



Ambassador Bobi Tiglao, Labor Attachés George Eduvala and Jaime Gimenez welcome Labor Secretary Arturo Brion (extreme left) and his Chief of Staff Carmelita Pineda to Athens (center).

AMBASSADOR TIGLAO FEATURED ON GREEK MAGAZINE, DAILY; KAPHILCA ON GREEK TV

Good news to all our *kababayans* in Greece!

The Philippines and Filipinos in Greece were recently extensively and favorably featured on Greek media.

Philippine Ambassador to Greece Rigoberto Tiglao was featured in the *Greek Diplomatic Life*, a prestigious magazine for the diplomatic community in Greece, and in two issues of *Eleftheri Ora Tis Kiriakis* (The Sunday Free Hour), a widely-circulated daily in Athens. (Pages 2-4, 6-7).

In these interviews, Ambassador Tiglao talked about his impressions of Greece, our positive economic growth, our foreign policy priorities within and beyond the Asia Pacific region, and our bilateral relations with Greece with special mention of the thriving Filipino Community in Greece as well as plans to improving relations between our two



Video grab from ANT1 shows President Arroyo and the skyscrapers in Metro Manila.

countries. Last November, the teachers and students of Kaphilca, the Philippine school in Greece, guested on the popular Greek television program, *“Axizi na to deis”* (It’s worth watching it), aired over ANT1 channel. (see story below).

Ambassador Tiglao is pleased that the Greek press has not only shown interest in the Philippines, but has projected the country in a positive light.

(Continued on page 6)

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

On behalf of my wife, Getsy, the officers and staff of the Philippine Embassy, I wish to convey to our *kababayans* in Greece and Cyprus our warm felicitations on our celebration of Christmas.

I also take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation and thanks for the continuing support and cooperation that you have so readily extended to us as we perform our mandate of promoting and protecting our country’s national interest and the welfare of our fellow Filipinos in Greece and Cyprus .

As we close this year to usher and welcome the new year, rest assured that the Philippine Embassy will be here to give you efficient and quality service at all times. This year, we introduced innovations to improve our services to you, such as a one-day processing time for passports and the availability of consular services every second Sunday of the month, for the benefit of those unable to go to the Embassy on weekdays.

Umasa po kayo na patuloy na tutulongan kayo ng inyong Embahada sa abot ng aming makakaya.

Muling ipinaabot ko sa inyo ang isang Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon. Mabuhay ang Pilipino!



Romanian Arrested for the Death of Mercedes Rosello

The Greek Police officially announced on December 9 that they have arrested a 30-year-old Romanian woman for the murder of Filipina Mercedes Rosello, who was found dead in August in her employer’s residence in the affluent northern Athens suburb of Ekali.

Police had earlier established that the motive of the killing was robbery since valuables were missing from the house.

Since the discovery of the death of Mercedes, the Philippine Embassy has been in close coordination with the Greek Police, who had disclosed, on a confidential basis, to Philippine Embassy officials that no Filipino seemed to be involved in the crime and that the main suspect is a Romanian working in the neighboring house.

The suspect, who fled to Romania shortly after the murder, was extradited to Greece. At that time, the police requested the Embassy to keep the information confidential since the investigation has yet to be completed. ■

KAPHILCA Teachers and Students Grace Greek TV

Last 13 November 2007, the teachers and students of Katipunan Philippines Cultural Academy (KAPHILCA), the Philippine School in Greece, graced *“Axizi na to deis”* (It’s worth watching it), a two-hour live program aired on Ant1 (Antena), one of the most watched television channels in Greece. The afternoon show is hosted by Tatiana Stefanidou, a popular television personality in Greece.

Studio audience and television

(Continued on page 5)



Host Tatiana Stefanidou interviews a panel of guests led by Kaphilca Director Roberto Fresnido (2nd from right).

