



# Philippine News



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The Ambassador in a recent diplomatic reception with H.E. Deputy Foreign Minister Theodoros Kasimis (center) and Mr. Costas Papapanagiotous, a respected Greek journalist who extensively interviewed the ambassador in the July/August 2007 issue of the prestigious magazine Greek Diplomatic Life.

## Greek Embassy's Consular Office - Fully Operational

Greece's embassy in Manila on October 1 started full consular services, such as the issuances of visas, according to the Hellenic Republic's ambassador to Manila His Excellency Yorgos Chrisostomos Nicolaidis. The Spanish embassy in Manila as well as the Greek embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia turned over on that day all functions which it had been doing for the Greek government before the establishment of the Greek embassy in Manila.

Nicolaidis arrived in Manila 10 February this year, after being designated Greece's first resident ambassador to Manila in October 2006.

Philippine Ambassador to Greece Rigoberto Tiglao since his arrival in Greece on May 2006 had been telling the Filipino community in Athens as well as his Greek friends and contacts that the establishment of Greece's embassy in Manila would further advance the close ties between

the two countries, and would be a boon to Filipinos traveling to Greece. This is especially so since student and working visas had been issued only by the Greek embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, while tourist visas are issued by the Spanish embassy.

In September last year Member of Parliament Stavros Dailakis of Drama prefecture, a senior New Democracy Party political leader, brought Ambassador Tiglao together and Greek businessman Yorgos Psinakis, a nephew of the Lopez conglomerate official Steve Psinakis, to ranking officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to explain how a Greek embassy in Manila would be beneficial to both countries. (Continued on page 3)



Ambassador and Mrs. Tiglao in a recent dinner with Ambassador and Mrs. Nicolaidis.

## Consular Services ng Linggo, 24 Oras na Pag-proseso ng Pasaporte Ipinatupad ng Embahada

Malugod na ibinabalita ng Embahada na maaari nang maproseso sa loob ng isang araw o 24 oras ang mga pasaporte na pinapa-renew. Ang mabilis na paglabas ng bagong pasaporte ay isang sa mga adhikain ng Embahada sa ilalim ni Ambassador Rigoberto D. Tiglao na ang hangarin ay mabigyan ng mabuting serbisyo ang mga Pilipino sa Gresya.

report, at iba pang mahahalagang dokumento.

Ang mga linggong ito na bukas ang Consular Section ng Embahada sa Athens ay ang mga sumusunod:

**11 November 2007**

**09 December 2007**

**13 January 2008**

**10 February 2008**

**09 March 2008**

**13 April 2008**

**11 May 2008**

Isa pang magandang balita: Ang Consular Section ng Embahada ay bukas mula **10:00 A.M.** hanggang **2:00 P.M.** tuwing pangalawang Linggo ng buwan upang mabigyan ng pagkakataon ang ating mga kababayan na hindi makapunta sa Embahada mula Lunes hanggang Biyernes dahil sa mga trabaho nila. Sa mga araw na ito, maaring mag-renew ng pasaporte o mag-apply ng affidavit, Special Power of Attorney (SPA), birth

Kung kayo po ay may katanungan tungkol sa inyong pasaporte at iba pang dokumento o kung may nais kayong iparating tungkol sa serbisyo ng Embahada, maari lamang pong tumawag sa telepono bilang **(210) 6721837 local 112 at 116** o kaya mag-email sa **info@athenspe.net**. Inaanyayahan din naming kayong bisitahin ang official

(Continued on page 7)

## Medical Tourism International Conference Set on November 19-23 in

The country's top medical and wellness facilities and resort destinations take center stage as the Philippines hosts the 2nd International Medical Tourism Conference (IMTC 2007). The Department of Tourism (DOT) is organizing the event, which will be held on November 19-23 at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila in Makati City.

Stakeholders in the medical tourism industry, such as hospitals, wellness resorts, and healthcare financing services, tour operators and transportation companies are expected to participate in the (Continued on page 5)

## KAPHILCA reports jump in number of student enrollees for SY 2007-08

Student enrollees in the Katipunan Philippines Cultural Academy (Kaphilca), the Philippine School in Greece increased by 26% from 108 pupils last school year to 137 pupils this school year, reported Kaphilca Director Roberto B. Fresnido.

Accredited with the Philippines' Department of Education and permitted to operate by the Hellenic

(Continued on page 2)

Kaphilca is located at 64 Pontou Street, Ambelokipi, Athens. For inquiries, please contact the school at 210 7480825 and 6934923950.



