



TWO BIG INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENTS IN ATHENS

The Philippine Embassy marked the 110th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine independence with two major, well-attended events in Athens: a Diplomatic Reception for the *corps diplomatique* at prestigious Athenaeum Intercontinental and, a few days, later on 15 June 2008 a *fiesta*-type celebration with the Filipino community at the Fokianos basketball court at Zappeio.

At the Diplomatic Reception hosted by Ambassador Rigoberto D. Tiglao and Mrs. Getsy Tiglao, prominent members of Greek officialdom led by Foreign Minister Dora Bakoyanni's personal representative Ambassador Aristides Agathocles, Secretary General at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representatives of the various chambers of commerce in Greece and shipping industry attended the reception. The

Greek ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Georges-Chrysostomos Nicolaidis with his wife Alcmene also attended the reception.

The Embassy also invited the officers and leaders of the Filipino community in Greece.

The guests were given a treat of Filipino cuisine and beverage which were very much liked and appreciated by the embassy's foreign visitors.

The delighted guests partook of the sumptuous feast of native Filipino dishes such as *adobo*, *lumpiang shanghai* (spring rolls), *escabeche*, *buchi*, and *siopao*.

Filipino music played throughout the night and a video presentation on

(Continued on page 6)



Ambassador Rigoberto Tiglao and Mrs. Getsy Tiglao welcome Greek Foreign Ministry Secretary General Aristides Agathocles at the Philippine National Day Reception held on June 12 at the prestigious Athenaeum Intercontinental.

Machine Readable Passport (MRP) - Ipinatupad na!

Simula 10 June 2008, ipinatupad na ng Embahada ang Machine Readable Passport (MRP) system para sa mga Pilipinong manggagawa at naninirahan sa Greece at Cyprus.

Ang pagpapatupad ng Machine Readable Passport ay naayon sa itinakda ng International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), isang ahensya sa ilalim ng United Nations (UN), na lahat ng mga bansa ay gumagamit na ng Machine Readable Passport pagdating ng 01 April 2010.

Sa ilalim ng bagong sistema, ang aplikante ay kailangang personal na magsadya sa Embahada para lumagda at maglagay ng *thumbmarks* sa MRP application form. Ang tatlong litrato (*passport-sized*) na ilalalagay ng aplikante

(Continued on page 6)



Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION AND ELECTION TO ALL FILIPINO CITIZENS

All citizens of the Philippines abroad not otherwise disqualified by law, at least eighteen (18) years of age on the day of the election and who wish to vote for President, Vice-President, Senators and Party List Representatives for purposes of the May 10, 2010 National Elections must file applications for registration/certification as overseas absentee voters from December 01, 2008 to August 31, 2009.

The voting period will be from April 10, 2010 until 3:00 p.m. Philippine time of May 10, 2010.

For details, please contact the embassy/consulate nearest your residence or the following websites:

Department of Foreign Affairs:
www.dfa.gov.ph

Commission on Elections:
coav@comelec.gov.ph

Kaphilca Students Join First Athina Festival of Cultures

Students of the Katipunan Philippines Cultural Academy (KAPHILCA) also known as the Philippine School in Greece (PSG) participated in the *First Athina Festival of Cultures* on 28 June 2008 in Athens. The festival was held from 26 to 29 June 2008 at the Pedestrian Zone in Ermou, Athens.

(Continued on page 6)



Hundreds of Filipinos, young and old alike, trooped to the Fokianos gymnasium in Zappeio on June 15 to attend the Philippine independence day celebration organized by the Philippine Embassy and the Filipino community in Greece.

*Diplomatic Reception
Athenaeum Intercontinental
12 June 2008*



Ambassador Rigoberto Tiglao, Mrs. Getsy Tiglao, Deputy Chief of Mission Maria Fe Pangilinan, Minister and Consul General Constancio Vingno Jr., Mrs. Yoko Ramos-Vingno and Labor Attaché George Eduvala



Ambassador Tiglao and Mrs. Getsy Tiglao with (from left) Ministry of Foreign Affairs A10 Director, Ambassador and Mrs. Alexis Christopoulos, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, Ambassador of Armenia and Mrs. Vahram Kazhoyan, Greek Ambassador to Manila Georges-Chrysostomos Nicolaides and his wife, Alcmene, and Ambassador of Thailand Asha Dvitiyananda.



Ambassador Tiglao and Mrs. Getsy Tiglao with (from left) Ambassador of China and Mrs. Lu Linquan, Ambassador of India and Mrs. Dilip Sinha, Ambassador of South Korea and Mrs. Bae Young-han, and Ambassador of Denmark Tom Norring.