(Video grab from ANT1)



INTERVIEW WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF THE PHILIPPINES



Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines, Rigoberto (Bobi) Dikit Tiglao, presented his credentials to President of the Hellenic Republic Karolos Papoulias on June 14th 2006.

Born on August 27th 1952, he is married and has three children and holds a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from the Atenco de Manila and the University of the Philippines.

Ambassador Tiglao was appointed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as Presidential Spokesperson with Cabinet rank on April 12th 2001. He was later appointed concurrent Press Secretary on April 1st 2002. After a six month research fellowship in Kyoto University from May to October 2002, he resumed his role as Presidential Spokesperson concurrent with his appointment as Presidential Chief of Staff. He assumed the full-time post as Presidential Chief of Staff on December 9th 2002. After almost two years of serving the President as her Chief of Staff, on August 19th 2004 President Arroyo appointed Secretary Tiglao as the Head of

the Presidential Management Staff. He assumed his post as Chief of Mission and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Hellenic Republic with concurrent jurisdiction over the Republic of Cyprus on May 11th 2006.

He has a 19-year experience in journalism as a reporter, columnist and editor in local publications and as a correspondent for an international magazine. For his work, he has won four of the most prestigious awards in local and international journalism. He has authored or co-authored six books dealing with Philippine economy and politics.

He was a regular opinion-page columnist of the Philippine Daily Inquirer from September 2001 until his appointment as Presidential Spokesperson. During this period he was also editor-in-chief and senior vice president of a Philippine website. Ambassador Tiglao is also the author of several books mainly dealing with politics and democracy in his country.



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“FILIPINO BUSINESSMEN ARE WORLD-CLASS AND HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE IN INDUSTRIES THAT ARE BOOMING IN GREECE, SUCH AS TELECOMS, SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT, REAL ESTATE AND TOURISM...

“MY COUNTRY IS ALSO ON THE VERGE OF BEING A WORLD-CLASS SHIP BUILDING AND REPAIR FACILITY...”

GDL: WHAT ARE THE MAIN PRIORITIES OF THE FOREIGN POLICY OF YOUR COUNTRY?

RDT: The Philippines is one of the largest economies in the world, being the 24th biggest economy, according to the World Bank's 2005 listing of 162 nations, based on GDP (adjusted by purchasing power parity), and the 12th most populous country on this planet with the 2007 estimate putting our population at 87 million. Our economy had floundered in the last two decades, first because of certain monopoly structures and second because of political instability, especially those created by episodes resulting from coup attempts by power-hungry military adventurists.

Under President Fidel Ramos in the 1990s and President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the 2000s, our country has gradually overcome these problems. Despite instances of political troubles in the past several years, President Macapagal-Arroyo has ushered in an era of economic stability, resulting in an expected 7% growth rate this year after a 6% average GDP growth rate from 2001 to

2004. If the Philippines, with the huge size of its economy, maintains that 7% growth rate for just a few years, it will be the newest economic tiger in Asia. Elections in 2004 and in May this year have demonstrated a strong democratic culture, and our era of coups is forever over. Global markets therefore are now looking at the Philippines as the next tiger economy, what with its highly-

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educated and English-speaking work force, its strong and cosmopolitan entrepreneurial and management class, its rich natural resources and its infrastructure that is being modernized.

The main priorities of our foreign policy is firstly, to assist in our country's economic-growth momentum and to ensure our people's well being, as well as to strengthen its national security and, secondly, for our country to take a role in the community of nations as a champion of peace, global friendship and cooperation.

Under the rubric of the first priority is the mandate for our foreign service to ensure the well-being and protection of the rights of Filipinos working abroad, because of the fact that - *perhaps like Greeks in the 1950s* - there is a substantial number of Filipinos who have left the country to work abroad starting in the late 1970s. This priority exists in Greece as there is sizeable number - *estimates are a low of 6,000 to a high of 15,000* - of Filipinos working in Greece, with an estimated 5,000 seafarers in Greek-owned or Greek-flagged ships and yachts, with the rest in the restaurant and residential services sectors, as well as in small businesses.

