulu Star Advertiser features the announcement of former Governor Ben Cayetano's possible candidacy for Mayor of Honolulu. The news comes as a big surprise to many in the Filipino community who assumed that if the former governor were to come out of retirement, it would have been to run for U.S. Senate in a rematch against former Governor Linda Lingle in a clash of titans bout. But the possibility of having Cayetano, the first elected governor of Filipino ancestry in the U.S., make history yet again by becoming the first Honolulu mayor of Filipino ancestry, has sparked enormous interest within the Filipino community in this year's election.

Clearly race alone is not a legitimate reason to back a candidate, but the maverick, independent-minded Cayetano is offering voters a real chance to decide on the single-most contentious issue facing Honolulu in the past 10 years - whether or not our city should have a rail system. The pro-rail movement has had the backing of Hawaii's political, business and labor establishment for years, from the very top with Hawaii's governor and Democratic Congressional delegation, to the city-level where Honolulu mayor and city council members' votes really matters. No one major political candidate has dared to come out forcefully and clearly in opposition to rail to challenge the powers-that-be until now with Cayetano's announcement at a possible run for mayor. Let's be honest, the past three races for Honolulu mayor was largely a contest between pro-rail and anti-rail voters. With no disrespect to anti-rail crusader Panos Prevedouros, the movement against rail has not had a viable, heavy-weight mayoral candidate to support their cause simply due to political fear and intimidation. This time, should

Cayetano really decide to run, anti-rail voters would have their best chance to stop the project with the election of a big time, experienced candidate in former governor Cayetano who had never lost a political election. Considering how far the city is already into the rail project, this election would also be their last chance to end the project.

Why run now?

Many in our community might be asking so why would Cayetano take on such a monumental task. It's very late in the game to raise campaign funds with only a few months left until the election. The project has already received the green light to proceed with a 20-mile steel elevated rail system. But after looking at the numbers very closely, as well as considering the fragility of the state and city's treasuries, the question really should be why hasn't a major political candidate come forward to challenge the rail project. The urgency is obvious.

- The project was originally expected to cost around \$5 billion. Now estimates are coming in as high as \$7 billion.
- The project would cost more than four times than the H-3 Freeway, Hawaii's most expensive project, and the most expensive freeway in the world in cost per mile.
- In addition to the shortfall in funds to complete the project which more than likely will lead to increases in city property taxes and state taxes, there is also future maintenance and operation costs of the rail project that may require additional taxation. Taxpayers have already had to shoulder an increase in the General Excise Tax for rail even while the project remains just a concept. Can taxpayers, struggling just to keep



Former Governor Ben Cayetano

financially afloat, endure more increases in taxes? Consider also that the state barely balanced the budget in the last legislature and continue to grapple with the Employee Retirement System. The City also faces major infrastructure projects and must undergo necessary upgrades to the aging sewer system. The state and city, which have been collecting tens of mil-

lions less in revenues due to the slumped economy, are already unable to find money to fund existing projects that cost billions just to maintain. The bottom line is we have a firmer estimate how much this massive project will cost than how much it will bring in revenues through jobs stimulation. The idea of government spending billions on necessary projects that will help to create jobs is a sound and legitimate argument in favor of pro-rail supporters. But we must also ask ourselves the questions we have been doing in balancing our own personal budgets: "Do we really need it? and Can we afford it?" With regard to rail the answers are "no" and "no" -- if we are truly responsible and honest with our dire needs and budgetary limitations.

Whether or not rail is ultimately right for our city has been debated and put to voting in the past. At the very least this time around, voters will be

given a better opportunity to choose among candidates of similar stature in the mayor's race who represent both sides of this all too important issue. Voters would be able to truly vote on this issue in a head-to-head mayor's race with other important considerations of the past such as executive experience in public office, management acumen, or likelihood of electability becoming less of a decision-making factor. This race could be the last word on the rail project, either way. It could be a first election loss for Cayetano. Or it could be another win for Hawaii's Filipino community's favorite political son, and be history in the making once again as Cayetano becomes Honolulu's first mayor of Filipino ancestry. Whatever will be the outcome, the 2012 election season has just got much more interesting. We encourage the honorable Ben Cayetano to give public office another shot considering what's at stake. It already speaks volumes of his courage and independence to make an announcement of a possible run considering who are in support of the rail project.

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2011: The Year in Review

By HFC Staff

From political unrest across the Arab world that toppled government leaders to a nuclear disaster in Japan, from a financial crisis in Europe to Wall Street protests, from the passing of Apple CEO Steve Jobs to the near-fatal shooting of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords—2011 was a remarkable year.

But what will perhaps set the Year of the Rabbit apart is that it marked the end of the lives of several very bad people. Among them were Osama bin Laden, who after a 10-year-long manhunt, was shot to death by an elite team of U.S. Navy Seals. Also drawing his last breath was Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi who was killed after a rebel uprising in his country. Then, just last month, North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il died officially of natural causes.

So the world began 2012 without bin Laden, Gadhafi and Kim. They certainly won't be missed, along with the war in Iraq. After more than eight years of fighting, U.S. President Barack Obama ended the war and brought the nation's men and women home.

Perhaps the biggest news for the 50th State occurred on March 11 when emergency sirens warned residents to prepare for potentially destructive tsunamis generated by a magnitude 9.0 quake thousands of miles away in Japan. Hawaii was fortunately spared.

Also in 2011, State lawmakers approved a bill that legalized same sex marriages despite opposition from churches and conservative groups. The bill was signed into law by Gov. Neil Abercrombie and took effect January 1, 2012. Then there was the APEC conference attended by 21 of the world's leaders that State, City and private sector officials spent months preparing for.

Throughout the past year, the Chronicle kept its readers updated on top local, mainland and global news stories and how they affected Hawaii's Filipino community. The following are the Top 10 News Stories of 2011:

10. Philippine Warship Docks at Pearl

In July 2011, the BRP Gregorio del Pilar docked briefly at Pearl Harbor, where its crew received an outpouring of aloha from the Philippine Consulate of

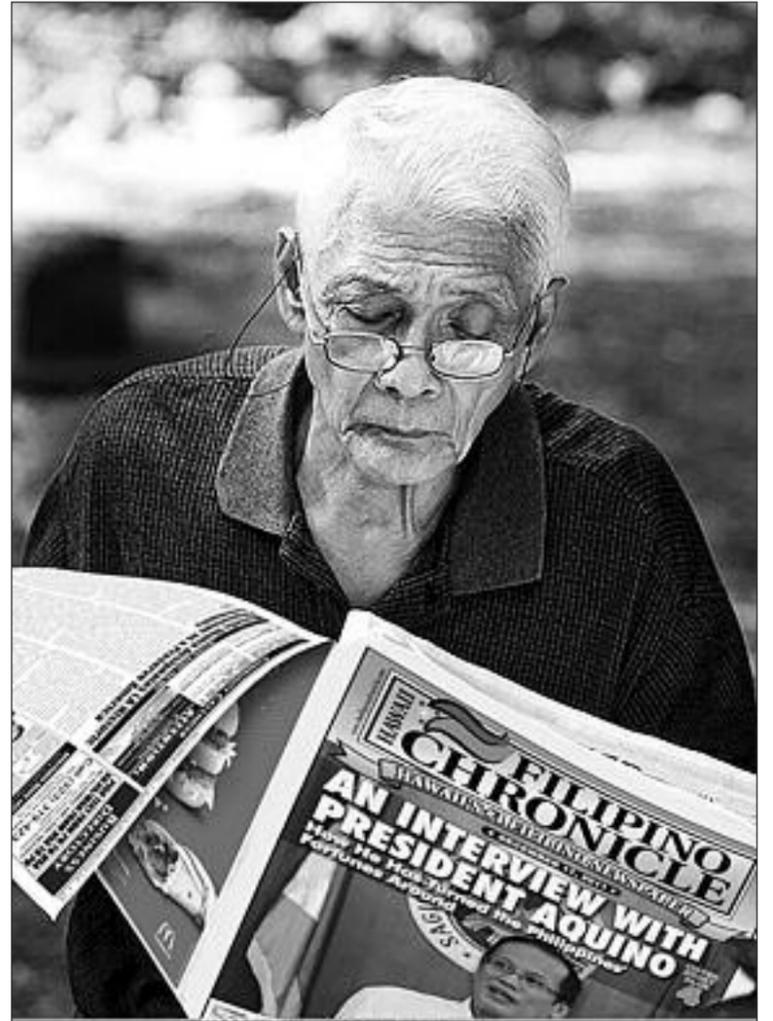
Honolulu, the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii and U.S. military officials. For Hawaii's Filipinos, visiting a Philippine military ship like the BRP Gregorio del Pilar was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. In fact, the BRP Gregorio del Pilar's visit marked two historic "firsts"—it was first time for a Filipino military ship to cross the Pacific Ocean and to also dock at Pearl Harbor.

