

President Aquino Appoints DFA Secretary



Secretary Albert F. del Rosario

President Benigno S. Aquino III appointed Hon. Albert F. Del Rosario as Secretary of Foreign Affairs on 26 March 2011.

The Honorable Albert F. del Rosario was born in Manila on November 14, 1939 and has worked for both the private sector and government. He attended Xavier High School in New York City and subsequently graduated from New York University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics.

The Secretary's business career spanned a vast field which included insurance, banking, real estate, ship-

(Continued on page 3)

ATHENS PE Evacuates Filipinos from Libya through Greece

Athens PE played a key role in the evacuation of Filipinos from war torn Libya to the Greek Island of Crete. Benghazi is about 500 kilometers south of Crete Island.

Athens PE immediately dispatched an advance team (Ms. Lina Catbagan of Athens PE and Mr. Christopher Prado of POLO-Greece) to Crete on 26 February 2011 to help HonCon Fasoulakis in the preparation for the arrival of the evacuees. The DFA-DOLE augmentation team led by Philippine Ambassador to Syria Wilfredo R. Cuyugan together with CDA Constancio R. Vingno, Jr. and WelOff Venus Bravo arrived at Crete on 01 March 2011.

The team based in Athens led by Consul Charmaine Rowena Aviquivil and assisted by embassy personnel was de-



PH Team Crete led by Amb. Cuyugan and CDA Vingno, Jr. during a meeting with the local authorities in Crete.



CDA Constancio R. Vingno, Jr. together with some Filipino evacuees from Benghazi, Libya disembarking from the Ionian Queen in Crete.

ployed to the Venizelos International Airport in Athens to meet and assist Filipinos who were repatriated through commercial flights in several batches. The embassy provided them with food, water, and travel documents and other pertinent papers.

The rest of the embassy staff who remained at the Chancery (Mrs. Joanne David, Ms. Cielo Gamayon and Mrs. Eleni Laios) all assisted to ensure that operations proceeded smoothly.

The Embassy arranged and contracted vessel M/V Ionian Queen to pick up OFWs previously estimated at 1,200 from Benghazi to Crete. Athens PE put two of its personnel (Mr. Nestor Magallones and Mr. Juanito Salayog) on-board to assist the OFWs. The first trip (Patras-Benghazi-Crete) picked up a total of 665 Filipino evacuees. M/V Ionian Queen undertook a second trip (Crete-Tripoli-Crete) and returned with 1,038 Filipino evacuees. All Filipino evacuees who were evacuated through M/V Ionian Queen. were provided with land transportation from the Heraklion port to the hotel where they stayed for number of days and were provided with food and accommodations.

The Philippines chartered three flights (two Philippine Airlines flights and a Pullman flight) to repatriate the remaining 1,206 evacuees from Crete directly to Manila.

Athens PE also assisted Filipino employees of Dutch company BAM International and one other OFW from VAOS LTD) who were ferried to Pireaus, Greece

(Continued on page 5)

Athens PE celebrates 25th EDSA People's Power Anniversary



The Philippine Embassy at Athens commemorated the 25th EDSA People Power Anniversary held last 25 February 2011 at the premises of the embassy.

CDA Constancio R. Vingno, Jr. led the embassy officers and staff in a flag raising ceremony. After the ceremony, CDA Vingno, Jr. read the President's message on the commemoration of the 25th anni-

versary of the People Power Revolution of 1986. This was followed by a film showing entitled "EDSA: The World Remembers".

The event was attended by leaders of the Filipino community and students of the PSG-KAPHILCA.

(Please see message of H.E. President Benigno S. Aquino III on page 3.)

SPECIAL FEATURE

The following article was featured in the February 2010 issue of "Buhay OFW Magazine."

Problems are a part of life. We all have our own share of problems in this world, which come in so many different ways in one lifetime. Having problems is one thing but dealing with them is another. How we face our problems and deal with troubles that befall our way is what makes us different from one another. How we face and deal with challenges define our character. They could make us strong or break us. Some people adopt unique ways of dealing with problems and challenges: keeping themselves busy with a hobby or shifting their focus to other positive undertakings like linking with support groups who are either relatives or friends and busying themselves in projects of community organizations. Some others would wallow in self-pity and desperation or simply give up on life. While others pray on bended knees to seek help from the divine providence.

Emelita Solis, a mother of one, is one such survivor of adversity in life who now finds peace and solace as an active member of the Christ Our Messiah Fellowship International (COMFI) in Athens as her way of moving on after her turbulent past.