The Philippines is actually a veteran in the diplomatic world, having been in the vanguard of diplomatic initiatives in Asia, such as that for the formation of the ASEAN and APEC. The Philippine diplomatic service is a veteran in world diplomacy, and is considered one of the most professional in the world.

GDL: WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE PHILIPPINES WITH REGARD TO ITS GEOPOLITICAL POSITION WITHIN THE ASIA-PACIFIC REGION?

RDT: The strengthening of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) continues to be a cornerstone of Philippine foreign policy, and we believe that ASEAN is at the political core of the Asia-Pacific region. ASEAN is an effective vehicle to push both the Philippines' and ASEAN member political and economic agenda in the world. Having said this however, the Philippines highly values its relations with other countries in Asia, and we believe ASEAN and North Asia cooperating with each other means a prosperous and strong Asia. For instance, our relations with the People's Republic of China have been growing by leaps and bounds, helped by the fact that we have had Chinese business elite for nearly a century: many Filipinos in fact have Chinese blood. Despite the bad memories of World War II, Japan has become a major economic partner, starting in the 1960s, with Japanese investments even exceeding US investments.

We are not just an archipelago in the Pacific, and we are not just Southeast Asians. We are Asians, even as we have strong historical and cultural ties to Europe (owing to the fact that we had been a colony of Spain for 400 years) and to the New World (because of the USA's occupation since the turn of the century to the end of World War II).

GDL: HOW ARE THE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND GREECE? WHAT IS THE CURRENT LEVEL OF TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND GREECE, IN BOTH THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS? IS THIS COOPERATION AT A SATISFACTORY LEVEL AND WHAT STEPS SHOULD BE TAKEN TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO?

RDT: Bilateral relations between our two countries are excellent, but as in almost all aspects of life, much needs to be done. The Philippines established its Embassy in Athens way, way back in 1989. That was right after the fall of the Marcos dictatorship, after years of struggle that led to a peaceful "People Power Revolution", a parallel to the Greek experience in the 1970s of being under a military junta and re-establishing democracy through a largely peaceful 'revolution'. There was an official state visit in 1997 by the President of my country then, Fidel Ramos.

We are very happy that Greece finally moved to set up its Embassy in the Philippines a few months ago, appointing as Greece's first Ambassador to my country the veteran diplomat Ambassador Georgos Nicolaides. The establishment of the Greek Embassy in Manila is really a big boost to bilateral relations between our countries. For instance, I had been told that prospective Greek tourists and business representatives looking for products in the Philippines had been a bit discouraged to do so whenever they are informed that there is no Greek Embassy in Manila.

Greek shipowners and ship-manning agencies - *especially those with offices in Manila* - have also been very happy with their government's decision, as this would expedite the issuances of visas for Filipinos working on Greek ships. Greece had been issuing its visas through the Spanish Embassy in Manila or through its Embassy in Jakarta.

The most important link between the Philippines and Greece that should be developed and strengthened is through the shipping industry. In a bit of parallel to the fact that the Greek maritime fleet is the biggest in the world, Filipino seafarers are the biggest nationality of seafarers in the world. Some 31% of the crew of the global maritime fleet are Filipino deck officers and seafarers, numbering 50,000 officers and 180,000 seafarers.

Filipino officers and seafarers are considered the best in the world, and there are about 5,000 such Filipinos working on Greek-owned ships and yachts. There are ship-manning agencies and a number of big shipping companies whose main manpower are Filipinos. This is not surprising as we are a country of islands ourselves and perhaps more importantly, Filipinos are skilled and are very fluent in English, which has become the *lingua franca* not only for commerce and tourism, but for crews in ships more often comprised of people from different nationalities.