Ambassador Tiglao and Mrs. Getsy Tiglao with (from left) Ambassador of Pakistan and Mrs. Iftikhar Hussain Kazami, Ambassador of Kuwait Khaled Al-Duwailah, Ambassador of the Papal Nuncio in Greece, Archbishop Patrick Coveney, and Ambassador of Italy Gianpaolo Scarante.



Ambassador Tiglao and Mrs. Getsy Tiglao with (from left) Ambassador of Ukraine Valeriy Tsybukh, Ambassador of Argentina Jorge Mastropietro, and British Embassy First Secretary (Defense) Colin Britteon and Mrs. Marichu Britteon. Amb. Tiglao with his good friend, Greek businessman Yiorgos Psinakis.



Amb. and Mrs. Tiglao with Dr. Angelo Constantino Fojas, Dr. Helen Marcoyannopoulou-Fojas and Dr. Marcos Fojas.



Ambassador Tiglao flanked on his left by Mrs. Katia Filippou, General Manager of Hellenic Blue Services, and her son, Nikos Filippou and his wife.



Amb. and Mrs. Tiglao with Capt. G. N. Sazaklis, Fleet Personnel Manager of Tsakos Shipping and Trading S.A.



Guests at the diplomatic reception hosted by the Philippine Ambassador at the prestigious Athenaeum Intercontinental enjoy a night of Filipino food, music, and hospitality.



Ambassador Tiglao with Mr. Manos Marcoglou, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Hellenic Canadian Association, Mrs. Marcoglou, and Philippine Honorary Consul in Thessaloniki Nicolaos Margaropoulos.



Amb. and Mrs. Tiglao with Nafsika Drossou, Mrs. Connie Drossou and Juliana Drossou.

Ambassador and Mrs. Tiglao together with the members of the Filipino community in Greece, who through the years, have been very supportive of the Philippine Embassy's initiatives and undertakings.



Philippine Independence Day Celebration

Fokianos National Gymnasium, Zappelo, Athens, June 15



The crowd builds up at the Fokianos basketball court which, for the first time in the many years the event was held, was covered with a huge marquee and two dozen sun-shade umbrellas.



From left: Entrance of the Philippine flag; Ambassador and Mrs. Tiglao lead the singing of the national anthem at the opening of the cultural program.



Ambassador Tiglao reads the message of President Gloria Arroyo .



Emcees Marichu Britteon and Joel Capuz.



Representatives of various religious organizations in Greece lead the invocation.



Mrs. Getsy Tiglao and Mrs. Yoko Ramos-Vingno pose with the winners and participants of the On-the-Spot Drawing contest.



(Clockwise) Amb. Tiglao confers Certificates of Recognition to Outstanding Filipino awardees: Sofia Tampol, Sammy Diego, Ron Jeric Sarmiento and Mary Ann Dela Vega.



Contestants vying for "Best Philippine Costume" show off their colorful traditional costumes.



Members of the *El Shaddai Group* interpret the song, "Handog ng Pilipino sa Mundo," popularized during the 1986 EDSA Revolution.



The *Cordillera Cultural Minority* sang and danced the "Uwawi," a lullaby sung in the Cordillera region.



Representatives of *Servants of Christ* sang a medley of classic Filipino songs.



Kaphilca students entertain the audience with a medley of folk dances.



Shirley Alcaraz, who led the singing of the Philippine National Anthem, belts out *Isang Lahi*.



Mrs. Yoko Ramos-Vingno, Band Committee members and officers of *Purebats*, which donated the prize for the *Battle of the Bands*, award first placer *John and Friends*.



Kids for Christ show their winning form in the Youth Modern Dance Group Contest.



DCM Fe Panglinan awards Regeelyn Balasbas who placed first in the Singing Contest.



Elizabeth Argyris and Jerry Gambol dance their way into first place in the Adult Ballroom Dancing Contest.

Ambassador Rigoberto Tiglao and Mrs. Getsy Tiglao pose with various Filipino Community groups...



Accredited Community Partners (ACPs)



Bagong Kapwa Ko Pilipino sa Athens



Bulacan Migrant Association in Greece



Bicol Saro Organization



CFC FFL



Candon City Ladies Association in Athens



Couples for Christ



Filipino Club Irakleio



Filipino Bowlers Association in Greece



Philippine Guardians Brotherhood, Inc.



Philippine Overseas Society



Philippine School in Greece (KAPHILCA)



Pinoy Tenpin Bowlers in Athens (PTBA)



Servant Communities



Philam Plans



Peace and Order Committee

110th RP Independence

(Continued from page 1)

Philippine culture and economy ran for the duration of the reception. Tourism brochures and other information materials were also given to the guests.

On June 15, the Philippine Embassy in cooperation with Filipino community organizations in Athens, held a whole-day Independence Day celebration for Filipinos in Greece at the Fokianos National Gymnasium in Zappeio near downtown Athens.