Emy is a single mother whose try at a relationship early on was not to last. Her dream was a simple one: to live a peaceful and harmonious life as fate would have it.

Emy thought not much of herself but that of her only child whose future now depended entirely on her. As a single mom, money was hard to come by and whatever little money she had was certainly not enough to raise and support a growing child. She had only one goal that she was so sure about and that was to ensure for a son a bright and decent future bereft of the uncertainties and hardships that she herself had experienced. She wanted for her son to live a worthy and meaningful life. And the only thing she knew how to achieve this goal was to leave the country and work abroad.

In 1992, opportunity presented itself.

By: Major Yoko Ramos-Vingno

Through a friend, she was given a referral to work in Athens, Greece which she grabbed with alacrity. Leaving her son behind with great sadness she left for Greece and upon arrival there immediately found a job doing household work with her first employer which she left after only a year to look for something that would suit her abilities. Fortune smiled on her when she landed a job in the Austrian Ambassador's residence as a cook.

As a child, cooking was something Emy was interested in and loved to do. She learned the basics of cooking from her mother, who when she was small operated a canteen in their hometown in Laguna. She vividly remembers her mother cutting onions and tomatoes and mixes them with all sorts of meat and fishes and throws them into a frying pan and the hissing sound created when they landed in the pan to join the heated cooking oil.

With those pleasant memories with her mother, she brought her prowess and immediately became the ambassador's favorite. The Austrian Ambassador liked Emy's cooking and was highly relied upon by the ambassador in every event of the Embassy, from 1993 to 2007 – whisking all her cooking wonders in the kitchen for fourteen years.



Joey, the only son of Ms. Emy.

In High Spirits



Ms. Emy Solis

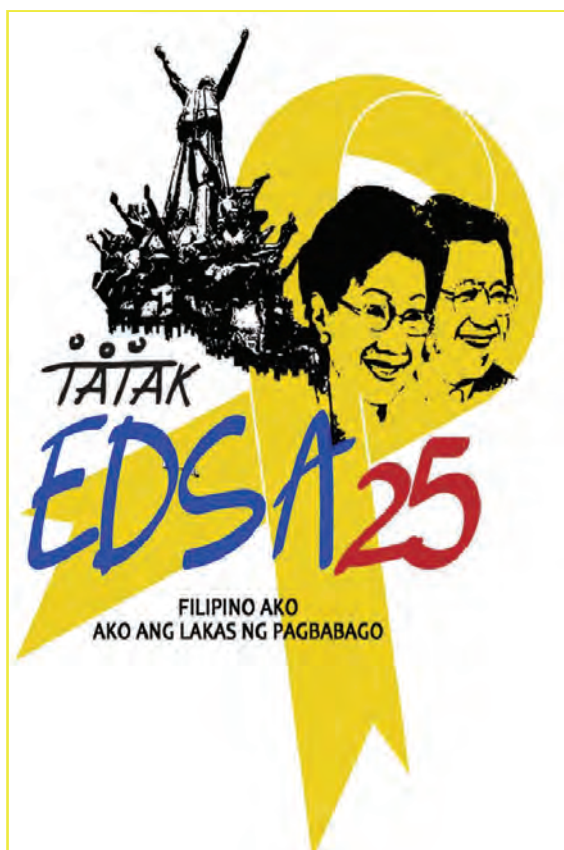
In 2002, Emy was reunited with her son. This made her very happy. To make up for the lost years that they were separated, mother and son did not waste time to build a new life as a family. Athens was now their new home. And now Emy is a grandmother to a cute and adorable baby girl. Joey, Emy's son, is now building a family of his own.

Though Emy has no plans of returning home to the Philippines, she bought a small house in Laguna that she considers her investment and a place to live when she retires and returns to the Philippines. The income she gets from the rent of the house goes to her savings account for the rainy days.

Emy's secret weapon for coping with the vicissitudes of life is her prayers. She prays hard and had always believed that her prayers will always be answered. She never doubted the power of prayers and her unwavering faith in God kept her strong. Now that her family is stable, Emy is in high spirits. ■

Major Yoko Ramos-Vingno, wife of Athens PE CDA and Consul General Constancio Vingno Jr., is a reserve officer of the Philippine Army. She is a free lance writer.