The shipping industry would provide the best mutual benefits for Greece and the Philippines. In the next 10 years, the Baltic and International Maritime Council projects that there will be shortage of 27,000 officers and 167,000 ratings. Competition will severely tighten for quality manpower, and Greek ships would obviously need the people to run and man their ships. As an archipelago, the Philippines should also be a big market for Greek shipping companies specializing in inter-island freight and passenger-services. I think that Greeks can supply many of the inter-island ships, especially the RO-RO types which my country needs.

My country is also on the verge of being a world-class ship builder and repair facility. In April, the first pure car and truck carrier, christened the Hoegh Brasilia, to be built in the Philippines set sail from Cebu, our second biggest city. It was built by a company owned by Filipinos and Japanese, the Tusneishi Heavy Industries (Cebu) Inc. The Greek shipping industry should start looking at the Philippines for their future ship and ship-repair requirements.

My vision is for an organisation of top Greek business representatives in the shipping industry to form some kind of council to help the development of Filipino-Greek relations in the industry. Trade between the Philippines and Greece is still very low, but I honestly believe there is much potential. The Philippines is a big market, with a population of 87 million or 8 times that of Greece. Metro Manila alone is as big as the population of the whole of Greece. Our economy is developing so fast that the middle class is rapidly expanding - *a middle class that would certainly appreciate Greek wine and olive oil*.

While on the surface, Greece constitutes only a small market,

Greece's real market is your local population plus the tourist population. I think Greece could be a big market for Filipino-grown coffee and Filipino-made products like top-of-the-line garments and furniture, not only for the home but for your tavernas and hotels. Filipino businessmen are world-class and have much experience in industries that are booming in Greece, such as telecoms, software development, real estate and tourism.

In fact, Greek friends of mine who love the Philippines - such as *Georgos Psinakis and our Thessaloniki Honorary Consul Nicolaos Margaropoulos* - are on the way toward setting up a Philippine-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce. This I think would give a boost toward developing commercial relations between Greece and the Philippines. I do hope that reciprocal visits by leaders of Greece and the Philippines happen soon. Our leaders and your leaders, I believe, would be surprised at how much they'd feel at home on these visits.

GDL: IS THE PHILIPPINES A GOOD VACATION DESTINATION FOR GREEKS?

RDT: Definitely. I am 100% sure that Greeks who visit my country will fall in love with it, and that they will come back again and again. This actually is what has happened to Greeks that I know who took the chance to visit my country.

The Philippines, in many senses, is "Greece" in the tropics and in Asia: it is the only country in Asia that is dominantly Christian. While Filipinos are mostly Catholics, we share the same centuries-old Christian traditions. Many of the icons of the Virgin Mary or the Archangels are very, very similar to the ones you find in your country. In fact an Episcopal Vicar of the Greek Orthodox Church was assigned to Manila more than a year ago. I was happy to get an email from the Vicar, Rev. Fr. Nikitas Mellios from Tripoli, Greece, who said he "cannot help but admire the hospitality and friendliness of Filipinos."

Like Greece, we have thousands of islands and hundreds of island-resorts, many of which are world class. Filipinos are very friendly and, like Greeks, are deeply family-oriented. Put a Filipino and a Greek in a small island one day, and the next day they will seem like brothers!

Water-sports and ecological tourism are excellent in my country. We have been rated as having the best scuba-diving areas in the world (the Tubattaha area in Palawan, for one). One beach, Boracay in the central Philippines, had been voted by a world tourist organisation many years back as the "most beautiful beach in the world." Coron in Palawan, with its lagoons and soaring cliffs is said to be a one of the most magical places on earth.

Only a few Greeks have discovered that metro Manila has become one of the most bustling metropolises in Asia, and for tourist-shoppers, it's a paradise. We have more than two dozen malls in Manila (each bigger than The Mall in Athens), and the newest shopping mall, the Mall of Asia is said to be the biggest and most beautiful in Asia now, since it is by the sea. Manila in fact has gradually developed the reputation of being a world-class shopping centre: prices of products are very, very reasonable, and the variety of things sold covers the entire globe.