## The Philippine Embassy bids farewell to ...



Minister and Consul General Eleanor L. Jaucian, who will be leaving for Manila at the end of October after having completed the mandatory 6-year tour of duty.

A veteran diplomat, Minister Jaucian entered the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in 1972 and rose through the ranks. She served under Secretary of Foreign Affairs Carlos P. Romulo from 1974-1978 before being posted to Paris as Attaché from 1978-1986.

In 1988, she passed the Foreign Service Officers (FSO) Examinations and served in the **DFA's Consular Offices and Office of Middle East Affairs (OMEAA)** before being posted to Rome in 1991-1997.

From 1997 to 2001, she served as Director for Mediterranean Europe in the Office of European Affairs (OEA) before again being posted to Rome in 2001-2003. She was cross-posted to Athens in 2003.

Minister Jaucian has attended international conferences and negotiations in the Philippines and abroad, and has arranged high level meetings and visits.

Minister Jaucian is from Ligao, Albay. ■

## ...and welcomes...



Minister and Consul General Constancio R. Vingno Jr., who arrived in Athens on 25 October 2007 to replace outgoing Minister and Consul General Eleanor Jaucian.

Minister Vingno is also a veteran diplomat who rose through the ranks in the Department of Foreign Affairs. He entered the DFA in 1977 as a casual employee and was first assigned as an Economic Assistant at the Office of Economic Affairs. He passed the Foreign Service Officers (FSO) Examinations in 1988.

He has been assigned to the Philippine foreign missions in Germany, Romania, Austria, and Japan. He has also headed Divisions at the Office of Consular Affairs, Office of European Affairs, and Office of Asia and Pacific Affairs. He has participated in various seminars and conferences and in several high-level visits in the Philippines and abroad.

Minister Vingno is an AB Economics graduate of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. He attended the Ateneo de Manila College of Law from 1977 to 1980. He is married to Yoko Ramos. ■

## and congratulates...

Former Deputy Foreign Minister Evripidis Stylianidis on his appointment as Minister of Education last September 2007.

Minister Stylianidis was the highest Greek official to have graced the diplomatic reception hosted by Ambassador and Madame Rigoberto Tiglao last June 12 at the Hotel Grande Bretagne.

In a simple ceremony on 24 February 2006, Minister Stylianidis, then the Deputy Foreign Minister for Hellenic Aid, handed over to Philippine Embassy officials a cheque in the amount of **€300,000 (Three Hundred Thousand Euros)** representing the **Greek Government's donation for the Leyte** landslide relief efforts.

Minister Stylianidis was born in Komotoni, Rodopi, Greece in 1966. He finished law at the Democretus University of Thrace in 1989 and obtained a doctorate in Constitutional Law from the University of Hamburg, Germany in 1994.

Minister Stylianidis has published several books in Greece and abroad.

He is married to Stergioula Papachristou. ■

### KAPHILCA enrollees

(Continued from page 1)

Ministry of the National Education and Religious Affairs, Kaphilca provides a basic Philippine education to children of overseas Filipino workers in Athens.

Kaphilca maintains the required standards in operating the school and ensures that its students can be readily integrated into the Philippine educational system when they return to the Philippines. Kaphilca aims to widen the exposure of its pupils to

other educational opportunities outside of the classroom through involvement in extracurricular activities organized by the Greeks and the organizing of educational trips.

Classes for the school year 2007-2008 started on 4 September 2007. A number of transferees came from the Philippines and some from other schools in Athens. In addition to classrooms, the school also has a computer room, a library, a kitchen, and two offices.

Every Monday morning, Kaphilca holds a flag-raising ceremony at the school garden. Each class takes turns in taking charge of the flag ceremony. The class gives a short presentation in order for them to be trained in social leadership skills such as resourcefulness, creativity, and cooperation.

To equip and update the teachers in teaching techniques, Director Fresnido will conduct seminars on Item Analysis and Personal Learning Styles which would be in addition to previous training and seminars he had already conducted in the past school year. ■



Ambassador and Madame Rigoberto Tiglao welcome Minister Evripidis Stylianidis, then Deputy Foreign Minister, to the June 12 reception at the Hotel Grand Bretagne.



Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA) Awardee for 2007 and Special Adviser on Kaphilca Affairs Dr. Marcos R. Fojas, MD (right) and Kaphilca Director Roberto B. Fresnido.

#### PhilippiNews

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## Ambassador consults with Filipino community leaders in Thessaloniki, Rhodes , and Cyprus

Ambassador Rigoberto Tiglao took advantage of the summer season, when diplomatic activities in Athens slows down to a virtual stop, to consult with the with Filipino community leaders in two Greek areas distant from the capital – Thessaloniki and Rhodes – as well as in the Republic of Cyprus, which is covered by the Philippine embassy in Athens.