For the first time in the many years that this event was held, the venue was covered with a huge marquee and more than two dozen big sunshade-umbrellas in order to shield the participants from the hot near-summer sun. Representatives from Athens News, which is the Philippine Embassy's Communications Sponsor for this event, distributed free newspapers and flyers at the scene.

The day-long event kicked-off with the parade of banners of various Filipino community associations in Athens and

the singing of the Philippine national anthem. Officials of the Philippine Embassy led by Ambassador Tiglao, read the Independence Day messages of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and other Philippine officials. For the first time, the Philippine Embassy honored outstanding Filipino individuals in Greece who have excelled in sports and education.

Contestants vying for "Best in Philippine Costume" showed off their rich and colorful costumes made in the Philippines. Competitions in dancing, singing, and band music were held, as well as many games for children.

The occasion was highlighted by superb cultural performances from students of the Philippine School in Greece (formerly known as KAPHILCA or Katipunan Philippines Cultural Academy) and representatives of various Filipino organizations.

Over 1,000 people participated in this year's Independence Day celebration in Zappeio, the biggest ever attendance in such event so far. ■

MRP (Continued from page 1)

ay kinakailangang *royal blue* ang background.

Ang pagproseso ng MRP ay aabutin ng mahigit 30 araw o isang buwan sa kadahilanang lahat ng passport application na tinanggap ng Embahada ay ipapadala sa Department of Foreign Affairs sa Manila na siyang naatasang mag-issue ng MRPs. Hinggil dito, hinihikayat ng Embahada ang lahat na magrenew ng kanilang pasaporte anim na buwan bago ito mag-expire upang makaiwas sa anumang sagabal na maaring kaharapin. Ang *green passport* ay may saysay pa rin hanggang *date of expiry*.

Ang MRP ay naglalaman ng mga *security features* na hahadlang sa pamemeke ng pasaporte. Ito ay may 44 pahina at nagkakahalaga ng 40 Euros.

Para sa karagdagang impormasyon, maari po kayong magsadya o tumawag sa Consular Section ng Embahada o kaya ay puntahan ang opisyal na website ng Embahada, www.athenspe.net. ■

P A A L A L A

KAPHILCA IN ATHENS FESTIVAL

(Continued from page 1)

The school's dance troupe, trained by Ms. Cristina "Twinkle" Nicdao, a former member of the world-renowned Bayanihan Dance Troupe, delivered a superb performance of a medley of Philippine folk dances: *Pandanggo sa Ilaw*, *Lovers' Dance*, *Flower Dance*, *Binuyugan*, *Maglalatik*, *Binasuan*, *Sayaw sa Bangko*, and *Tinikling*.

The dance presentation was followed by an equally excellent performance by the school's *Kabataang Tinig Choir* who sang *Bayan Ko*, *Awit ng Pangarap*, *Ako ay Pilipino*, and *Mathima Soltes*. In addition to these performances, artworks



Minister and Consul General Constancio Vingno Jr. and Mrs. Yoko Ramos-Vingno with Ms. Yvette Jarvis of the office of Athens Mayor Nikitas Kakkamanis.

of selected Kaphilca students were exhibited in a booth along Pedestrian Zone. Five of these artworks were included among in the festival's brochure.

Minister and Consul General Constancio Vingno Jr. and Mrs. Yoko Vingno-Ramos represented the Philippine Embassy in this event. ■



Selected Kaphilca students performed a medley of Philippine folk dances including the Flower Dance (shown above) at the First Athina Festival of Cultures held on 26-28 June 2008 in Athens.

The Philippine School in Greece (formerly known as KAPHILCA) is located at 64 Pontou St., Ambelokipi, Athens. For inquiries, you may call 210.7480825 and 6934923950.

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 Consular Section of the Philippine Embassy at telephone numbers (210) 6721.837 and 6721.883 locals 112 and 116. Thank you!

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.

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Speech of Consul a.h. Nikolaos Margaropoulos, Philippine Honorary Consul in Thessaloniki, delivered at the 6th Commencement and 11th Closing Exercises of the Philippine School in Greece (formerly known as KAPHILCA) on 21 June 2008 in Athens.

I would like to thank the school's Principal Mr. Roberto Fresnido for his courage to invite me, a lawyer to speak on this special day! Indeed he told me I could speak for as much time as I wanted – a truly brave man!

My dear children,

During a graduation ceremony at a important university in the USA prominent speaker once said that in order to understand where you stand today, where you have arrived, you have to look backwards.

Allow me to tell you, in a few words, why I am here with you today after accepting the exceptional honour offered by your school.

It was back in 1994 when the ambassador of the Philippines to Greece proposed to establish the Philippines' Consulate in Thessaloniki.