GDL: THERE IS A THRIVING COMMUNITY OF FILIPINOS HERE IN GREECE. WHAT ASSOCIATIONS, ETC HAVE BEEN SET UP TO HELP THEM INTEGRATE INTO THIS COUNTRY AND HOW ARE THEY ADAPTING TO LIFE IN GREECE?

RDT: Much like Greeks, Filipinos indeed are very social beings: they feel that one of the main pleasures of life is the enjoyment of friendships. Thus, most Filipinos have set up their organisations, through which they undertake social activities such as dances, sports tournaments, even beauty contests. Among all foreign workers in Greece, Filipinos are known to have the most developed associations.

Organisations of Filipinos in Greece are mainly based in the areas where they have come from in the Philippines. Being a religious people, Filipinos have also set up religious organisations, such as Couples for Christ, El Shaddai, and Iglesia ni Kristo which are affiliated to, or are branches of religious groups back in our country. There are also sports organisations, such as basketball and bowling.

Other than for creating a sense of community, these organisations also serve to help each other adapt to life in Greece, with those who had arrived here earlier telling the new comers how to live in this country. These organisations also serve to sanction and discipline those who may embarrass our countrymen. Thus, one organisation for instance - *called the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood* - several years back set out as their main goal, which they achieved, to stop the use of illegal drugs and alcohol abuse among the youth. Such associations constitute a major factor for the indisputable fact that Filipinos are the most respected and trusted foreign workers in Greece. Their track record as law-abiding guests in Greece is impeccable.

GDL: THE EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN ATHENS HAS ORGANISED SEVERAL SUCCESSFUL EVENTS OVER THE YEARS, WHICH HAVE GIVEN THE GREEK PUBLIC AN OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW AND EXPERIENCE YOUR RICH AND DIVERSE CULTURE. ARE THERE ANY FUTURE EVENTS THAT WE MAY LOOK FORWARD TO?

RDT: There is much to be done in undertaking events to give the Greek public a view of my country and its culture. I am hoping that we will be able to organise major exhibits featuring the Philippines' diverse products - *from exotic fruits, to top-of-the-line garments and furniture, to artisan products*. I am also hoping that we will be able to have a cultural show in a prestigious Greek theatre where our world famous "Bayanihan" dancers could perform.

For several years now, the Philippine Embassy organises a day-long 'fiesta' for the Filipino community as a way of celebrating our Independence Day. I am planning to expand this 'fiesta' next year into an exhibit of Filipino products and culture and a Filipino food festival for the Greek community.

GDL: HAVING BEEN HERE FOR A YEAR NOW, HOW DO YOU FEEL LIVING IN GREECE?

RDT: I have found it quite amazing that two peoples separated by thousands of miles, centuries of history, with different racial stocks, can be very, very similar in the depth of their cultures, souls and spirits. Maybe it's because we have parallel histories: both countries were occupied by a foreign power for four centuries, both peoples have had its periods of extreme suffering, both have had dictatorships to deal with.

If there's any country in Europe Filipinos would feel most at home, in terms of the host country's people and culture, it would be Greece. And if there's any country in Asia Greeks would feel most at home, it is the Philippines.

INTERVIEW BY KOSTAS PAPAPANAYIOTOU
JOURNALIST AND CORRESPONDENT

K APHILCA *(Continued from page 1)*

viewers were treated to a two-hour showcase of Philippine culture and tradition. Tinig *ng Kabataan*, the school's chorale group, sang *Katakataka* and *Kalesa*. Selected students danced the *Tinikling*, *Binuyugan* and *Cariñosa*. On the set, a table was laden with native Filipino dishes such as *kare-kare*, *adobo*, *sinigang*, *pinakbet*, *pansit bihon*, *palabok*, *puto*, *kutsinta*, and cassava cake, and Philippine crops such as *gabi* (taro), *kamoteng kahoy* (cassava), *sampalok* (tamarind), and papaya.