A former U.S. Coast Guard cutter, the ship was purchased for \$13 million by the Philippine government in an effort to update its naval fleet. After leaving Hawaiian waters, the ship stopped in Guam to refuel before continuing to its homeport in Subic Bay. The BRP Gregorio del Pilar has been assigned to defend the country's interests in the West Philippine Sea (South China Sea), particularly in waters near the disputed Spratly Islands.

9. Bunda Named to Public Transit Authority

In September, the former State senator was named to the board of directors for the Honolulu Authority for Rapid Transportation (HART). The agency is tasked with overseeing the City's \$5.3 billion rail transit system. The only Filipino on the 10-member board, Bunda is well-qualified for the position and has the ability to bring people together and find solutions to even the toughest problems relating to transit.

The Filipino community was particularly pleased and proud to have one of its own on the HART board. Its leaders pushed for a Filipino member on the highly-visible board who could represent their interests. It was only fair, they said, since



Filipinos comprise the third largest ethnic group in Hawaii, will be among the thousands of unionized workers who will help construct the massive project and who will ride the rail.

8. Medical Missions to the Philippines

During the past year, Filipinos continued to send teams of volunteers to the Philippines on missions of mercy aimed at helping the poor and needy. In February 2011, the Bicol Club of Hawaii and Titans USA Foundation, in cooperation with PMAH Ohana Medical Missions and the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls, visited the Bicol region of the Philippines. That same month, a team from the Aloha Medical Mission sent a team of doctors, nurses and laypeople to the province of Negros Occidental, Philippines for a mission. Last but not least, a team of volunteers in mid-December provided much needed medical services to the poorest of the poor in Davao, Mindanao and Payatas near Quezon City.

While groups of medical professionals and laypersons

from across the U.S. travel each year to impoverished nations the world over on medical missions, no one seems to do it better than volunteers from Hawaii. Chalk it up to the aloha spirit, which drives Hawaii's doctors, nurses and other volunteers to go the extra mile on these missions. These dedicated volunteers with their big hearts never cease to amaze!

7. Filipino Ethnic Pride Events

Several perennial events were held throughout the year and attended by thousands of Filipinos. The largest is the annual Filipino Fiesta and Parade. The 19th version of this extremely popular event was held in May at Kapiolani Park and included a community health fair organized by the Bayanihan Clinic Without Walls. Not to be outdone, Maui's Filipinos held the Maui Fil-Am Heritage Festival in October at the Maui Mall Shopping Center. Sponsored by the Maui Filipino Chamber of Commerce, the festival was a day-long event filled with opportunities to celebrate the Fil-

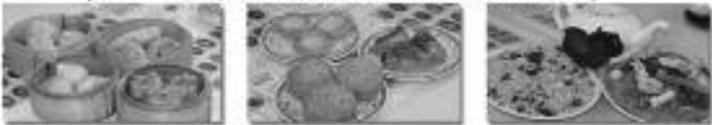
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COVER STORY

(from page 4, 2011....)

ipino culture and traditions, enjoy delicious food and soak in the fun and fellowship.

In October, the Filipino-American Historical Society of Hawaii co-sponsored a host of family activities celebrating Filipino-American History Month. Events included musical entertainment and the Philippine Komiks Exhibit at the Hawaii State Library. Filipinos have lived in the U.S. for over 400 years and have made significant contributions in science, business, healthcare sports, entertainment and other fields. And in December, the community gathered for Pasko!— a traditional Filipino-style Christmas celebration held at the Filipino Community Center in Waipahu.

Mahalo to the various community groups who spend their valuable time and resources to organize these events which not only bind Filipinos closer together but also promote our rich culture and traditions.

6. New Consul General Takes Over Reins at Philippine Consulate

Julius D. Torres was appointed in 2011 to replace former Consul General Leoncio R. Cardenas, Jr. who retired after a distinguished 33-year career as a Foreign Service officer for the Philippine government. A final farewell party for Cardenas was attended by several hundred well-wishers and consulate staff at the Empress Restaurant on November 15, 2011. Before riding off into the sunset, Cardenas urged Hawaii's Filipinos to maintain ethnic pride and unity.

A seasoned diplomat with impressive credentials, Consul General Torres has been assigned to posts all over the world, including Europe, the Middle East, the Pacific and Canada. He assumed his duties in December and enjoyed his first Christmas in Hawaii. His plans are to continue much of the work carried on by his predecessor, including consular outreaches on Oahu and the neighbor islands, trade promotions and partnering with community organizations on activities and projects that foster ethnic pride and unity.



5. Fil-Com Center's Toy Arre Announces Retirement

Fil-Com Center president and CEO Gemiano "Toy" Arre Jr., informed members of the Center's the Board of Directors at their July meeting that he would be retiring at year's end in order to spend more time with his grandson. His decision surprised many of his colleagues, who urged him to board at least through next year when the Fil-Com Center would celebrate its 10th anniversary. But Arre, having regretted not spending enough quality time with his own son, did not want to repeat the same mistake with his grandson.

In 1979, Arre was appointed as the City's director of finance under Mayor Frank Fasi. He was also the first non-Japanese president of the Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce. Arre joined the Fil-Com Center in 2004 which at that time was mired in debt. Under his leadership, the Fil-Com Center received much needed grants, financing and private donations which enabled it to become the thriving and self-sustaining facility that it is today.

4. Gov. Abercrombie Appoints Filipinos to His Cabinet

After a hard-fought gubernatorial campaign in which he enlisted the help of many Filipinos, the governor began compiling a list of names for select posts in his administration. Perhaps the top cabinet member of Filipino ancestry is Fred Pablo who was named as the State's tax director. Pablo is the former budget director from Maui County who served under Mayor Charmaine Tavares from 2007-2010. He brings a wealth of tax and management experience to the table. Pablo is the classic local success story—the son of immigrant plantation workers who grew up in Palama and advanced himself through a solid education, determination and hard work. Assisting him as deputy tax director is Randy Baldemor, who was formerly president of DiscoveryBox, Inc.,



a software company.

A third Filipino tapped by Gov. Abercrombie is Mila Kaahanui who is the director of the Office of Community Services. Kaahanui is a well-known social worker and civil rights leader. She is a former Program Administrator for Immigrant and Refugee Services at the Office of Community Services, a director of the City's Municipal Reference and Records Center and a recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil Rights Award.

3. Iconic Milestones

Last January 2011, the University of Santo Tomas, Asia's Oldest University, celebrated its Quadricentennial. Through its hallowed halls have walked many of the Philippines' heroes, presidents, senators, scientists, engineers, artists and other influential figures. Local Filipinos like Teresita Bernales, Vickie Bunye and other members of the UST Alumni Association of Hawaii fondly recalled their days at UST, where they learned important values and virtues in life, such as community service and the importance of living out one's faith and personal beliefs.

Closer to home, St. Anthony's Church in Kalihi celebrated its 95th anniversary with a joyous celebration reminiscent of town festivals back in the Philippines, while nearby Farrington High School marked its 75th Anniversary. Both the iconic school and church are well-known institutions in Kalihi where a significant portion of residents are Filipino.

On a more somber note, September 11, 2011 marked the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on our nation. Hawaii's Filipinos joined other Filipino groups on the mainland to commemorate the victims, including a handful of kababayans who were killed in the attacks. We mourn for them, as well as for the thousands of others who lost their lives, and will never forget that fateful day.