MESSAGE OF HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT BENIGNO S. AQUINO, III ON THE OCCASION OF THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF EDSA PEOPLE POWER



My warmest greetings to all the Filipinos around the world, as we commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the People Power Revolution.

We Filipinos continue to demonstrate the same ideals of unity and patriotism that freed us from oppression 25 years ago. These values embody our determination to tackle the challenges of today. Thus, this celebration is not only a day to remember, but also a day to affirm our duty to our fellow Filipinos and to our country. I am grateful for our countrymen abroad who have been keenly following the course of our country's progress and have remained proud of our multifaceted heritage, which defines our identity as one people. Now that we are in a period of transformation, let us keep alive the spirit of People Power and democracy, as we work together and fulfill our aspiration of a peaceful and progressive Philippines.

We are moving forward in this area of daylight and hope, and it is incumbent upon each of us to take on the responsibility of realizing our dreams for our beloved country on the straight and righteous path to change.

(Continued from page 1)... Pres. Aquino Appoints

ping, telecommunications, consumer products, retail, pharmaceutical, and food industries, among others. He was a member of the Board of Directors of various firms prior to entering public service and held the position of Philippine Ambassador to the United States in Washington D.C.

The Secretary's experience in the private sector included positions as chair of Phil. Stratbase Consultancy, Inc., Makati Foundation for Education and as president of Gotuaco, del Rosario Insurance Brokers, Inc., Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corporation (PTIC) and as a director in various companies and non-profit organizations, including the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company (PLDT), BusinessWorld Publishing Corporation, First Pacific Company (Hong Kong), PT Indofood Sukses Makmur Tbk (Indonesia), Metro Pacific Investments Corporation (MPIC), Philex Mining Corporation, Metro Pacific Tollways Corporation (MPTC), Metro Pacific Tollways Development Corporation (MPTDC), Manila North

Tollways Corporation (MNTC), ABC Development Corporation (ABC 5), Asia Insurance (Philippines) Corporation, Philippine Cancer Society, Cultural Center of the Philippines Foundation, Incorporated (CCPFI), Trustee of PinoyME Foundation, Inc., member of the Asia Society's International Council and of the Board of Governors of International Graduate University (Washington, DC). In addition, the Ambassador headed the development of Pacific Plaza Towers, Metro Pacific Corporation's signature project at Fort Bonifacio, Global City.

As Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States, he was instrumental in securing US\$1.2 Billion U.S. funding assistance for the Philippines, bilateral cooperation in counterterrorism and peace and development in Mindanao, investments in the country's Business Process Outsourcing industry, and greater access for Philippine exports. His enduring legacy which continues to benefit the Philippines includes the formation of the Philippine Friendship Caucus Committee of 80 members of the US House of Representatives, retaining the Philippines in the list of approved invest-

ment locations in the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS), development of the Reform Program for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, and pioneering the Ambassadors/Consuls General Tour of the Philippines, and Bayan Ko-Bahay Ko Program.

In September of 2004, Ambassador del Rosario was conferred the highest possible award, the Order of Sikatuna, Rank of Datu by H.E. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for his outstanding efforts in promoting foreign relations. He also received the Philippine Army Award from President Aquino for his initiatives as Chairman of the Makati Foundation for Education in 1991. In early 2001, he received the EDSA II Heroes Award from President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in recognition of his efforts in promoting Philippine democracy. He was recently elevated to the Xavier Hall of Fame in New York City.

Ambassador del Rosario is married to Gretchen de Venecia. They have five children and six grandchildren. ■

Source: DFA

COMMUNITY NEWS

We welcome Pinoy news!

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



Athens PE Regular Filcom-Consular Meeting. CDA Vingno, Jr responding to queries raised by some Filcom members during the February regular meeting with the Filcom. The embassy holds meetings with the Filcom every second Saturday of the month.



Pinoy Tenpin Bowlers Athens 4th Anniversary Celebration. CDA and Madame Vingno, together with WelOff Bravo attended the 4th Anniversary and awarding ceremony of PTBA which was held on 19 February 2011 at the Stratos Vasilikos Hotel.



Purebats' Feast of S. Joseph. Athens PE's Consul Aviquivil and Mrs. David attended the Purebats celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph which was held on 19 March 2011 at Mabuhay Club in Pagrati.



KASAPI-HELLAS Basketball Tournament 2010-2011. CDA Vingno Jr attended the elimination round of the KASAPI-HELLAS Basketball Tournament 2010-2011 held last 03 April 2011.