A panel of guests led by Kaphilca Director Roberto Fresnido was interviewed by Ms. Stefanidou. An



Host Tatiana Stefanidou gets a crash course on Filipino folk dance and cuisine. (Video grabs from ANTI)

interesting portion of the program was the discussion on the *alibata* or *baybayin*, the pre-Hispanic Philippine writing system. Ms. Stefanidou asked some of the Kaphilca pre-school students to read along with her.

Video clips of the school's daily and extra-curricular activities as well as the different tourist spots in the Philippines were also shown during the program.

Kaphilca formally opened on 08 September 1997 as a consequence of the Cultural Agreement signed

between the Philippines and Greece during the State Visit to Greece of former President Fidel V. Ramos on 22-24 June 1997. It operates under the aegis of the Philippine Embassy in Athens, Greece and supervised by the Commission of Filipino Overseas under the Office of President. ■



From top: Kaphilca students reciting the 'Panunumpa sa Watawat' during the flag ceremony; Tatiana Stefanidou talks to the students. (Video grabs from ANTI)



Kaphilca students entertain the studio audience and televiewers with a medley of Filipino songs and the popular Filipino folkdance, *Tinikling*. (Video grabs from ANTI)

Filipino Graduates with Distinction from Swiss Culinary School in Athens

A Filipino graduated on 03 December 2007 with distinction from one of the prestigious hotel and tourism management schools in



Greece in nice ceremony held at The Westin Hotel in the Astir Palace Complex in Vouliagmeni.

The 19-year-old John Levi Reaño from Tanauan City, Batangas, completed a two-year diploma course on culinary arts at the Alpine Center, the Swiss Business School for Hotel and Tourism Management Education in Greece. He also received the Nestle Food Services Award for Academic and Professional Excellence.

John, who specializes in Mediterranean and gourmet cuisine, is presently a chef at Kona Kai Polynesian Restaurant in Ledra Athens Marriot Hotel.

Congratulations, John!

Philippine Embassy Conducts Consular Missions to Nicosia, Cyprus and Crete, Greece

Philippine Embassy officials conducted Consular Missions to Nicosia, Cyprus on 20-21 October 2007, and Crete, Greece on 17-18 November 2007.

The Philippine Embassy consular team included representatives from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), who provided free medical services to its members, and Pag-IBIG, who conducted a seminar on the Pag-IBIG Overseas Program (POP) and distributed POP IDs and passbook.

The consular team issued a combined total of 109 passports and provided several notarial services and consultations to the Filipinos who flocked to the St. Joseph Migrant Convent (Nicosia) and St. John the Baptist Parish Hall (Crete).

Consular missions to distant islands in Greece and to Cyprus form part of the Philippine Embassy's Mobile Outreach Program to render necessary services in



The Philippine Embassy's consular and labor and welfare officials with the Filipino Community in Chania, Irakleio, Crete.

areas outside Athens with a sizeable number of OFWs. ■

PhilippiNews
is published quarterly by the Embassy of the Philippines in Athens, Greece.

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Reprinted from:



Part I: On this page headline

“Philippine Ambassador to Greece, Mr. Rigoberto D. Tiglao, Talks to Eleftheri Ora Tis Kiriakis”

Part II: Opposite page headline

“Now, a Closer Athens and Manila”

Ambassador Tiglao
Continued from page 1)

Ambassador Tiglao is optimistic that these media features would raise the image of the Philippines and the Filipinos abroad.

Mabuhay ang mga Pilipino sa Gresya!



Ambassador Bobi Tiglao, Minister Constancio Vinogno Jr. (extreme left) and Fr. Bien after the Misa ng Bayan last November.

Fr. Bienvenido Dulfo Celebrates His Last Misa ng Bayan in Athens

Fr. Bienvenido M. Dulfo Jr., CM, celebrated his last Misa ng Bayan at the Saint Denis Cathedral in Athens last 11 November 2007, which the Philippine Embassy sponsored.