2. Filipino Community Raises Funds for Victims of Quakes, Floods

While America remembers 9/11, Japan has its own date of

national tragedy — 3/11—when the most powerful quake ever to hit the nation resulted in catastrophic tsunamis that claimed thousands of lives, displaced hundreds of thousands from their homes and damaged a nuclear power plant. Many Filipinos responded to pleas for help and gave generously during a month-long donation drive organized by the Fil-Com Center. Not to be outdone, a group of kind-hearted students in Leeward Community College's Philippine Studies Program also organized their own fundraiser, which netted a little over \$3,000. Filipinos are no strangers when it comes to natural disasters and have been known to quickly band together to help their own. It's heartwarming to know that Filipinos can mobilize just as quickly to help suffering brothers and sisters in Japan.

In October, the Fil-Com Center once again organized fundraisers for victims of Super typhoons Pedring and Quiel which slammed into Luzon in late August. A third typhoon—Ramon—followed shortly thereafter, pummeling northeastern Mindanao and the central Philippines. The death toll had reached more than 100, with tens of thousands of people displaced by massive flooding. The response was overwhelming as volunteers from the Philippine Consulate General, UFCH, COVO, OFCC,



Oahu Visayan Council, Filipino Chamber of Commerce, Filipino Jaycees, Knights of Rizal as well as a Filipino organizations from the neighbor islands all pitched in.

1. Hawaii Extends Aloha to Visiting Philippine President Aquino



Nearly 1,000 local Filipinos braved the heavy traffic and extra-heavy security measures in Waikiki to give Philippine President Benigno "Noynoy" S. Aquino III an enthusiastic welcome at a community dinner organized by the Philippine Consulate General and the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee (PCCC). Held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village and dubbed "Alay sa Pangulo," the dinner was tendered in the president's honor on his last official day in Hawaii for the 19th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Leaders' meeting.

Some attendees were disappointed that they were not allowed to mingle or shake hands with the president due to security concerns. Nevertheless, it was certainly a treat for Hawaii's Filipinos to meet him. President Aquino was no doubt overwhelmed with the outpouring of support and aloha.

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COMMENTARY

Corona and Other Arroyo Justices Resignation Will Restore SC Credibility

By Ted Lagautan

Of Renato Corona had been more sensitive to issues involving honor and propriety, he would have immediately declined when former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GMA) offered to midnight appoint him as Chief Justice. He knew the law and he knew that his appointment was illegal if not immoral. Instead of refraining, he accepted the offer.

Likewise, the Arroyo appointed Justices should not have engaged in the dark conspiracy to legalize Corona's appointment. Ignoring public feelings about propriety and legality, they arrogantly and blatantly utilized their majority numbers to rule repeatedly in favor of the Arroyos and other special interests—as if saying: “We have the numbers. We own the Supreme Court. What we say is the law!”

Justices should be highly conscious that they owe their loyalty primarily to the people and not the President who appointed them. If the people had not voted a candidate to become president, he or she would not have had the power to appoint Justices.

Here, it is even arguable whether or not former President

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (GMA) actually possessed the legitimate power to appoint Justices. Arguably, she should not even have been President. She is alleged to have resorted to election shenanigans (“Hello Garci”) and utilizing the Am-patuans and other allied war-lords to engage in massive cheating on her behalf.

Having a primary sacred duty to protect the public good, Justices must use the law to serve the interest of truth and justice.

Instead, it appears that the Arroyo Justices did a “one for all and all for one” agreement conspiring to protect the interests of their patroness GMA above that of the people.

To the public, Corona appears to have shook hands with the devil. He is perceived to be GMA's main man in the Supreme Court — that in exchange for his appointment as Chief Justice, he is expected to constantly provide the leadership for the cabal of Arroyo appointed Justices in always protecting the interests of the Arroyos. He has not disappointed.

Any person with a modicum of intelligence, who has been following the decisions of the Supreme Court on any Arroyo related matter, would not be unreasonable in concluding

that the Arroyos own the Chief Justice and the other Arroyo appointed Justices.

To restore faith in the Supreme Court, is it right and proper for President Benigno Simeon Aquino and legislators to use their powers and influence to bring down erring Justices who abuse their judicial powers?

Here's my take on this:

Most Filipinos sense that the Arroyo Justices who control decisions in the Supreme Court abuse their powers by continually, blatantly and shamelessly shoving unpalatable clearly biased pro Arroyo decisions down the people's throats. Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely — observed British historian and moralist Lord Acton.

How true.

GMA and her appointees have obviously politicized the Supreme Court. In this uncontrolled culture of judicial power tripping, in this unspoken but understood secret conspiracy — principles of truth, justice and fairness are no longer seen as primary issues but simply incidentals that can simply be given lip service but cleverly ignored.

Tyranny or abuse of power inflicted on the people by a pack of dishonest Justices is no less a tyranny than that exercised by a brutal greedy dictator. Well meaning citizens must fight against all forms of tyranny. Our well being and the well being of future generations depend so much on our commitment and courage to be true to the deepest truths within us and our willingness to resist evil.

The Supreme Court is an indispensable vital institution in a democratic society. The people need to have faith in the courts. It is belief in the honesty of the courts that prevents people from taking disputable matters into their own hands and resorting to self help frontier justice.

Unfortunately, we now have a Supreme Court which the people justifiably do not trust. If the highest court in the land cannot be trusted, trust for

the lower courts will deteriorate even more.

The Arroyo Justices have not only abused the people with their consistently biased and unfair decisions but have also abused the Supreme Court as an institution. It is because of them that the people have lost faith in the Supreme Court as a true and fair arbiter of justice.

Corona and the other Arroyo Justices have done enough harm to the Supreme Court and the nation with their tyranny. They can still redeem themselves by resigning.

Corona has vowed to fight and defend himself against impeachment charges. Mistakenly, he thinks he can win this fight. What he and his few supporters fail to see is that even if assuming he is not formally impeached, he can never regain his credibility to be able to effectively function as Supreme Court Chief Justice. He cut his own throat the moment he agreed to be midnight appointed as Chief Justice. He dug an even deeper hole for himself when he repeatedly led the majority Arroyo Justices in making blatant pro Arroyo Supreme Court decisions.

In reality, the impeachment trial of Corona in the Senate is not a true trial where the outcome is based on objective evidence. Instead, it will be based along party lines. Expect also some individual Senators who acquired many concessions from GMA to act as forceful advocates for her and not as objective listening judges. We have already seen some of these goings on in the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada.

There the people sensed that the majority of pro Estrada Senators were not sitting as objective Judges but were set to acquit him. As such, the people took to the streets and forced Estrada out of power. It was right and proper for the people to do so. They have a right to defend themselves against tyranny. In those historical moments, the people correctly defended themselves against the perceived corruption of the President and against the tyranny of a conspiring majority of Senators who were blind to the people's call for justice.

Will the people again need to take to the streets for Corona's impeachment?

In defending himself from impeachment charges, Corona gathered together some employees of the Supreme Court and essentially delivered a political speech. He attributed the impeachment case filed against him by a 2/3 majority of the House of Representatives as stemming from Aquino's desire to be a dictator. He blames Aquino for his troubles as if this was something personal with Aquino and him. He suggests that as Chief Justice, he is in the forefront in defending the Supreme Court.

Corona: “I oppose this dictatorship that President Benigno Simeon Aquino III is slowly establishing.”

Corona's big problem is credibility. The ordinary thinking Filipino does not believe him. Most Filipinos believe that Aquino sincerely means well and is not a dishonest power hungry nor greedy egomaniac who wishes to have dictatorial powers. For sure, the humble low key Aquino does not fit that role.

Moreover, most Filipinos feel that he is perfectly justified in seeking the ouster of Arroyo appointed Justices. They even support him in fully utilizing his extensive presidential powers to impeach or cause the resignation of Corona and the Arroyo appointed Justices.

Filipinos also understand that Aquino's intention is not to usurp the Supreme Court as an institution but seeks the ouster of these Arroyo appointed Justices because it is the correct moral thing to do and necessary. They need to be ousted for the Supreme Court's credibility to be restored.

This is not a personal battle between Aquino and Corona. As such, the offer of a Catholic bishop to mediate and have them shake hands will not amount to much. The issue is not about a frayed personal relationship between the two men. Neither is it a battle between the Executive Branch versus the Judicial Branch.