The Philippines was a country I had heard about, read about, but still did not know much of. I searched, I learned, and became excited about the prospect of representing a country whose modern history is similar to the Greek one. The Philippines is an important country – not only in size, but also because of its contribution to the economic development of Southeast Asia.

I enthusiastically said yes! In 1996, I officially assumed my duties.

Thirteen years have passed since then. During this time I have come to love the country, but even more important its people. People who work, who create, who respect and honour the history of their country and their nation. Proud, loyal, dedicated, extrovert, good-hearted people with a strong disposition to help their neighbour, open to foreign cultures, willing to sacrifice themselves for their family, able businessmen, employees, sailors, overseas workers.

This is how I am here today before you, like one of you, with love in my heart for the Philippines and its people.

I see you here, in front of me and I

think: How did you arrive here? Some of you were born here; others came with your parents who arrived in Greece in order to work and create better conditions for their families: for you. One of the most important things your parents have offered you, with the help of the Philippine government and the Embassy in Athens, is the possibility to attend the Philippine School in Greece. They have done everything they could to make it possible for you to be educated. And you, with the help of your excellent teachers, have studied hard and have made them proud – you've made it! That is why you are here today: celebrating achievement!

And the road continues. As soon as you complete one stage, another one starts for you. This new road on which you begin to travel today will offer you many opportunities! The older students who have finished school, will now face real life, the life in which you will have to fight to excel, to make a difference in a multicultural, globalised environment, in a world where opportunities exist but are not given away, they are conquered.

I invite you to step forward with pride, faith, perseverance and patience, with your heart full of kindness, offering all you can to your fellow man and become worthy of your parents, your parents' parents, your ancestors, to become one of those many who make the Philippines proud of its children and Greece happy to have offered you its hospitality.

You are children of the world and that is how you should live and how you should raise your own children.

And then when, after many years, each one of you will have achieved something important in life, you will know, looking backwards to your course, how lucky you have been to have studied in this school, to be here today, and this makes this present day, one of the most important ones in your life.

I wish you all a nice and fulfilling life. Congratulations!

Cyprus Corner

Snapshots of the 110th Philippine Independence Celebration in Nicosia



Photos courtesy of Tinig Pinoy's Joy Miranda and Esther Beatty.

LABOR PAGE

FILCOM enlivens POLO housewarming



Ambassador Rigoberto Tiglao, Philippine Embassy personnel, and Filipino community leaders graced the blessing of the new office of Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) last May 16.

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) formally opened its office at 158 Sevastoupoleos St., in Ambelokipi, Athens on 16 May with a simple ceremony. Rev. Father Arturo Fojas led the invocation followed by a blessing of the new office that also houses the POLO Labor Center.

Ambassador Rigoberto Tiglao welcomed the Filipino leaders who graced the occasion. He noted that the POLO Labor Center is one of the few such centers in Europe and stands ready to offer multifarious services to the Filipino workers in the area.

“It is the testament of the Embassy’s deep concern for our fellow workers here among us,” he said. He was introduced by Labor Attache George A. Eduvala, the center manager.

After the ceremony, the Filipino community stayed on for a program and

party that went deep into the night. The celebration was put together by a committee headed by Pag-IBIG coordinator Jean Santos, who was assisted by Carlos Montenegro, Teresa Conde, Eva Garcia, Rudy Mallem, Ising Lozano, Vangie Lemoli, and Petronila Salinas.

In attendance were David Guidangen and Dodong Sabayle who took turns with Father Fojas crooning hit songs across the years, Danny Robles, Tina Peralta, Charita Bataan, Aida Garabiles; Alex Jadormeo, Edan Cala, Edwin Castillo and their wives; Elsa Fouzas, Emy Solis and their hubbies; Edna Cala, Lorry Malamion, and many others.

On hand to exchange pleasantries with the Filcom were Mrs. Getsy Tiglao, Consul General Constancio Vingno and Mrs. Yoko Ramos-Vingno, Marichu Britteon, and the entire staff of the Philippine Embassy. ■



Houses bought by OFWs in Greece via Pag-IBIG



Alicia Joven/ Imus, Cavite
Realty agent: Florentina Peralta



Irenea Borje/ Batangas City



Cecilia Cabatic
Imus, Cavite



Regielita Austria
Lipa, Batangas

Kung nais po ninyong makipag-ugnayan sa POLO at Pag-IBIG, maaring magsadya po sa Filipino Workers Resource Center (FWRC) na matatagpuan sa **158 Sevastoupoleos Street, Ambelokipi, Athens** or tumawag sa mga sumusunod na telepono bilang: (210) 6983335, 6982871, at mag-fax sa (210) 6983265.

Pag-IBIG Officials Visit Athens



Pag-IBIG Fund’s International Operations Group’s Vice President Linda Moreno and Assistant Manager Juanito Jareno visited Greece in June to observe the operational system at post and to install member’s records access through Citrix at internet.