Fr. Bien, as he is popularly known, served in Thessaloniki for ten years. Since 2001, he has been celebrating the Misa ng Bayan at the Saint Denis Cathedral every second Sunday of the month.

In his last Misa ng Bayan, Fr. Bien thanked the Filipinos in Greece for making his stay in the country a memorable one. He also thanked the Philippine Embassy for its full support to the Church and its commitment to the protection and promotion of the welfare of Filipinos in Greece.

Thank you, Fr. Bien!



ΜΙΑ ΑΠΟΚΛΕΙΣΤΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΕΝΤΕΥΞΗ ΓΙΑ ΤΟ ΠΟΣΟ ΚΟΝΤΑ ΒΡΙΣΚΟΝΤΑΙ ΣΗΜΕΡΑ Η ΑΘΗΝΑ ΚΑΙ Η ΜΑΝΙΛΑ ΚΑΙ ΠΩΣ ΣΥΝΕΡΓΑΖΟΝΤΑΙ

Ο ΠΡΕΣΒΗΣ ΤΩΝ ΦΙΛΙΠΠΙΝΩΝ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΛΛΑΔΑ, Κ. RIGOBERTO D. TIGLAO, ΜΙΛΑΕΙ ΣΤΗΝ «Ε.Ω.Κ.»

«Η ΝΕΟΔΡΩΘΕΙΑ ΠΡΕΣΒΕΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ ΣΤΗΝ ΜΑΝΙΛΑ ΣΥΝΔΕΙ ΑΜΕΣΑ ΤΗ ΜΑΚΡΙΝΗ ΑΣΙΑΤΙΚΗ ΧΩΡΑ ΜΕ ΤΗ ΔΙΚΗ ΜΑΣ, ΑΝΟΙΓΟΝΤΑΣ ΝΕΟΥΣ ΟΡΙΖΟΝΤΕΣ ΣΥΝΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ ΣΤΟΥΣ ΤΟΜΕΙΣ ΤΗΣ ΝΑΥΤΙΑΜΑΣ, ΤΟΥ ΕΜΠΟΡΙΟΥ, ΤΩΝ ΕΠΕΝΔΥΣΕΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΤΟΥ ΤΟΥΡΙΣΜΟΥ.»



Ο Αμερικανός και φιλοφίλιππινος αρμόδιος για Αθήνες και Θεσσαλονίκη, Αμερικανός Κ. Τίγλαο, με τον οποίο συζητά ο δημοσιογράφος στην αθήνηνη πρωτοκυρία της Ε.Ω.Κ. για την κατάσταση της Ελλάδας και της Φιλιππίνων.



Κ. Αμερικανός με τον οποίο συζητά ο δημοσιογράφος στην αθήνηνη πρωτοκυρία της Ε.Ω.Κ. για την κατάσταση της Ελλάδας και της Φιλιππίνων, ο Αμερικανός Κ. Τίγλαο, με τον οποίο συζητά ο δημοσιογράφος στην αθήνηνη πρωτοκυρία της Ε.Ω.Κ. για την κατάσταση της Ελλάδας και της Φιλιππίνων.

Η ΑΠΟΚΛΕΙΣΤΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΕΝΤΕΥΞΗ με τον αρμόδιο για Αθήνες και Θεσσαλονίκη Αμερικανό Κ. Τίγλαο, με τον οποίο συζητά ο δημοσιογράφος στην αθήνηνη πρωτοκυρία της Ε.Ω.Κ. για την κατάσταση της Ελλάδας και της Φιλιππίνων, είναι η πρώτη που γίνεται στην Ελλάδα μετά την επίσκεψή του στην Αθήνηνη πρωτοκυρία της Ε.Ω.Κ. τον περασμένο Σεπτέμβριο. Ο Αμερικανός πρέσβης στην Αθήνηνη πρωτοκυρία της Ε.Ω.Κ. τον περασμένο Σεπτέμβριο, ο Αμερικανός Κ. Τίγλαο, με τον οποίο συζητά ο δημοσιογράφος στην αθήνηνη πρωτοκυρία της Ε.Ω.Κ. για την κατάσταση της Ελλάδας και της Φιλιππίνων.

