



Ambassador and Mrs. Tiglao with Greek Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyannis at a reception hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Philippine Embassy, FilCom Prepare for Independence Day Celebrations

The Philippine Embassy and leaders of the Filipino community organizations have started preparations for the celebration of the 110th Anniversary of Philippine Independence to be held on 15 June 2008 at the Fokianos National Stadium in Zappeion, Athens, where it has been traditionally held for the past couple of years.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Philippine Embassy and the Filipino community in Greece are celebrating the 110th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence at the Fokianos National Stadium, Zappeio, Athens on Sunday, 15 June 2008. The celebration will be a whole day program from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm. The event, in a fiesta motif, will feature a food festival back to back with a program consisting of cultural presentations of members of our Filipino community.

There will be contests in dancing, singing, on-the-spot drawing, costume and band.

Interested parties may get application forms from the Embassy and the Filipino Workers' Resource Center (FWRC) or through the members of the Sub-Committee on Contests.

Magkaisa tayo sa pagdiriwang sa Araw ng ating Kalayaan!



Athens PE hosts "Meet My Country Day" for Women's International Club

The Philippine Embassy in Athens hosted and presented last April 2, 2008 an event entitled "Meet My Country Day-Philippines" for the Women's International Club (WIC) of Athens.

Ambassador Rigoberto D. Tiglao and Madame Getsy S. Tiglao led the embassy officials and staff in welcoming the guests composed of select members of the WIC, a prestigious international group of

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Athens PE Remembers 1986 EDSA Revolution. Ambassador Rigoberto D. Tiglao led Embassy officers, staff and members of the Filipino community in commemorating the 22nd Anniversary of the 1986 EDSA revolution last February 26, 2008 at the Embassy premises. After an early morning flag-raising ceremony, the Ambassador led all in a "Panunumpa sa Watawat" (Pledge of Allegiance to the Philippine Flag). The ceremony was capped by a hearty Filipino breakfast prepared by the Embassy staff.

PASSPORT, CONSULAR FEES REDUCED!

Beginning March 13, 2008, all service fees for passports and other consular documents such as affidavit, Special Power of Attorney (SPA), certification, authentication, birth and marriage reports, visa, and citizenship reacquisition, were reduced by 38 per cent.

The reduction of the costs of consular services is in line with the government's policy to protect and advance the interest of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), the country's *Bagong Bayani* (Modern Day Heroes).

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo directed all Philippine

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- ▶ Arrival & Departures in Athens
- ▶ Christmas Party with FilCom
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Yearend Report:

A Fruitful 2007 for the Philippine Embassy in Greece

The year 2007 proved to be a very fruitful year for us in Athens PE particularly in the diplomatic and cultural fronts as we continued to exert initiatives and efforts to enhance Philippines' bilateral ties with the governments of Greece and Cyprus.

Thanks to Athens PE's persistent lobbying, the Greek government finally opened its Embassy in Manila in February, almost twenty years after the Philippine Embassy was established in Athens.

In June, the country's prestige was given a further boost as we celebrated Philippine Independence Day with a successful diplomatic reception at Greece's most prestigious hotel, the Grande Bretagne, an event that was

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Meet My Country
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ladies based in Athens.

In his welcome address, Ambassador Tiglao gave an overview of the work of the Philippine Embassy in Athens for the benefit of the Filipinos in Greece.

He noted that Filipinos were well-known in Greece for being honest, friendly, and hard-working people, and thus there is great demand for them among Greek employers.



Ambassador Tiglao addresses the members of the Women's International Club (WIC) of Athens.

Later, Madame Tiglao, who was a former journalist in Manila, gave a 50-minute Powerpoint presentation to introduce the WIC members to the history, culture, people, and places of interest in the Philippines.

Her presentation was warmly received by the audience who were pleasantly surprised to find that the Philippines has a unique history and culture that is both Oriental and Western.

Madame Tiglao also showed pictures of the modern Philippines that few Greeks have seen, including the high-rises in Makati and Ortigas business districts, the third largest mall in the world called Mall of Asia along the Manila Bay, and other developments in Metro Manila.