MISA NG BAYAN. The officers and staff of the Philippine Embassy led by Consul Aviquivil sponsored and attended the Misa ng Bayan for the Lenten Celebration. The Holy Mass was held on Holy Tuesday, 19 April 2011 at the Miraculous Medal Center in Patision. The Mass was celebrated by Rev Fr. Rex Fortes and assisted by Sr. Emma Rivero.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Philippine Embassy is pleased to inform the public that the celebration of the 113th Independence Day Celebration with the Filipino Community will be held on Sunday, 19 June 2011 at the Philippine Embassy grounds.
- Starting on May 2011, the Consular Section will be open to the public during the following hours: Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. only.
- There will be no voluntary Consular Services on second Sunday of June 2011 in commemoration of the Philippine Independence Day.
- Please be informed that the new Official Website of the Philippine Embassy in Athens, Greece is: www.philembathens.gr and official email address is: philippineembassy@philembathens.gr

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Minister and Consul General Constancio R. Vingno Jr.
Adviser

First Secretary and Consul Charmaine Rowena C. Aviquivil
Editor-in-Chief

Joanne M. David
Managing Editor

Cielo L. Gamayon
Editorial Staff

Byron Villanueva
Photographer

Address: 26 Antheon St., Paleo Psychico 15452
Athens, GREECE

Tel. Nos.: +30 210 6721837 or 883 /2106722 011

Fax No.: +30 210 6721 872

Email: philippineembassy@philembathens.gr

Website: www.philembathens.gr

(Continued from page 1)... Athens PE Evacuates

from Benghazi onboard the vessel Nissos Rodos. The company arranged the onward flights to Manila of its employees. OWWA provided the Athens-Manila air ticket of the VAOS employee and the embassy issued a travel document for him.

The embassy and team Crete assisted the Daewoo Filipino employees and other non-Daewoo-employed Filipinos evacuated through three company-chartered vessels: M/V Nissos Rodos, M/V Ionina King and M/V Ionian Spirit in Chania, Crete. A group from Team Crete was sent to Chania to assist in their arrival. All of them were assisted by the Athens PE team at the Athens Airport.

The Athens PE team at the Athens airport also assisted two batches of OFWs evacuated via Rome and Malta. Altogether, Athens PE and Team Crete assisted total of 2,100 Filipino evacuees from Libya.

Some photos taken during the evacua-



Amb. Wilfredo Cuyugan together with CDA Vingno, Jr. and Hon Con Fasoulakis Team Crete during a meeting with the evacuees.



The Philippine Crete Team together with Hon-Con Alexandros Fasoulakis of Crete.



WelOff Mamerto Mercado processing the documents of the Filipino evacuees from Benghazi, Libya.



Initial meeting of the Philippine Embassy Crisis Management Team with the representatives of the Dutch company Royal BAM Group concerning the evacuation of their Filipino employees from Benghazi, Libya to Piraeus, Greece.



WelOff Venus Bravo together with Filipino evacuees of the Royal BAM Group



At the Athens Venizelos International Airport, Athens PE representatives met and assisted Filipinos evacuated from Benghazi, Libya through the island of Crete.



Philippine embassy representatives assist the Filipino evacuees from Libya at the Athens International Airport.



Athens PE assists the last two Filipino evacuees from Tripoli, Libya. OFW Benjamin Bonus (center) was confined at the Venezelios Pananeo Hospital in Crete.

The Philippine Embassy bids farewell to ...



Deputy Chief of Mission Maria Fe T. Pangilinan has been cross-posted from the

Philippine Embassy Athens, Greece to Bucharest, Romania to assume her post as the Chargé d'Affaires.

A veteran diplomat, DCM Pangilinan entered the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1980. She has been assigned in different offices at the Department.

She had been previously posted at the Philippine Embassies in Bonn, Germany; Berne Switzerland; Prague, Czech Republic; Stockholm, Sweden and Philippine Consulate General in Barcelona, Spain. She was cross-posted to Athens, Greece on 29 February 2008.

DCM Pangilinan received her degree in Bachelor of Laws at the University of the Philippines, and master of Laws at the University of Stockholm.

Born in Caloocan City, DCM Pangilinan has two children. ■

...and welcomes ...



First Secretary and Consul Charmaine Rowena C. Aviquivil arrived in Athens on 21 February 2011.