As such, there is no Constitutional crisis here as Corona, other Arroyo supporters and

(from page 5, A CANDID....)



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LEGAL MATTERS



By Atty. Emmanuel Samonte Tipon

Filipino Wins Against U.S. Attorney General in Supreme Court

Filipinos can win not only in the boxing arena but also in the legal arena. Joel Judulang, a FilAm green card holder, showed this when his attorney won a unanimous decision in the U.S. Supreme Court on December 12 that temporarily halted his deportation. Judulang v. Holder, No. 10-694, Dec. 12, 2011. Before rushing to hail him as a hero, one should be aware that he was charged with violating two of God's commandments – "Thou shall not kill" and "Thou shall not steal." Joel should be commended, though, for fighting for his privilege (not right) to stay in the U.S. all the way to the Supreme Court and spending a thousand fold more than he stole.

Joel entered the United States from the Philippines in 1974 at the age of eight. He has lived in this country since then as a lawful permanent resident. In 1988, he took part in a fight in which another person shot and killed someone. He was charged as an accessory to voluntary manslaughter and

pleaded guilty. He received a 6-year suspended sentence and was released on probation. In 2005, Joel pleaded guilty to another criminal offense – theft. DHS placed him in deportation proceedings, charging him with having committed an "aggravated felony" involving a "crime of violence" based on his manslaughter conviction. INA § 101(a)(43)(F) and § 237(a)(2)(A)(iii).

The Immigration Judge ordered Joel deported. The Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) affirmed, holding that he was not entitled to a waiver under INA § 212(c). That statute gives the Attorney General (who is the administrative head of the IJ and BIA) the discretion to admit aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence who temporarily proceeded abroad and are returning to a lawful unrelinquished domicile of seven consecutive years, subject to certain exceptions.

§ 212(c) by its own terms applies to aliens being excluded not aliens being deported. This discrepancy produced an odd result and the BIA agreed to apply it to aliens being deported if they had left for abroad and returned after becoming deportable but not if they never traveled abroad. Matter of L, 11

I&N Dec. 1 (BIA 1940); Matter of S, 6 I&N Dec. 392 (BIA 1954). This disparity was challenged and was found violative of equal protection of the laws. Francis v. INS, 532 F.2d 268 (2nd Cir. 1976). The BIA acquiesced in Matter of Silva, 16 I&N Dec. 26 (BIA 1976) thus applying § 212(c) regardless of an alien's travel history. In 1996, § 212(c) was repealed and substituted with another relief called "cancellation of removal." INA § 240A. However, the Supreme Court held in INS v. St. Cyr, 533 U.S. 289 (2001) that § 212(c) waiver must remain available to an alien whose removal was based on a guilty plea entered before 212(c)'s repeal – like Joel.

In 2005, the BIA came up with the "comparable-grounds" rule. Under this rule, if the deportation ground consists of crimes "substantially equivalent to the set of offenses making up an exclusion ground, then the alien can seek § 212(c) relief." But if the deportation ground covers different or more or fewer offenses than any exclusion

ground then the alien is not eligible for § 212(c) waiver. In Joel's case, the BIA ruled that he was not eligible for § 212(c) waiver because manslaughter is a "crime of violence" and is a ground for deportation but is not comparable to any exclusion ground, even though manslaughter is also a "crime involving moral turpitude" which is an exclusion ground. The Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit affirmed.

The Supreme Court, through Justice Kagan, reversed, holding that the BIA's approach was "arbitrary and capricious". "By hinging a deportable alien's eligibility for discretionary relief on the chance correspondence between statutory categories – a matter irrelevant to the alien's fitness to reside in this country – the BIA has failed to exercise its discretion in a reasoned manner."

OBSERVATION: Joel's travails do not end, because the case was simply remanded for further proceedings. What if BIA says, all right, you might be eligible for § 212(c) waiver, but we deny you relief as a matter of discretion. Discretionary decisions are not appealable. We have a similar case pending in the Court of Appeals involving an alien charged with voluntary manslaughter where the BIA denied § 212(c) waiver because of the "comparable-grounds" rule which we are challenging. In light of Judulang, we will ask the court to remand the 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. Office: 800 Bethel St., Suite 402, Honolulu, HI 96813. Tel. (808) 225-2645. E-Mail: filamlaw@yahoo.com. Websites: www.MilitaryandCriminalLaw.com, and www.ImmigrationServicesUSA.com. Listen to the most witty, interesting, and informative radio program in Hawaii on KNDI at 1270, AM dial every Thursday at 7:30 a.m., rebroadcast at www.iluko.com.)

COMMENTARY (cont.) (from page 6, CORONA...)

mercenary journalists would have the public believe. The situation is this: The Filipino people simply want an honest and just Supreme Court that they can believe in. In order to have that kind of Supreme Court, they recognize that the Arroyo appointed Justices need to be impeached or be pressured to resign. They recognize and appreciate Aquino's strong moral leadership in leading this sacred fight and fully support him.

It is noteworthy that Aquino who comes from a wealthy and powerful family could easily have avoided conflict by betraying the people and entering into a secret modus vivendi agreement with the wealthy and powerful Arroyos and the Arroyo Justices. So many of our leaders have betrayed us by siding with the wealthy and powerful for mutual tit for tat arrangements and personal gain.

It speaks well for Aquino that he has followed his father's lead. Ninoy could easily have avoided imprisonment and

acquired a high position in Marcos' government. All he had to do was cooperate with Marcos' evil and provide legitimacy to his lies. But Ninoy knew that at stake was the Filipino's freedom and honor. By being true to his God and his conscience, he paid the ultimate price. He could not be bought nor intimidated. So he was killed.

His sacrifice brought down a brutal and greedy dictatorship which would most likely be existing today had Ninoy not been true to his deepest self.

Good versus evil. Truth versus lie. Right versus wrong.

Life is constantly about the decisions we make and which side we are on.

Note: ATTY. TED LAGUATAN is honored by the California State Bar as one of only 29 U.S. lawyers officially certified continuously for over 20 years as Expert-Specialists in Immigration Law. He also does complex litigation in other areas of the law. Email laguatanlaw@gmail.com

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The New Year's Resolutions of a Foodie

FEAST WITH ME By Stephanie Zubiri

If the famous Broadway musical Rent can quantify the year as 525,600 minutes and measure it in love, the foodie measures it in dishes, spoonfuls, titillating drinks, comfort binges, ascetic dieting, sensible seasonings, palatable disappointments, and gastronomic awakenings. As one year ends and another begins there is always a heartwarming cocktail of nostalgia and hope bridging the past and new adventures.

I cannot extricate my food experience from my personal life as it is my life. Sometimes I wonder existentially how much of what and how I eat defines me. The moments where it was so pure and simple that a slice of creamy sweet mango, the taste of which has long been relegated to Filipino commercial cliché, suddenly brought me back to my childhood, sitting on Adelfa street peeling stolen Indian mangoes and sucking the flesh as the juice dripped down my wrists.

There were also times of inexplicable frustration and an overwhelming feeling of lack of purpose, where only one whole bucket (yes, 24 pieces) of chicken wings could fill my soul. I liked the idea that it was so plentiful that I could eat and I would probably not reach the bottom. I liked how I had to blow and chew at the same time as steam escaped from each bite. The sweet, tangy and spicy sauce burning my lips, my every bone concentrating on gnawing off each bit of crispy skin, allowing me to forget my angst. Plus the oxymoronic pleasurable guilt that came after, the Sisyphusian cycle of torturous indulgence.

I often say I love food; that it's my passion and yet oftentimes I find myself staring down at some random, ultra-processed, half-eaten hotdog on a stick, with horrible chewy bits of mystery meat and saying, "I'm not even hungry so why am I eating this?"