"Metro Manila is actually a megapolis. It is one of the largest cities in the world, with its 16 million day time population exceeding the

entire population of Greece," Madame Tiglao said.

Top tourist spots in the Philippines were also shown during the presentation. Among the places which earned raves from the audience were Boracay Island, Coron in Palawan, and Taal Lake and Volcano.

Boracay in particular was interesting for the WIC members upon hearing that there are Greeks based in the island-paradise. Among them are Captain Nikos Gitsis, a pilot and co-founder of Seair, an airline company which flies daily to Boracay; businessman Yiorgo Psinakis (brother of television personality Ilias Psinakis) who co-owns the Zuzuni Taverna in Boracay together with his cousin Geni Psinakis of the famous Lopez clan in the Philippines.

After the presentation about the Philippines, the WIC members were treated to a buffet luncheon featuring traditional Filipino food



Mrs. Getsy Tiglao introduces WIC members to the Philippines.

Tiglao, a WIC member since 2006, undertook to personally make the presentation.

Ms. Coscoros also cited the **Philippines' "wonderful cuisine"** as prepared by the embassy staff.

"Our members were clearly overwhelmed with the variety and delicacy of so many specialties" Ms. Coscoros said, as she thanked



WIC members queue for the sumptuous Filipino lunch (right photo) prepared by the Embassy staff.



such as lechon, adobo, pancit guisado, kaldereta, afritada, bistek, longganisa, spring rolls, as well as native desserts such as buko pandan, kutsinta, buchi, and leche flan.

WIC President Bridget Coscoros praised the Philippine Embassy for its **"wonderful, warm presentation."**

She said it was made even more special by the fact that Madame

Ambassador and Madame Tiglao, and the Embassy Staff, for their kind hospitality, warmth, and charm. ■

This article and an excerpt of Mrs. Getsy Tiglao's Powerpoint presentation may also be viewed on www.athenspe.net.



The ladies of the WIC are all smiles after getting a taste of Filipino cuisine and hospitality.

MEET MY COUNTRY-PHILIPPINES

By Getsy S. Tiglao

(This is an excerpt from a Powerpoint presentation given by Madame Getsy S. Tiglao before the Women's International Club of Athens, last April 2, 2008, at an event entitled, "Meet My Country – Philippines.)

Good morning everyone. Thank you for this opportunity to be able to introduce to you my country the Philippines. As you heard from the introduction I was a journalist for many years before becoming the **ambassador's wife**. **History, culture, and politics** are subjects close to my heart so preparing for this talk was a real treat for me.

I hope that through this presentation, you will understand the Philippines and its people a bit more, especially since we have so many Filipino citizens working in Athens and in other parts of Europe.

Filipinos are friendly, hard-working, **and peaceful people**. They're comfortable with foreign languages and can adapt to almost any culture. **Given the Philippines' historical experience**, notably 400 years under Spain and 50 years under the United States, the Filipino was practically moulded to become a Global Citizen.

But who is a Filipino you may ask? What is our difference from other Asians?

A Filipino is a unique mix of Oriental and Western blood and culture. Even before the first Europeans arrived in 1521, the Filipinos already had extensive contacts with foreigners particularly the Chinese and the Arabs.

Historians note that the Philippines was mentioned in ancient Chinese documents as **"Ma-I"** and later **"Seludong or Selurong"** (modern-day 'Luzon'). **It took note of trade missions from "Ma-I" that brought local goods to Guangzhou**, sometime in the 7th to the 10th century.

Our ancestors used wooden boats called **"balangay" to travel to China**



and other nearby lands to do business. Several of these balangays have been

A balangay boat model

excavated in Butuan in Mindanao, and some are as old as 320 A.D.

When Ferdinand Magellan arrived in the Cebu islands in 1521, he found that the Cebuanos were already using a sophisticated language. This was noted down by his chronicler Antonio Pigafetta, who noted that the native **word for youth was "benibeni", a married woman was "babai", the navel "pussud", and silver was called "pilla". It's amazing that with just slight changes** these are still the same words we use in the Filipino language.