Consul Aviquivil has worked for over 20 years in public service, initially joining government as a Media Production Specialist and as Information Officer at the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

She passed the Foreign Service Officers (FSO) Examination in 1997. She has been assigned at the Philippine Embassy in Cairo, Egypt from 2005-2008 and at the Philippine Consulate General in Agana, Guam from 2002-2005.

Prior to her posting in Athens, she served in the Department of Foreign Affairs as a Director of the Africa Division of the Office Middle East and African Affairs from 2008-2011. From 1998-2002, she served as Principal Assistant at the Public Information Service Unit and in the Office of the United Nations and other Organizations in 1998.

Consul Aviquivil graduated cum laude from the University of the Philippines with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. She also earned a Master in Philippine Studies degree from the same university in 2001. ■

CONSULAR UPDATES

DFA APPEALS FOR UNDERSTANDING DUE TO DELAY IN PASSPORT RELEASES

The Department of Foreign Affairs appealed for the understanding of the travelling public, particularly those in the provinces, as it announced that the delay in passport releases could last for few more weeks as a result of technical concerns and the surge in the demand for the e-Passport.

"We apologize for the inconvenience caused by the delays, especially to our overseas Filipino workers, but we would like to assure the public that we are exerting our best efforts to resolve the issue as soon as possible," Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Jaime Victor Ledda of the Office of the Consular Affairs said.

The DFA will work hard to ensure that those with urgent travel, es-

pecially overseas workers, are accommodated," Assistant Secretary Jaime Victor Ledda said. "We would like to request those without immediate travel plans to defer their applications until the situation has normalized."

Asec Ledda also said that those with expiring passports who cannot forego their travel may opt to apply for an extension of validity of their existing passports instead of applying for renewal.

Asec Ledda said the delay in passport releases is primarily the result of maintenance work and upgrades on equipment in the E-passport Personalization Center at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) facility in Quezon City. This, he said, also coincide with the sea-

sonal increase in passport applications as Filipinos start making preparations to travel abroad this summer.

Asec Ledda said the DFA has been working closely with the BSP to resolve the issue and that it is confident that it would be able to reduce the waiting period in the coming weeks.

At present, applicants would have to wait an additional 10 working days before their passports could be released.

The delays which started in February, have affected primarily applicants in the 19 regional Consular Offices nationwide and Foreign Service posts abroad.

Source: DFA

ATHENS PE Conducts Consular Outreach for E-Passport in Cyprus and Thessaloniki

CYPRUS, 29-10 January

The Embassy conducted a consular outreach mission to Nicosia, Cyprus on 29-30 January 2011. The five-member consular team led by Mr. Hermogenes Garcia and which included Pag-IBIG, rendered consular services at the office of Mrs. Shemaine Kyriakides-Bushnell, Honorary Consul of the Philippines to Cyprus. They were also assisted by some members of the Overseas Filipino Volunteer Cyprus (OFVC). The team catered to 268 E-passport applicants, 162 applicants for passport extension and other consular services.



Passport Applicants queuing for the renewal of their passports during the first mobile consular outreach in Nicosia, Cyprus on 29-30 January 2011.



HonCon Bushnell distributing passport application forms to applicants during the consular outreach mission in Nicosia, Cyprus.

CYPRUS, 9-10 April

On 9-10 April 2011, another consular outreach mission was conducted in Nicosia, Cyprus. The six-member consular team led by First Secretary and Consul Charmaine Aviquivil with Pag-IBIG representative, rendered consular services at the Office of HonCon Bushnell. The team was also assisted by some members of the OFVC. The team processed 151 e-passports, 23 passports extensions and rendered other consular services.



Capturing of e-passport applicants' biometric data during the consular outreach mission in Cyprus.



Consul Aviquivil, HonCon Bushnell, WelOff Tobia together with the Athens PE team and Filcom volunteers during the consular outreach mission in Nicosia, Cyprus on 9-10 April 2011.

Thessaloniki, Greece 17 April

On 17 April 2011, the Embassy held another consular outreach mission, this time in Thessaloniki, Greece. The six-member consular team, which was led by Consul Aviquivil and which included Pag-IBIG and OWWA representatives, rendered consular services at the office of Atty. Nikolaos K. Margaropoulos, Honorary Consul of the Philippines to Thessaloniki. They were heartily welcomed by the Filipino community in Thessaloniki who were looking forward to applying for e-passports for the very first time.

The team was assisted by Filcom Leader Violeta Magnaye and members of the Filipino Organization in Northern Greece.