Women, Food and God by Geneen Roth is a book I was reading over the holidays. She

writes, "When you like something, you pay attention to it. When you like something — love something — you take time with it. You want to be present for every second of the rapture." Taking my cue from this here are my New Year's resolutions for an even more fulfilling year in the kitchen to the table:

- 1. I will try everything but only eat what I truly love.** Being invited to so many events for fun or for work, it is physically impossible to ingest everything. I will choose my battles more carefully.
- 2. I will eat more slowly.** I want to savor, not ravish.
- 3. I will venture out of my geographical comfort zone more.** Leave the easy 15-kilometer radius of my home more often to discover new eats.
- 4. I will educate myself more on local produce.** We are still being fed sea bass when there is a whole world of amazing fish out there: talakitok, apahap, batfish... Let's forgo spinach and turn to *kangkong*, amaranth, *sahuyot*.
- 5. I will cook a new recipe every week.** It will be something long, simmering and complex.
- 6. I will learn a new cuisine.**

Recently I've done Thai, Singaporean, some South Indian. Next stop? Vietnamese? Szechuan? Korean?

- 7. I want to go above and beyond my knowledge of pairing food and wine.** Inspired by this text by French writer Eugene Sue, where a man of the cloth is being fed a sumptuous meal, each course accompanied by a little card explaining to eat the trout from Geneva in whipped butter "allegro" and that the 1834 Sauternes that accompanied it should be "meditated." And while eating Brie, the King of Cheeses, the only king that Talleyrand was ever loyal to, "drink one or two glasses of the Port wine, taken from a barrel discovered in the ruins of the Great Earthquake of Lisbon. Bless Providence for the miraculous rescue and piously empty your glass."
- 8. Speaking of wines, I will also leave my Franco-Chilean comfort zone.** Discover a little more about the grape varieties and regions of Portugal, Spain, Italy, California, New Zealand, Australia and hey, why not India and China? I want to learn about techniques, regulations, history, and vintages.



Hi, pizza: Are you really yummy enough to be in my tummy?

9. I will bake a cake. Not burnt, not raw, not a rock-hard alien brownie cupcake hybrid with flaming pink unsweetened cream-cheese frosting (yes, I have produced such a monster). I will bake a real cake and it will be good.

10. I will pray before every meal. I will remember to be grateful for everything that I have on my plate; remember those who prepared my food and those who have none and pray that one day we will all have some. Food is a necessity; a symbol of blessing and survival that toggles between nourishment and pleasure. Because, as Geneen Roth so aptly puts it, "God is not just in the details; God is also in the muffins, the fried sweet potatoes and the tomato vegetable soup. God — whoever we define him or her — is on our plates." (www.philstar.com)

HAWAII-FILIPINO NEWS

Hawaii's Plantation Village Suffers New Year's Eve Break-In

Thieves broke in to Hawaii's Plantation Village (HPV) during the early morning hours of December 31, 2011 and made off with over \$2,500 in valuable goods and merchandise.

According to HPV executive director Jeff Higa, the thieves broke into the garage and stole grounds maintenance equipment, including a lawn mower, professional grade line trimmer and a full set of tools and wrenches.

"They tried to steal our electric golf cart and our gas golf cart by jamming a fork into the ignition but luckily they couldn't do it," Higa says.

The past year was difficult

for HPV as donations were down, grants harder to come by and visitor arrivals failed to meet projections. December was finally showing promise when the break-in and burglary happened.

In operation since 1992, the non-profit Hawaii's Plantation Village has historically accurate structures replicating life on the sugar plantation in the early 1900s. It is the only attraction on Oahu dedicated to preserving the sugar plantation history.

Vandals last struck HPV in January 2010 and damaged the security system. Prior to that, it suffered from an incident of copper theft.

Higa is looking to replace the stolen equipment as soon as

possible. HPV is set in a 50-acre park and can only afford one groundskeeper for the entire facility.

Campbell Cheerleaders Win National Contest

James Campbell High School's cheerleading squad made a triumphant return to Hawaii after winning the 2011 Gator Bowl Cheer and Dance National Competition in Jacksonville, Florida.

The competition took place over the New Year's Eve holiday. Campbell's varsity cheerleaders took first place while the junior varsity cheerleaders took second. The cheerleaders also performed in the Gator Bowl Halftime show.

"If our groundskeeper is without the equipment, the grounds will get out of control in no time," Higa says. "At this point, I honestly do not know if we will be able to replace the

equipment we lost with comparable replacements. The funds for that are just not there."

If you would like to help out with a donation, please contact HPV at 677-0110.



State Rep. Kymberly Pine (bottom left) poses for a group photo with Campbell High School's victorious cheerleading squad

The team also took home two other awards in Best Choreography and Most Spirited. Campbell's cheerleaders spread the aloha spirit in Florida by giving away boxes of macadamia nut candy to those they met in Florida.

"We are so proud of our girls," says State Rep. Kymberly Pine. "Kids from the Leeward

Coast continue to represent Hawaii with amazing talents nationwide."

An excerpt of their performance can be found online at: <http://youtube/FCxO-OoBhwE>.



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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Poor Hardest Hit by floods in Mindanao

by Pia Lee-Brago
 Thursday, January 5, 2011



CAGAYAN DE ORO, Philippines – The poor that were severely affected by the flashfloods spawned by tropical storm “Sendong” here and in Iligan City and who could not leave their homes and settle in safer areas represent 80 percent of the displaced families, now totaling 641,000 people.

European Union Ambassador Guy Ledoux yesterday said the figure given by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCA) highlighted the poverty level of the residents that have been affected by the floods.

He stressed the need to reduce the high casualty count by addressing the issue of poverty whenever disasters and calamities strike the Philippines.

“The Philippine government is well aware of this and is implementing various policies to promote economic growth and reduce poverty,” Ledoux said.

The EU, for its part, is also contributing to the poverty reduction effort, he said.

Last year, the EU disbursed funds in numerous development aid programs aimed at reducing poverty.

The EU, through its non-government organization partners, has mobilized many relief workers on the ground to provide immediate emergency assistance to 170,000 displaced families.

But beyond relief assistance, Ledoux said, is the continuing need to strengthen disaster preparedness mechanisms in the area. Although the EU has invested significantly in disaster preparedness in the Philippines in the last few years, Ledoux said more needs to be done.

“Disaster preparedness has to be made part of community life by the community for the community,” he added.

Thousands of families affected by the storm are also helped by the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) to rebuild their homes.

A seven-hectare land in Barangay Lumbia here, which was donated by Xavier University, will be subdivided among some 1,400 families whose houses were devastated by the flashfloods.

PRC chairman Richard Gordon said they would provide construction materials for the affected families to rebuild their homes.

A housing unit, costing from P72,000 to P80,000, will sit on a 50-square meter lot and can accommodate a family of five.

Gordon said basic needs such as water and electricity will also be provided by the PRC.

“Construction of houses will start in two weeks’ time,” Gordon said.

He said Xavier University would select

the families who will qualify to settle in the land.

Gordon said only those families most vulnerable and who are really poor will be given priority.

Aside from the houses, each family will also receive a certain amount to start a livelihood.

Although the house and lot will be given to the evacuees for free, Gordon said the recipient-families would give their counterpart through “sweat equity,” where they have to construct the houses themselves.

In addition, the families will have food on the table through the “food for work” program.

On the other hand, evacuees and pupils competed for space as schools opened the other day, with both wanting to use the buildings following the Christmas break.

In some cases, survivors of last month’s floods were moved to alternative shelters as children returned to school-houses that had been used as evacuation centers.

But in other instances, hundreds of the evacuees refused to leave, forcing school officials to find novel ways of conducting classes.

In one school here, it was the students who had to move to tents because the storm victims refused to vacate their classrooms, according to district school official Shirley Merida.

“We will have to hold these sessions inside the tents since all of our classrooms still have evacuees living in them. We cannot just drive them away,” she said.

Merida, who is in charge of five schools in the city, said the situation was worse in other locations.

“I still do not know how to open two schools since these are still full of waist-deep mud,” she said.

Sendong caused flashfloods and overflowing rivers from Dec. 16 to 18 that killed almost 1,260 people and displaced more than 429,000, with nearly 37,300 still in makeshift evacuation centers.

The government, international and local charities have been working to provide new shelters for the displaced but it will take months before permanent shelters are finished.

Thousands of people can no longer return home as the government has said the sites of their old communities were too vulnerable to flooding. (www.philstar.com)

PHILIPPINE NEWS

'CJ Has Ill-Gotten Wealth'

by Delon Porcalla
Thursday, January 5, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - A key member of President Aquino's Cabinet said yesterday the government has evidence to prove that Chief Justice Renato Corona has ill-gotten wealth that could not have been acquired with his salary in the judiciary, and the evidence would be presented by the House prosecution team in the impeachment trial.