And now we have physical evidence to add to this historical account. The Laguna Copperplate Inscription



(below) is the first written document using ancient Filipino language. This copperplate was found in 1989 on the shores of Laguna de Bay. It talks of releasing a man named Namwaran of his debt in gold, and mentions places still existing in the Philippines such as Tondo, Pila and Pullan. It even has a **date on it "Saka Year 822" which is equivalent to 900 A.D.**

Philippine pre-history goes even further if we take a look at archaeological evidence. The ancestors of Filipinos have been living in the islands as far back as 50,000 years ago.

Archaeologist Robert Fox and his team from the Philippine National Museum discovered in 1962 the fossilized remains of a stone-age Filipino in Tabon Cave in Palawan province. The **fossils of "Tabon Man" were carbon dated to 22,000 B.C.** while the cave itself showed signs of human habitation for at least 50,000 years.

Other caves in Palawan revealed

prehistoric items such as shell necklaces, stone tools, and pottery. The most famous is a secondary burial jar from Manunggul Cave in Palawan which dates to 2,710 years ago. This is even older than the Parthenon of Greece, which is dated to 2,500 years ago.

The Manunggul Jar had a cover that featured a **"ship of the dead"** with a boatman ferrying the newly-dead into the spirit world. This idea is similar to Greek mythology where you have Charon as the ferryman of Hades. This shows that ancient Filipinos already had profound ideas about death, the soul, and the afterlife.



Anthropologists and linguists have determined that present-day Filipinos are the descendants of Austronesians that originated from Formosa (now Taiwan) and moved southwards via Batanes into the Philippine mainland. They displaced the indigenous tribes such as the Ati who moved further into the mountains.

With the arrival of other foreigners through the centuries there were more inter-mixing and cultural exchanges. Today the Filipino stands proud as the original global citizen. He has a rich history and culture behind him, which endowed him with a facility for languages and cultural adaptability. This heritage ensures that the Filipino will always have a place anywhere in the world. ■



Ambassador Tiglao Leads Consular Mission to Corfu

Ambassador Rigoberto Tiglao led a consular outreach to Corfu on 05-07 April 2008 upon the request of the 90-member Filipino Community in the island.

He also took the opportunity to call on Fotiris Michalis, Mayor of Corfu (Kerkyra) who kindly obliged to receive the Ambassador, Deputy Chief of Mission Maria Fe Pangilinan and Consul General Constancio Vingno Jr.

During the brief meeting, Mayor Michalis informed Ambassador Tiglao it was the first time in his one year and four months in office to receive a foreign ambassador. Mayor Michalis appreciated the gesture of Ambassador Tiglao to pay a courtesy call on him.

He said that the Filipinos in Corfu have adapted to the way of life in the island. They are very much respected and considered a part of the whole community in Corfu.

In turn, Ambassador Tiglao thanked the

Mayor for the kind treatment accorded to Filipinos by the local community.

Before the start of the consular service, the Ambassador spoke before the Filipino Community and mentioned the accomplishments of the Philippine Embassy in recent years, particularly the opening of the Greek Embassy in Manila; reduction of consular services fees; consular services during the second Sunday of the month; creation of the official embassy website; and launching of a quarterly newsletter.

Ambassador Tiglao stressed that the Filipino Community in Corfu may write him directly and encouraged them to



Corfu Mayor Michalis gives Ambassador Tiglao a souvenir limited-edition photo book on Corfu.

participate in the Embassy's activities. ■

The Philippine Embassy thanks:

Ms. Rosita Habon, Ms. Florence Pagsas, Ms. Veta Regis-Pantelios, for assisting the entire Philippine Embassy team throughout their stay in Corfu; and, the Filipino Community in Corfu, for their hospitality and warm reception.



From left: Filipino Community leader Ms. Rosita Habon (at extreme right) saying the invocation prayers at the Corfu consular outreach; Embassy staffers (from foreground) Byron Villanueva, Nathalie Fajardo, Cielo Gamayon, and Nestor Magallones; Embassy staff (from foreground) Analy Turiano, Ms. Fajardo, Ada Catbagan and Perlita Cacatian providing consular services in Corfu.