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LABOR PAGE

Philippine Overseas Labor Office
Filipino Workers Resource Center (FWRC)
63-A Katechaki Street, Neo Psychico, Athens
Tels.: (210)6983335, (210)6982871, (210)6728256



ATTY. GEORGE A. EDUVALA
Labor Attaché (Greece)



ATTY. JAIME P. GIMENEZ
Labor Attaché (Cyprus)



JOCELYN O. HAPAL
Welfare Officer



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).

FORUM TUNGKOL SA PERMITS, IDINAOS SA FWRC

Isang forum ang isinagawa ng Philippine Embassy—Labor Office para sa mga Pilipino nuong 25 Nobyembre kung saan pinag-usapan ang mga batas ng Gresya at mga problema ng mga Pilipino tungkol sa immigration at iba't-ibang uri ng permit.

Si Ginoong Ioannis Tsoutis, may-ari ng IERS/RCBC Telemoney Remit at ng isang legal consultancy office, at si Atty. Christos Thanasouloupoulos ay inimitahan upang magpaliwanag sa halos 80 Pilipino na dumating sa Philippine Embassy—Filipino Workers Resource Center (FWRC) sa Katechaki.

Karamihan sa mga



Si Atty. Christos Thanasouloupoulos habang nagpaliwanag tungkol sa pagkuha ng sari-saring permits sa Greece sa forum na ginanap sa FWRC.

problemang isinangguni ay tungkol sa mga Law 89 at student permits, at mga dating may hawak ng tourist visa at transit visa ng mga seamen. Ayon sa abogado, ang mga ganitong klaseng permits ay mahihirapan kung hindi man hindi pinapayagan ng Greek government na mapalitan ng work permit habang ang Pilipino ay narito sa Gresya.

Ipinaliwanag din ang legal na paraan ng pagpunta sa Gresya upang mapag-ingat ang mga Pilipino sa mga illegal recruiters.

Ang lahat ay inaanyayahan para sa susunod na forum tungkol sa mga benepisyo ng IKA. Maaaring tumawag sa Labor Office para sa detalye o kaya'y kung maynais isangguni tungkol sa mga permits at pagtatrabaho sa Gresya. ■

LABOR ADVISORY

Obligasyon ng OFWs ng Pagbibigay Impormasyon

Ayon sa Artikulo 73 (2) ng Law 3386/2005 (Entry, residence and social integration of third-country nationals in the Hellenic Territory), ang mga third-country nationals, kasama na ang mga Pilipino, na naninirahan sa Gresya ay may obligasyong ipalam sa Immigration Office, sa loob ng isang buwan, ang mga sumusunod na impormasyon:

1. paglipat ng tirahan;
2. pagbabago ng personal na impormasyon gaya ng nationality at ng pagpapakasal o pagkawalang-bisa ng kasal;
3. pagkawala o pagbabago ng pasaporte at iba pang travel documents;
4. pagkawala ng residence permit; at
5. paglipat ng employer o pagpalit ng uri ng trabaho.

MGA PAALALA

Maaari ng ibalik at ipagpalit sa katumbas na halaga ang mga Pag-IBIG housing bonds. Magsadya lamang kay Pag-IBIG Representative Jean Santos at magdala ng 3 valid IDs with picture.

Ang OWWA Training Program—1st Quarter 2008 batch ay magsisimula sa Enero 13. Para sa mga detalye, tumawag sa (210)-6983265 o mag-text sa OWWA hotline 693-4397167.

**Maligayang Pasko at
Mapayapang Bagong Taon
sa ating mga kababayan
sa Gresya at Cyprus!**

—Philippine Overseas Labor Office
Athens, Greece