"The House prosecution panel obtained documents that would show that Corona may have amassed ill-gotten wealth, including at least four multimillion-peso real estate properties," Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Ronald Llamas said in a statement.

Corona, who was appointed to the Supreme Court (SC) in 2001 and promoted to chief justice in May 2010, "could not have paid for (the properties) out of his salary and allowances as an associate justice and chief justice of the SC," Llamas declared.

Llamas believes that the government's case is "very strong" and that all of the pieces of evidence - including documents on a P14.5-million penthouse unit at the Bellagio condominium in Bonifacio Global City in Taguig - could withstand "the most rigorous scrutiny" by the senator-judges in Corona's trial.

Corona said yesterday that his acquisition of the Bellagio unit was aboveboard.

Llamas said the impeachment complaint "is the product of thorough research and inputs submitted by concerned citizens who could no longer stand the willful and deliberate trampling of the Constitution and the rule of law by Corona," Llamas said.

"The impeachment complaint is not the complaint of 188 representatives of the people against Corona. It is the complaint of the overwhelming majority of Filipinos who want Corona removed because they want a clean, honest and impartial judiciary," Llamas said.

"Corona sits in the High Tribunal on the basis of an illegal appointment by disgraced former President Arroyo who now faces serious charges of electoral sabotage and plunder during her



House panel Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., (left) shows a deed of sale of a Bellagio unit in Taguig City allegedly belonging to Chief Justice Corona and his wife. At right is Rep. Miro Quimbo, prosecution panel spokesperson.

Photo: MARIANNE BERMUDEZ

nine years of misrule," Llamas said.

He said that apart from being a midnight appointee as chief justice, "Corona has shown obvious partiality and bias for Arroyo in 19 cases brought before the Supreme Court."

Llamas was reacting to the recent statement of court administrator and spokesman Midas Marquez that his (Llamas') admission that Corona's likely acquittal by the Senate sitting as an impeachment court was an indication that the cases against him are weak.

The Cabinet member said he was merely talking of likely outcomes in the trial, and "an acquittal is a possibility, just as a conviction is also a distinct - and very real - possibility."

"For the SC spokesman to speculate that the senator-judges would dismiss the complaint because it is weak is very unseemly, and preempts the decision of the Senate. He has no authority to spread rumors about how the senator-judges would vote," Llamas said.

Zeroing in on Corona's SALN

Meanwhile, the House prosecution panel will ask the Senate impeachment court to subpoena Corona's statement of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALN) for 2010.

"They are refusing to release the SALN despite our repeated appeal. We have no option but to ask the impeachment court to subpoena it during the trial," panel spokesman Marikina Rep. Miro Quimbo told a news conference.

Quimbo said prosecutors want to find out if Corona made a "proper declaration" of the 300-square-meter penthouse unit at the Bellagio Tower in Bonifacio Global City in Taguig,

which the Chief Justice and his wife acquired in 2009 for P14.5 million.

"We want to ask him how they purchased the property, if they had the legal means to acquire it. We will prove that they did not have such means," he said.

Quimbo said under the law on forfeiture, an asset is deemed ill-gotten if its owner does not have the legal resources to own it.

He said they would also ask the impeachment court to subpoena sales documents and witnesses from Megaworld Corp., owner of the Bellagio condominium complex.

"We want to find out if P14.5 million was the correct selling price for the Coronas' penthouse. The unit is now worth at least P30 million. We do not think it was worth only P14.5 million two years ago. The difference between the selling price for the Coronas and prevailing market prices could have been a gift to the Chief Justice and his wife," he said.

In his answer to the impeachment complaint, the Chief Justice acknowledged declaring a 300-square-meter property in his SALN but gave no other details.

know," Tañada said.

Iloilo Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., who heads the prosecution panel, said he and his colleagues did not touch on the merits of the impeachment charges in revealing the Bellagio penthouse.

"We only stated a fact as alleged in the complaint. Further, the people have the right to know the facts in an impeachment proceeding, which is actually the power of the sovereign people," he said.

Tañada also said they would agree to a pre-trial conference but not to Corona's proposal for a preliminary hearing on how the House impeached him.

"That motion is clearly intended to delay the trial proper," he said.

He said a pre-trial conference could expedite the trial as the prosecution and the defense could agree on issues that no longer have to be proven.

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FAMILY CORNER



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

Do As I Say or Do As I Do?

The start of a new year often inspires people to create resolutions or new goals for themselves. As you give thought to what you might want to accomplish in this new year, it's equally important to think about the values that underlie these desired accomplishments. Our values represent our deeply-held ideas about what we believe to be important, desirable, or intrinsically valuable. Our values influence the goals we choose and the decisions we make for ourselves and our families. Honesty, compassion, loyalty, responsibility, courage, friendship, persistence, self-discipline, hard work, faith—these are examples of values our society holds in high regard. Individuals who live by these values tend to be respected by others and do well in life. Whatever they are, our values will likely influence the way we raise our children.

As parents or other significant adults in the lives of children, we have a responsibility to teach them values that will help them know right from wrong and develop a sense of what is important. Healthy families share a set of values that gives

life meaning and purpose to their lives. Sharing these common values helps to create unity and strength in families and guide them when they make family decisions and rules.

Although we may know what values we want our children to learn, how to teach them, especially to young children, may not be so obvious. Children learn values over time through repeated experiences. The following are some ways you can support this process.

- **Be an example.** Young children learn more from what you do than what you say. Behave in ways you wish your children to behave; they learn how to treat others by the way you treat them. Use everyday activities as opportunities to teach. For example, if the store clerk gives you back too much change, what would you say or do? How could you use this as an opportunity to discuss "honesty" and "doing the right thing" with your children?
- **Talk with your children about what you value and why.** Discuss how your

values are important to your self-respect, to the family, and to the community. Respect your children's questions about why certain behaviors are required, but let them know they should live up to those expectations. Praise your children when they do the right thing, such as being kind or being responsible.

- **Teach through stories.** It helps to read stories with a moral or lesson that show what your values mean. For example, the following Chinese folk tale teaches respect for elders and others.

Once there was a woodsman who lived in a cottage with his wife and young son. One day the woodsman learned that his father had died and that his elderly mother was coming to live with his family. That evening, he took out his tools and a coarse block of wood and began to chisel and scrape. Leaving the toys he was playing with, the little boy went to his father and asked, "What are you doing, papa?"

"I'm making a bowl for your grandmother to use," replied the man.

"Why can't she use the good dishes like us?" asked his son.

"Oh, she is old and this bowl is good enough for her," said the woodsman quietly put everything away, and when Grandmother joined the family she ate at the table using the same dishes as everyone else.

- **Avoid harsh punishment and criticism.** Hitting, scolding, criticizing and comparing your child to another are some of the least effective ways to teach children. If you hit a child to make him behave, he learns that you value hitting. He'll probably learn to hit others to make them do as he wants them to. Children who feel safe and loved by their parents want to be like them. If you act in ways you want your children to act, they'll be more likely to adopt the same behaviors you value.
- **Help your child practice.** Teaching and learning values take practice and lots of repeated small acts. It means consistently doing what we should do in order to be the best people possible. Whatever your family values and rules are, help your child practice them. Here are some examples of basic rules for young children to learn:

- Be kind to people and animals
- Thank others for their kindness
- Help family members and friends
- Finish work before playing
- Clean up your own mess
- Play by the rules
- Take only your fair share
- Don't say mean things
- Keep trying, even when it is difficult.
- Expect young behaviors from young children. Know what your child can do and understand for his age and adjust your words and expectations to his level. Use simple words. Listen to him and observe his actions to see what he understands and how he might need more help. Repeat lessons frequently, especially for young ones under age three. As your child matures, adapt your expectations and language to match his capabilities.

GRACE FONG is the Director of the Center on the Family and SYLVIA YUEN is the Interim Dean, of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

MAINLAND NEWS

Fil-Am Competing in Miss America Pageant

by Joseph Pimentel
Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012

A Filipino American is representing the sunshine state in the upcoming Miss America 2012 Pageant competition.