Independence Day Celebrations

(Continued from page 1)

For the convenience of our *kababayans* attending this annual event, the Philippine Embassy has proposed, to which the Accredited Community Partners (ACPs) and Filipino Community leaders agreed, to put up tents and umbrellas for this day-long gathering.

In order to ensure the success of this year's festivities, the Philippine Embassy in cooperation with the ACPs and FilCom groups have started meeting and have established various committees with their respective tasks and responsibilities to run and take charge of the whole day affair. This year's celebration will feature various cultural performances capped by singing and dancing

competitions, Best in National Costume, and on-the spot drawing contest, with special prizes for the winners of the competition.

The Philippine Embassy enjoin all Filipino organizations and their families to participate in this very important event. ■

We welcome Pinoy news!

Send us your letters, news stories, press or photo releases for publication in PhilippiNews via regular mail, e-mail or fax.



Amb. Tiglao, and Minister Vingno (left photo) listen to suggestions of members of the Filipino Community during a meeting at the Embassy.

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CYPRUS CORNER

Meet Joy Beldua Miranda, petite Filipina who arrived in Cyprus in February 2004 and since then made her adoptive country her second home. Proud of her Filipino heritage and sense of patriotism and love of country, Joy has made a difference in her new domicile.



Joy Miranda meets former President of Cyprus Glafcos Clerides at the 9th anniversary of Politis.

She created the website, www.sentidokomon.com, dedicated to all Overseas Filipino Workers around the globe, her 'Modern Day Heroes'. Her site features information about OFWs in Cyprus and other parts of the world, their working conditions, new labor and immigration policies that affect them as well as their inspiring and heartrending stories.

Before working abroad, Joy was a former media practitioner in the Philippines. Her family

used to own and run a weekly newspaper in Davao. This explains her love for writing. Aside from maintaining her website, Joy is the Editor-in-Chief of *Tinig Pinoy*, a monthly publication of the Cyprus daily, *Politis*. Recently, she, together with other OFWs in Cyprus, met with two former Presidents of Cyprus during the 9th anniversary celebration of *Politis*: Glafcos Clerides and George Vassiliou. Former President Vassiliou even told her that he never misses a copy of *Tinig Pinoy* and praised her for the idea of having a Filipino newspaper in Cyprus. ■



Joy Miranda (3rd from right) with the Tinig Pinoy staff (from left) Beth Fernandez, Lissa Jataas, Rose Hemenstall, Ester Beatty, Scarlet Tugbo (an NGO volunteer) and Carmen Brazan-Llauerdes.

Those who wish to send articles, stories and opinions to Joy Miranda, you may email her at: joy_scanner@yahoo.com.

The Philippine Honorary Consul in Nicosia



Philippine Honorary Consul Shemaine Bushnell-Kyriakides with Mrs. Getsy Tiglao during the Christmas

Party for the Filipino Community hosted by the Philippine Embassy in Athens last 21 December 2007.

The Office of the Philippine Honorary Consul in Nicosia is located at 36 Grivas Dighenis Avenue, #4C Nicosia, Cyprus 1648.

The Consulate is open Monday thru Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 1:30 P.M.

For queries, you may reach the Consulate through (+357) 2268-0806 and 2275-4420 (fax).

Consular Fees (Continued from page 1)

Embassies and Consulates to cut down the cost of passports and other consular services to ease the financial burden of OFWs whose dollar remittances were affected by the strengthening of the peso.

A 32-paged passport can now be availed at 40 Euros from 65 Euros. All notarial and consular

documentations are down from 32.50 Euros to 20 Euros. Visa for tourism and business purposes now costs 24 Euros while a seaman's visa cost 16 Euros only. With the rising costs of living both in Greece and in the Philippines, Ambassador Rigoberto Tiglao is confident that the reduction of costs of consular services will alleviate the situation of our hardworking kababayans in Greece and Cyprus. ■