The team processed a total of 52 e-passport applications and attended to other various consular matters such as passport amendments and dual citizenship matters.



An e-passport applicant affixes his thumbprint digitally.



Athens PE team with Atty. Nikolaos K. Margaropoulos, Honorary Consul to Thessaloniki, during the consular outreach program on 17 April 2011.

CYPRUS CORNER**MIGRANT WOMEN IN CYPRUS CELEBRATE WOMEN'S MONTH WITH OFW RIGHTS FORA**

PH Hon Consul Shemaine B. Kyriakides answers queries at the Migrant Women's Forum



OFW Business Club officers serve as reintroduction program advocates



The 3rd Batch - Business Counseling Limassol



4th Batch Basic Caregiver class in Limassol



Women's Migrant Forum in Limassol with Welof Tobia & Atty .Charalabidou.

In celebration of the Women's Month in March, the Filipino Community in Nicosia & Limassol held a series of Migrant Women's Forum with PHC Shemaine Kyriakides, Atty. Nicoletta Charalambidou, a known Human Rights lawyer and POLO OIC Josephine Tobia as resource speakers.

The Philippine Honorary Consulate thru its Philippine Overseas Labor Office and in cooperation with the Association of Filipino Overseas Contract Workers (FOCWA) organized the events.

The forum focused on the rights of migrant workers, residence rights in Cyprus and the recent ILO report on the proposed Convention/recommendation on decent work for domestic workers, where the international standards for domestic workers which is underway were also tackled.

Other activities are the regular skills upgrading courses (Basic Caregiver Course) and reintroduction preparedness program (Business Counseling & Financial Literacy) for the OFWS in Cyprus which resumed in January 2011. ■

Philippine Embassy, Athens

Tel. Nos.: (210) 6721.837/ 6721.883
Fax No.: (210) 6721.872



CONSTANCIO R. VINGNO JR.
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.
Minister and Consul General



CHARMAINE ROWENA C. AVIQUIVIL
First Secretary and Consul



HERMOGENES P. GARCIA
Administrative Officer
Ext # 102



CYNTHIA A. ACABA
Finance Officer
Ext # 103



NESTOR C. MAGALLONES
Communications/Records/
Property/ Protocol Officer
Ext # 111



MARIA CLORINDA BONABON-DANKERS
Consular Assistant -ATN
Ext # 113



JOANNE M. DAVID
Cultural Officer
Ext # 108



LINA G. CATBAGAN
Collecting Officer
Ext # 116



CIELO L. GAMAYON
Secretary of the Ambassador
Ext # 101



JUANITO P. SALAYOG
Driver to the Ambassador
Ext # 112/116



ELENI LAIOS-PELEKIS
Interpreter
Ext # 110



PERLITA C. CACATIAN
Consular Clerk
Ext # 112/116



ROLANDO T. CARDONA
Security/ GUM
Ext # 115



GEMMA Y. COLOMA
Consular Clerk
Ext # 112/116



BYRON B. VILLANUEVA
Consular Clerk/ Driver
Ext #112/ 116



RAMONCITO P. CALDINO
Consular Clerk/ Driver
Ext #112/ 116



MONINA DIZON
Consular Clerk
Ext #112/ 116

LABOR PAGE

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR OWWA MEMBER-OFWS & FAMILY



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR OWWA MEMBER-OFWS & FAMILY

OWWA is the lead government agency tasked to promote the welfare and well-being of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and their families. As a membership institution, OWWA is responsive to the needs of OFWs and their families. The benefits and services are over and above the provisions of the employment contract, offer of employers or the laws of the receiving country.

For a US\$25.00 membership contribution, an OWWA member is entitled to the following benefits and services:

HEALTH CARE, DISABILITY AND DEATH BENEFITS

Health Program for OFWs (HEALTHPRO). Subsidized medical and hospitalization services for OFWs in response to the medical assistance needs of distressed OFWs abroad or upon arrival.

OFW Medical Rehabilitation Program. A special health package to extend sustainable medical rehabilitation services for returning OFWs who are either suffering from any form of mental disorder/illness or physical disability.

Disability and Dismemberment Benefit. A member is entitled to disability/dismemberment benefit of up to Php50,000.00 and Php100,000.00 in case of total permanent disability.

Death Benefit. A member is entitled to a benefit of Php100,000.00 for the duration of his employment contract for death due to natural cause and Php200,000.00 for death due to accident.