Kristina Janolo, a 24-year-old University of Central Florida student from Kissimmee, Florida, won the Miss Florida crown and the right to represent the state in the Miss America competition last July. Janolo is the first Filipino American to win the title of Miss Florida.

She is among the 51 beauties from across the nation in-



Ms. Florida Kristina Janolo

cluding the US Virgin Islands competing in the 2012 Miss America Pageant, which will be broadcast live from Planet

Hollywood Resort and Casino in Las Vegas on Jan. 14.

Janolo, who was born in the US, mother is from Manila and father is from Mindoro, according to the Inquirer.

Janolo hopes to follow in the foot steps of Angela Perez Baraquio, a Hawaii-born Filipina, who won the crown in 2001 and became the first Asian American to win the competition.

Janolo said the winner of the Miss America 2012 pageant has some big shoes to fill taking over for 2011 winner Theresa Scanlan of Nevada. Janolo has chosen environmental protection as her plat-

(continued on page 13)

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LEGAL NOTES



By Reuben S. Seguritan

Immigration Bill to Alleviate Doctor Shortage

“Conrad State 30 Improvement Act” (S.1979), seeks to make permanent a program allowing states to recommend J-1 waivers for physicians who work in medically underserved communities. Currently, the program needs to be renewed every 2 or 3 years. The number of doctors that can be sponsored by each state annually would also be increased from the current 30.

It would also allow doctors on H-1B status to restart the 6-year maximum period if they agree to work in underserved areas. The doctors would also find it easier to change employers.

Additionally, doctors who work in underserved areas would be able to immigrate under the EB-1 category, instead of the EB-2 category. This

would greatly benefit physicians from China and India who would otherwise face lengthy visa backlogs under EB-2.

The doctor deficit is in part due to the economic recession but also in some part a result of the immigration restrictions on foreign medical graduates.

The immigration of foreign doctors is a complex matter governed by different sets of rules. Foreign doctors usually come to the U.S. either on an H-1B visa, which allows temporary employment, or J-1 visa, which permits them to undergo graduate medical education or training.

Most of the time, hospitals and medical schools offer only the J-1 option because of the lower level of responsibility required of them. Because H-1B visas are subject to annual limits, when the cap is reached the J-1 is sometimes the only

option.

Upon the expiration of their J-1 visa, doctors must return to their home country for two years before they can apply for permanent residence. They may apply for a J-1 visa waiver to be exempt from this home residence requirement. One of the ways to get a waiver is through the state or the Conrad State 30 program, which is named after Sen. Kent Conrad (D-North Dakota) who sponsored the bill back in 1994 and which is the subject of the S.1979.

Many doctors, however, are unwilling to go through the waiver process and instead choose to go back to their home countries or elsewhere to work. Even doctors on H-1B status who lack options for permanent residence sometimes just give up upon reaching the 6-year maximum H-1B period.

Although the specific re-

quirements vary by state, the Conrad State 30 program allowed states to sponsor a certain number of foreign-born, U.S.-trained physicians per year for the J waiver, as long as they agreed to practice in underserved communities for at least 3 years. It was seen as a win-win situation: the doctor was able to remain in the U.S. and the community had a doctor.

The program has allowed 9,000 doctors to work in rural and underserved communities. However, the number of foreign doctors participating in the program has gone down over the years, further limiting the access to healthcare of the people who perhaps need it the most.

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.co

Reports show that there is a serious shortage of doctors in America today. While it may not be obvious in big cities, the lack of physicians has become strongly felt in poor and rural areas. By year 2020, the doctor shortage is expected to reach 200,000 because of the aging baby boom generation.

A bipartisan bill was recently introduced in the Senate to make it easier for foreign doctors to obtain temporary visas and permanent residence in the U.S. and thereby address the shortage.

The bill, also known as the

MAINLAND NEWS

Western Union Donates to Philippine Disaster Relief

In response to the catastrophic flooding in the Southern Philippines, Western Union has launched a coordinated disaster-aid effort to help flood victims.

The company’s assistance includes a Western Union Foundation grant totaling \$100,000 and dedicated employee and agent giving programs with a corporate match. All donations and grants will be directed to the Philippine Red Cross. In addition, participating Western Union agent locations worldwide will offer “no transfer fee” transactions to prompt consumer giving.

The Western Union Foundation will give an initial financial contribution of \$30,000 to the Philippine Red Cross, which is providing flood survivors with basic necessities such as safe drinking water, food, blankets and first aid. According to gov-

ernment estimates, more than 1,000 people have lost their lives and hundreds of thousands more are missing or displaced.

Western Union is encouraging its global agents and businesses that offer the company’s financial services to join together in supporting relief efforts. It will provide a dollar-for-dollar match of agent contributions to the Western Union Foundation disaster relief fund.

“We are deeply saddened by the magnitude of human suffering caused by this natural disaster,” says Patricia Riingen, Western Union senior vice president. “We are looking to leverage the unique combination of our agent network, brand, consumer relationships, compassionate employees and the resources of the Western Union Foundation to provide broad-based aid during these most trying circumstances.”



Western Union is enabling consumers around the world to give to the Philippine Red Cross as part of a “no transfer fee” program using the Western Union Quick Collect, Quick Pay or Payments Service through participating agent locations.

Consumers should complete a blue form using “Western Union Foundation” as the pay to recipient; “WUFOUNDATIONCO” as the code city; and “Philippines” as the account number. This option will be available through January 30, 2012. Since the Western Union

Foundation does not charge overhead or administration fees, all funds given will go directly to the Philippine Red Cross.

To encourage and support employee philanthropy, Western Union has created a special relief fund and will match all employee donations two-for-one for U.S.-based employees and three-for-one for all other company employees around the

world. Donations can be made online at: www.westernunion-foundation.org.

“It’s part of Western Union’s heritage to provide assistance in the aftermath of natural disasters,” says Luella Chavez D’Angelo, president of the Western Union Foundation. “When devastation strikes, we strive to be there to help communities on the road to recovery.”

(from page 12, FIL-AM...)

form.

“Miss America reflects a tradition of hard work, sophistication, and style and must be ready to go in a moments notice,” said Janolo in her video on the Miss America website. “When I put on these high heels, I become the woman

ready for the possible journey of Miss America 2012.”

In an interview with the Inquirer, Kristina’s mother, Lorna, asked the public to vote for her daughter as “America’s Choice.”

“Please help Kristina on her road to the crown,” she wrote in an email to the In-

quirer. “You can go online at www.missamerica.org/video-contest/ and search for Miss Florida and vote. The young lady with the most votes will be named the People’s Choice and will advance as a Top 15 semi-finalist.”

The last day to vote is January 12. (www.asianjournal.com)

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FEATURE

The Filipino As World-Class Managers

from www.philstar.com
Thursday, Dec.29, 2011

President Benigno Aquino III led the awarding of the country's outstanding overseas Filipino workers early this month in fitting ceremonies in Malacañan Palace. The Bagong Bayani Awards pay tribute to the country's outstanding Overseas Filipino Workers as the new heroes of our time. Among the 2011 awardees, one proves that working abroad can be a career choice for Filipinos and not just the only option for a high-paying job.

Marco Torres, an associate director in KRA International, a leading Asia Pacific architecture and design firm, is proof that Filipinos abroad can compete vis-à-vis other foreigners in leading and managing in the workplace.

Marco was walking on air upon receiving the award, "I am real thrilled to receive recognition from my country and do my family, friends and my alma mater, proud. I share this with all of them as well as the rest of the Filipino community in

China. With so many gifted and very capable Filipino workers abroad, I am sure many are equally or more deserving. I am just grateful I was selected. "

Marco believes Filipinos have what it takes to be world-class leaders and managers, "The Filipino is well-equipped for the global workplace. Aside from our excellent mastery of the English language, being technically adept and multi-talented, we have the right attitude to work harmoniously with people of all nations."

"In my 5 years living outside the Philippines, I have met many foreigners who speak very highly of the Filipino worker. Filipinos are proactive, take the initiative and are willing to learn. We are also very amiable which makes us great team players. In a world of collaboration and communication, we have what it takes. People are happy to work with us."