SCHEDULE OF CONSULAR SERVICES FEES AS OF 13 MARCH 2008

PASSPORT SERVICES	OLD RATES	NEW RATES
1. Passport Renewal/ New	€ 65.00	€ 40.00
2. Replacement of Lost Passport	€ 117.00	€ 72.00
3. Travel Document	€ 36.00	€ 24.00
4. Amendment of Passport	€ 26.00	€ 16.00
NOTARIALS AND OTHER SERVICES	OLD RATES	NEW RATES
1. Authentication of documents	€ 32.50	€ 20.00
2. Acknowledgement of Documents (Affidavit, SPA, Parental Travel Permit and Consent)	€ 32.50	€ 20.00
3. Birth/Marriage Registration	€ 32.50	€ 20.00
4. Solemnization of Marriage	€ 78.00	€ 48.00
5. Certification for sealing of casket	€ 78.00	€ 48.00
6. Certified True Copy (CTC) of documents	€ 32.50	€ 20.00
7. Extraction of documents	€ 32.50	€ 20.00
8. Fax charges	€ 32.50	€ 20.00
9. Translation services (per page & fraction thereof)	€ 32.50	€ 20.00
VISA SERVICES	OLD RATES	NEW RATES
1. Temporary Visitor Visa (pleasure/ business/health, single entry, 3 months)	€ 39.00	€ 24.00
2. Seaman's Visa	€ 26.00	€ 16.00
DUAL CITIZENSHIP (R.A. 9225)	OLD RATES	NEW RATES
1. Application fee (petitioner)	€ 50.00	€ 40.00
2. Each dependent included in the application	€ 32.50	€ 20.00

For more information, please call the Consular Section at these numbers: 210.6721.837 locals 112 and 116.

2007 Yearend Report:
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attended by Greece's high government officials and prominent businessmen.

Our intensive campaign in Greek media to project a positive image of the Philippines and Filipinos in Greece bore fruit as the Ambassador, the Philippines, and Filipinos were positively featured in the July-August issue of the prestigious Greek Diplomatic Life, the 'bible' of the diplomatic community in Greece and in the mainstream newspaper Eleftheri Ora Tis Kiriakis in November. In the same month the *Katipunan Philippines Cultural Academy* (now renamed the

Philippine School in Greece)- and the Philippines itself was featured for 2 hours in a popular afternoon live TV program on Antena 1 channel, hosted by the very popular celebrity Tatiana Stefanidou. To enable Embassy to forge closer links with the Filipino community, Athens PE started its quarterly newsletter *PhilippiNews* to keep the Filipinos informed about our activities in the Embassy and developments in our country. This was followed by establishing our own website www.athenspe.net, which has links to nearly all major Philippine government and tourism websites.

The Embassy's interaction with the

25,000-strong Filipino Community grew and became more frequent. During the Overseas Absentee Voting (OAV) last 14 April – 15 May senatorial election, Athens PE registered a 32% voter turnout which was among the highest registered by all posts - clearly, a result of the Embassy's intensive information campaign.

To further improve our services to our kababayans, we started providing consular services to the public every second Sunday of the month for the benefit of those who are unable to appear at the Embassy on weekdays due to work

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December 2007 Highlights

Athens PE Joins Intl Bazaar

The Philippine embassy participated in the 8th International Christmas Bazaar organized by the Friends of the Child, a charitable organization composed of Greek women established in 1987. The bazaar was held at the Helexpo Palace in Maroussi on 15-16 December 2007.

At the bazaar, the booth of the embassy sold Philippine products such as handicrafts, kitchen wares, house decoration for Christmas, and ladies



Amb. Bobi Tiglao and Mrs. Getsy Tiglao, Consul General Bong Vingno and Mrs. Yoko Ramos-Vingno, and Labor Attaché George Eduvala (partly hidden) with Friends of the Child President Alice Contonassopolou-Vagia.

accessories. It also sold Kapeng Barako

and Philippine fresh mangoes. The merchandise was shipped from Manila to Athens, through the assistance of the Office of European Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Embassy had invited some Filipino shop owners in Athens of Asian products to display their goods at the booth of the embassy which included shell crafts.

Students from the Philippine school in Greece made a presentation of Tinikling and Binuyugan dances, as well a choral of Philippine and Greek music on 15 December. The profit of the bazaar amounting to 870.00 Euros was donated to the Friends of the Child. ■

Philippine Embassy Hosts Christmas Party for Filipino Community

The Philippine embassy hosted a dinner reception for the Accredited Community Partners (ACP) and leaders of the Filipino community organizations, and individuals in Athens at Embassy premises on 21 December 2007.