Burial Benefit. A burial benefit of Php20,000.00 shall be provided in case of the member's death.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING BENEFITS

Pre-Departure Education Program (PDEP). The PDEP is a mandatory training for all departing migrant workers. The components of the PDEP are:

Comprehensive Pre-Departure Education Program (CPDEP). for household service workers, where classes on language training, culture familiarization and stress management for the OFWs are held to prepare them for their new life overseas.

Country-specific Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS) for OFWs bound for Canada and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Participants are presented with a comprehensive module with sessions on contract familiarization, profile of the country of destination, stages of the OFWs life, health and safety, airport procedures and government programs.

Skills-for-Employment Scholarship Program (SESP) for short-term (up to two years) vocational or technicians course for OFWs and their dependents. A maximum of Php14,000.00 per course shall be provided to qualified OFWs or their beneficiary.

Education for Development Scholarship Program (EDSP) for four-to five-year baccalaureate courses. A maximum of Php60,000.00 per year shall be provided to qualified beneficiaries of OFWs.

OFW Dependents Scholarship Program (OFW DSP). OWWA provides financial assistance of Php20,000.00 per year to poor but deserving dependents of OFWs with monthly salaries of not more than US\$400.00/month. Qualifiers are entitled to a baccalaureate or associate degree in a state college or university.

Seafarers' Comprehensive Education and Training Programs. Resulting from the maritime industry's high demand for seafarers and the enhancement of competency for officers positions, OWWA undertakes stop-gap measures to ensure considerable supply of seafarers in the mid-management level and secure the place of our sea-based OFWs in the industry.

Seafarer's Upgrading Program (SUP). Training assistance of up to Php 7,500.00 for qualified seafarers for every 3 membership contributions.

Mariners' Dugtong -Aral is a scholarship grant given to qualified graduates of BS Mechanical Engineering (BSME) and BS Electrical Engineering (BSEE) who wish to become Marine Officers.

Incentive Program for Top Maritime Cadets (Cadetship Program) is a financial incentive to the top 200 cadets of BS Marine Transportation as part of the education for development scholarship program of OWWA for prospective OWWA members.

Marine Educational Development Loan Program (MEDLOP) for Prospective Marine Officers and Engineers with guaranteed International Onboard Employment (Study Now, Pay Later Scheme). MEDLOP is an interest-free financial assistance to defray the cost of tertiary education of prospective Marine Officers and Engineers.

OWWA-Microsoft Tulay. Free information and communication technology (ICT) skills training, access to technology and communication via the internet.

Tuloy-Aral project (TAP) is an educational assistance through US\$100.00 financial support to augment the school needs of less fortunate elementary and high school children of former OFWs.

Tuloy-Kolehiyo. Extension of the TAP to include the tertiary level of education leading to either an associate or baccalaureate degree.

ON-SITE ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES

Location of OFW whereabouts, information and guidance, counseling and conciliation services, medical and legal assistance, community organizing, workplace and hospital visitation, etc.

Repatriation Program which includes negotiation with employers and agents, repatriation of distressed workers, human remains and belongings, airport assistance, OWWA Halfway House accommodation, and coordination with families through the OWWA Regional Welfare Offices (RWOs).

SOCIAL SERVICES AND FAMILY WELFARE ASSISTANCE

Reintegration Program. A program for the member-OFW's economic and social reintegration through business counseling, community organizing, financial literacy seminars, networking with support institutions, social preparation programs and livelihood loans.

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration
OWWA Center Bldg., 7th St. cor. F. B. Harrison St., Pasay City
P. O. Box 1617 Manila, Philippines

24/7 Operations Center

Tel. No. : (+632) 833-OWWA or (+632) 833-6992 Hotline: 2917 (press "3" for OWWA)
Text : (0917) TXT-OWWA or (0917) 898-6992
Email : opcenter07@owwa.gov.ph or owwa_opcenter@yahoo.com
Website : www.owwa.gov.ph



For more details please contact

Mrs. Jean V. Santos at tel. nos. 210 698 3265/
Cellphone no. 693 7124 927/ 697 742 5678



Pag-IBIG representative Jean Santos briefing the Filipino community in Nicosia, Cyprus concerning the mandatory membership of OFWs with Pag-IBIG last 10 April 2011 in Cyprus.



Filipinos in Thessaloniki apply for Pag-IBIG membership during the consular outreach mission held on 17 April 2011 in Thessaloniki, Greece.