"They are also fascinated by our positive energy. We bring sunshine to the workplace. I remember meeting a Korean GM (general manager) who was once stationed in the Middle East. He shared me this story. One Christmas, instead of being depressed for being away



Pres. Aquino III with Marco Torres

from their families, Filipino workers were merrily singing to a guitar. With nary a drop of alcohol which was prohibited, he was amazed that people could be so in such high spirits. Such is the Filipino worker, he chooses to be happy in any circumstance. "

"Fact is, we are not as wealthy as our Asian neighbors. However, our people, both rich and poor, are always able to smile. Our far-east Asian neighbors are so much more progressive. It is a reality though that there is so much pressure for them at work. These pressures have led to depression, and per-

haps, the main reason they have relatively have higher suicide rates. On the other hand, Filipinos may be in dire straits but everyone can still smile. It is this spirit of positivism that we bring in the workplace. One never really realizes how happy and blessed we are as a people until one lives outside."

Marco, who has a master's in business administration degree from the Ateneo Graduate School and an architecture degree from the University of Santos Tomas, was a torch-bearer during the 2008 Beijing Olympics. He arrived in Beijing many years ago with no connections and no Chinese-speaking skills. However, because of his commitment to do a good job, his hard work paid off. Aside from multiple promotions, he is now his company's global ambassador. "I am the person they send to Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong if we need to meet with top-level clients. In any given day, I meet with directors of Morgan Stanley or the general manager of Publicis." To have a Filipino who is able to stand face-to-face such senior people confidently, we should all be proud of Marco.

"My previous employers have asked me before, 'Do you know of more people like you in the Philippines who can work for us?' As a worker, this to me is the biggest compliment both

to me and my country. I hope I can continue to be a good role model for the Filipino worker. In so doing, I can continue to help place others in good positions in the region from Beijing to Shanghai, to Honking and Singapore."

In closing, Marco wishes to be able to use the recognition to achieve a better end for his kababayans. "In the end, such recognition is only truly meaningful if they can be used for a higher cause. Hence, I hope that I can use it as a tool to inspire others in working together for a better Philippines. After all, I was born in the Philippines for a reason. I am and will always be proud to be Filipino. I wouldn't have it any other way." The Bagong Bayani awards gives due recognition to the significant efforts of overseas Filipino workers who foster goodwill among people of the world and enhance the image of the Filipino as a competent and responsible worker.

The other 2011 Bagong Bayani awardees include an educator, who helped bring the professional mechanical engineers board exams to Saudi Arabia and other Middle East countries, seafarers who kept their vessels afloat during Japan's 9-magnitude earthquake and tsunami, and caregivers who showed "heroism and loyalty" in the aftermath of the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

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PHILIPPINE NEWS

Bureau of Customs Misses 2011 Goal by P56.3 billion

by Iris C. Gonzales
Thursday, January 5, 2012

MANILA, Philippines - The Bureau of Customs (BOC) missed its 2011 revenue goal by at least P56.29 billion, according to preliminary data available from the agency.

However, in an interview with The STAR, Customs Commissioner Ruffy Biazon stressed that the numbers may still change as the figures were based on data available before the Christmas break.

According to preliminary data from BOC, the government's second largest revenue agency collected P263.71 billion in 2011, which is

P56.29 billion below the P320-billion revenue goal for last year.

In December alone, the BOC collected P20.71 billion, preliminary data also showed.

This, however, is still P30 billion short of the 2011 target set by the inter-agency Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC). (www.philstar.com)

GLOBAL NEWS

A New Twist to the Philippines-Japan Migration Story

by Carmelia Nuqui and Jeremaiah Opiniano

JAKARTA (Xinhua) - ASEAN member states expressed their heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to the government and people of the Philippines for the loss of lives and damage caused by the tropical storm Washi that struck the southern area on Dec. 17.

Japan offers lots of memories—good and bad—to Filipinos, not just that it is an economic magnet for Filipinos.

Twenty years ago, overseas performing artist Maricris Sioson was mysteriously killed by alleged Yakuza elements in Tokyo. Her mysterious death never stopped a wave of migration by Filipinas doing the same kind of work which, to advocates for migrant workers, is tantamount to trafficking and putting these women's homeland into shame.

That kind of migrant worker deployment even had processes and documents to be acquired, as well as a large-scale recruitment business which the Philippine government regulated. The tide changed in 2005 when Japanese immigration law tightened the entry requirements of those wanting to work as OPAs. The amendment required anyone seeking such a visa to prove that he or she has education or experience as an entertainer. Certification from government was no longer enough.

This resulted in a steep drop in the number of entertainers sent by the Philippines from about 80,000 in 2004 to about 38,000 in 2005. In 2010, the number of Filipino women deployed to Japan as entertainers totaled about 1,000.

Japan-Philippine relations surrounding overseas migration also evolved. The bilateral relationship became economic, resulting in an economic partnership agreement that has, among its terms, deployed Filipino nurses to Japan. Only two of over-200 deployed nurses passed the Nihongo-laced nurses licensure examination in Japan. Currently, the nurses deploy-

ment provision of the Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement is being evaluated

Japan is among the Philippines' major source of official development assistance. Aid from Japan led to bridges, light railway transit systems and even emergency relief for people in Mindanao.

Japan-Philippine economic relations would not be complete without Japanese goods heading to the country—from vehicles to electronic equipment, some of which became household names among Filipinos.

The relationship has not been one-sided as the Philippines has helped Japan. Images of the 8.9-magnitude earthquake and tsunami last March touched Filipinos' hearts to help. The Philippines-Japan NGO Partnership, a group of non-government groups that has a partner NGO network in Japan, donated money to Japanese NGOs providing disaster relief in tsunami-struck areas in Japan.

Even Filipinos affected by the quake and tsunami were helped. There are stories of cause-oriented groups coursing their donations to the Philippine embassy in Tokyo and to some Japanese NGOs directed at the Filipino families victimized by the quake and tsunami.

Still, Japanese maintained their resolve even in the midst of tragedy and Filipinos learned from it. Says a Japanese taxi driver to a Filipino broadcast journalist who wondered why Japanese patiently waited in long lines in Sendai to siphon fuel from vehicles wrecked by the tsunami: "If we do that, I wanted no part of it since he did not want to join us in hell."

Thanks to the opportunity of being in Japan for work, study and permanent residency, Filipinos extend themselves to help the Philippines through philanthropy. Filipino groups of all sorts in Japan—scholars in Japan, Filipinos based in Japanese communities, migrants' rights associations and many

more— have helped social development causes in their homeland.

Of some P2.5 billion of donations coursed through the Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino (LinKaPil) program of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), some P33.65 million came from Filipino and non-Filipino donors based in Japan.

These are on top of the remittances that Filipinos in Japan send back home. From 2001 to 2010, the US\$5.349 billion is way, way ahead of Japanese development aid and foreign direct investment coming from Japan. Even in the last three years when the world faced a global economic crisis, Filipinos in Japan sent record-high amounts.

With these episodes surrounding Philippines-Japan relations and the Filipino migration to Japan that went with it, what future is in store? Japan might continually depend on foreign labor given its declining birth rates. It might also compel Japanese authorities to be more open to the contributions of foreigners and to respect foreigners' and Filipinos' rights.

For the Philippines, under a new chapter of citizens emigrating to Japan, it might mean that the episodes of forced migration to Japan—a la Maricris Sioson— should be over. Helping more Filipinos in Japan and decrepit compatriots in the Philippines, as well as fostering better mutual relations between Japanese and Filipinos, may be the next steps.

For both countries, Japanese and Filipino vigilance to collaborate and address the welfare of Filipinos in Japan and in the Philippines is a logical next step. This is where the Philippines-Japan NGO Partnership (PJP) is working with the Japan-Philippines NGO Network (JPN, a network of Japanese NGOs with projects in the Philippines). Or Philippine rural communities welcoming Japanese citizens and enjoying their company and friendship in areas with visible concentrations of Japanese.

The migration story concerning Filipinos heading to Japan is evolving,

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with development outcomes affecting both countries and their citizens. Opportunities abound from this evolution and these can excite Filipinos in Japan and compatriots at home who are concerned about their welfare and of a homeland's hopes for a better future.



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