The hosting of the reception was in recognition and appreciation of their efforts for the maintenance of unity and cooperation among Filipinos in Athens. This is the second time that the Embassy hosted such reception for them

so that they have an opportunity to mingle with one another, which could not be done in meetings organized by the Embassy.

In his speech, Ambassador Rigoberto D. Tiglao informed guests



Amb. and Mrs. Tiglao with Embassy officers and staff and some members of the Filipino Community.

that in a survey in Greece, the Filipinos are the most respected migrants in Greece. ■

To view more photos on this event, visit the Embassy's official website: www.athenspe.net.



Hosts and guests sang and danced the night away.



Photos by: Carlos Montenegro II

The Philippine Embassy in Athens, Greece welcomes ...



Maria Fe T. Pangilinan
Deputy Chief of Mission (DCM)

DCM Pangilinan arrived in Athens on 29 February 2008 to assume the position of Deputy Chief of Mission. A career diplomat and a lawyer, DCM Pangilinan has previously been posted to Switzerland, the Czech Republic, Sweden and Spain.

DCM Pangilinan graduated from the University of the Philippines with a degree in Foreign Service, where she also finished law. She is a member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines. Born in Caloocan City, Ms. Pangilinan has two children, Liv Margarita and Thorbern Alexander.

... and bids farewell to ...



Patricia V. Barrera
Second Secretary and Consul

Consul Patricia Barrera ended her tour of duty in Athens, Greece on 7 March 2008. She is the eldest daughter of retired Ambassador and former Chief of Presidential Protocol Sergio Barrera. She obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree from the Assumption San Lorenzo before joining the Philippine



Jocelyn O. Hapal
Welfare Officer

Welfare Officer Jo Hapal ended her tour of duty in Athens, Greece on 3 March 2008. Ms. Hapal is a Director II of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and has supervised other welfare officers posted in Asia, Middle East, Europe, and the United States. **Ms. Hapal has a Master's Degree in Industrial Relations from the University of the Philippines.**

GMA-7's Pinoy Meets World Goes to Greece

The **Pinoy Meets World** Team in coordination and assistance of the Philippine Embassy, visited Greece from 23 February to 3 March 2008 for tapings of its Greece episode.

The team was composed of Executive Producer Jay C. Orense, Segment Producer Maylin Bautista, cameraman German Endona Jr., and former beauty queen Miriam Quiambao, as the team's guest host.

The *Pinoy Meets World*, a travel-magazine show which features places in the world where Filipinos live and work, is aired once a month on Sunday nights at GMA-7. The program covered their filming of the Acropolis and visits to Crete and Santorini.

Among the Filipinos who assisted the team for their successful coverage of Greece were Panagiotis and Elsa Fouzas and the Filipino Club Irakleio, Crete headed by Mr. Johnny Quinto. ■



Ambassador Rigoberto Tiglao and Cultural Officer Analy Turiano (3rd from right) with the Pinoy Meets World team: (from left) German Endona Jr., Miriam Quiambao, Jay Orense, and Maylin Bautista.

REMINDER

To all our kababayans in Greece and Cyprus who plan to get married, please apply for Marriage License at the Philippine Embassy in Athens or at the nearest Philippine Honorary Consulate in your area before setting the date for your wedding.

For additional information, please contact the

2007 YEAREND REPORT
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constraints.

We have consistently and vigorously conducted Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN) activities throughout the year, with our staff providing assistance to Filipinos incarcerated in detention centers due to violation of immigration regulations and assistance to those

requiring medical care, repatriation of the remains of 22 OFWs and conducting jail and hospital visitations.

This year we hope to be able to outdo ourselves. We shall continue to strive to perform to the best of our ability in order that we may be able to provide better service to our OFWs and at the same time promote our national interest in the host country. ■

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BYRON B. VILLANUEVA
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LABOR PAGE

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ATTY. JAIME P. GIMENEZ
 Labor Attaché (Cyprus)



JEAN V. SANTOS
 PAG-IBIG Representative



CARLOS P. MONTENEGRO
 Administrative Assistant, POLO



Abot Kamay Pabahay Program ng Pag-IBIG

Mas pinahaba ang mga taon ng pagbabayad ng housing loan sa Pag-IBIG program. Mula 5 hanggang 20 taon, ngayon ay maari ng magbayad ng hanggang 30 taon sa hiniram na pondong pabahay. Kaya't may pagkakataon nang makapagbayad sa mas mababa pang monthly amortization. Sa unang ipon na US\$5 lamang, maaari nang maging Pag-IBIG member at magkaroon ng pribehiyong makapangutang ng pabahay sa abot-kayang halaga. Sa karagdagang impormasyon, tumawag o magsadya lamang kay Ms. Jean Santos, Pag-IBIG Representative, FWRC (contact nos. 210-6983 265 or 6937124927).



Ang bahay na naipatayo ni Gng. Lorie Malamion sa tulong ng Pag-IBIG Housing Loan na nasa kanilang bayan sa Ilocos Sur.



Bahay na nabili ni Gng. Erlinda Garcia sa pamamagitan ng Housing Loan sa Pag-IBIG na nasa Bulacan.

POLO Moves to Ambelokipi

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) recently moved its office to the 4th Floor, 158 Sevastoupoleos St., in Ambelokipi, Athens. The new office is behind Electro World Store at Kifissias Ave., a block away from the Girokomeio bus stop.

Many welcomed the transfer as Ambelokipi is home to many Filipinos and Sevastoupoleos is the most familiar street for Filipinos in the area. They also find it to be much easier to reach than the old office.

The POLO is the office of Labor Attaché George A. Eduvala, the Welfare Officer, and Pag-IBIG Representative Jean V. Santos.

The POLO also has a Filipino Workers Center that offers free lessons on computing, care-giving, and Greek language and culture every Sunday. It gives free counseling on Philippine laws and Greek labor and immigration laws from Sunday to Friday.

A Filipino workers choir meets in the Workers Center to hone their skills.

The POLO may be contacted by phone or fax at 210 698 3335.

Paalala sa mga Kababayan
 Limang paalala sa mga



At left is the new POLO viewed from Kifissias Ave., Ambelokipi, Athens. At right, the entrance along Sevastoupoleos St.

kababayan mula sa POLO:

1. Mag-renew ng residence permit (*adeia diamonis*) dalawang buwan bago ito pumaso. May multa sa nakakalimot.
2. Sikaping pag-aralan ang wikang Griyego. Malaking tulong ito sa trabaho at sa mga papeles.
3. Tiyaking sapat ang bayad sa IKA at buwis.
4. Iwasan ang away at gulo para malayo sa mga gusot pang-immigration.
5. Kung may suliranin, maaaring sumangguni kay Labatt George Eduvala. Mas mabuti, ugaliing mamasyal sa POLO sa Sevastoupoleos.

Pagkuha ng Exit Pass

Makukuha ng mga manggagawa ang OEC o exit clearance sa POLO para

malibre sa airport at travel tax. Tulong ito ng pamahalaan sa mga bagong bayani ng Pilipinas.

May bisa ang OEC ng 60 araw lamang. Halimbawa, kung may bakasyon sa Pilipinas ng 45 araw, kumuha ng OEC sa POLO dalawang linggo bago umalis. Kung 30 araw lamang ang bakasyon, maaaring kunin ito tatlong linggo o isang buwan bago umalis.

Magdala sa POLO ng kopya ng pasaporte at sticker. (Puwede rin ang *viveosi* sa mga araw na itinakda ng Greek government). Pagbalik sa Greece, dapat valid pa ang pasaporte ng anim na buwan. Kung papaso na ito sa loob ng walong buwan, maiging mag-renew muna ng pasaporte sa Embassy bago maglakbay. ■



POLO Staff Joins Corfu Outreach

(Counterclockwise): Ambassador Tiglao with the POLO staff and OFWs in Corfu; Labor Attaché George Eduvala gives legal counsel to OFWs; Pag-IBIG Rep. Jean Santos signs up new members. Photo credits: Carlos Montenegro, POLO Assistant