In Thessaloniki September 11, Ambassador Tiglao together with Consul Nicolaos Margaropoulos met with Ms. Violeta Magnaye, President of the Filipino Organization in Northern Greece and other leaders of the Filipino community. Magnaye reported that with a few exceptions, there are hardly any major problems encountered by the estimated 300 Filipinos in Thessaloniki.



The Ambassador in Thessaloniki with: Consul Margaropoulos (extreme left), Ms. Violeta Magnaye, President of the Filipino Organization in Northern Greece (extreme right), Kresta Lyn Bautista, Puri de Quiros, and Cherry Lou Almanzor.



The Ambassador with Labatt Jaime Gimenez (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and other leaders and volunteers of the Filipino community in Cyprus.

They expressed their appreciation of the Honorary Consul's quick response to their problems and his concern for the welfare of Filipinos in Thessaloniki.

On October 2, the Ambassador, together with Labor Attache for Cyprus Atty. Jaime P. Gimenez, undertook a dialogue with Filipino leaders and consular volunteers in Cyprus, among them Primrose Lomas, Emma Pedroso, Carmen Brazan, Mary Ann Tabasa, Marlyn Panagiton, Beth Fernandez, and Liza Jataas. Ambassador Tiglao urged his *kababayans* in Cyprus to unite under one organization to maximize their resources so they can better help their fellow Filipinos in Cyprus.

The ambassador congratulated the newsletter *Tinig Pinoy*, headed by its

editor in chief Ms. Josephine "Joy" Miranda, for its two years of media service to Filipinos in Cyprus. The ambassador was all praises for *Tinig Pinoy's* very innovative arrangement by which it is published by, and a part of, the Cyprus newspaper *Politis*.

Finally on October 13, Ambassador Tiglao met with leaders of the Filipino community in Rhodes, led by Ms. Milarose Fortozo, president of the Filipino Workers' Association in Rhodes. The ambassador was with Rhodes Honorary Consul Michalis Roditis, who also had briefed him on the situation of Filipinos in Rhodes and the consulate's activities. Roditis estimated that there were about 200 Filipinos in Rhodes and in the nearby island of Kos, the majority of whom have been there for many years. A major part of Consul Roditis' consular work has been to help Filipino seafarers, as Rhodes is a major port in Greece. ■



Ambassador and Mrs. Tiglao with kababayans in Rhodes, headed by Ms. Milarose Fortozo, president of the Filipino Workers in Rhodes, and Consul Roditis (extreme right).

## DFA, Philippine Embassy assist family of slain OFW

Upon learning of the death of OFW Mercedes Rosello, Ambassador Rigoberto Tiglao instructed Embassy officials to ensure that appropriate assistance would be provided to the bereaved family of the slain OFW, particularly in repatriating her remains and belongings to the Philippines, and in obtaining justice for Mercedes.

Ms. Rosello was found dead inside her employer's residence in Ekali, Athens on 21 August 2007.

Since the discovery of her death, officials of the Philippine Embassy have met several times with the investigators of the Homicide Division of the Hellenic Police Directorate of Security of Attica led by Capt. Georgios Theodoropoulos. Capt. Theodoropoulos informed Embassy officials that the Hellenic Police cannot provide specific information at this time while the case is still under investigation. However, the Greek police have established robbery as the motive of the killing. Officials of the Philippine

## ASSISTANCE TO NATIONALS

Embassy also met with the friends and acquaintances of the late OFW in order to help the Greek police in obtaining vital information on the case.

The Philippine Embassy has impressed upon the Greek Police authorities the concern of the Philippine Government on the case and has requested the assistance of the Greek Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Greece in ensuring that justice is rendered for the late Mercedes Rosello.

The Philippine Embassy has been regularly monitoring the case by constantly communicating with the Hellenic Police authorities charged with investigating the death of Ms. Rosello. The Greek Police have assured Embassy officials that they are doing their best to solve the case immediately.

On 16 September 2007, the remains of the late Mercedes Rosello arrived in the Philippines. The Philippine Embassy wishes to again extend its sincerest condolences to the family of the late Mercedes Rosello. ■

Greek Embassy (Continued from page 1)

In a dinner with his wife Alcmene and Ambassador Tiglao's wife Getsy in Athens recently, Ambassador Nicolaidis reported that he has found metropolitan Manila an excellent and exciting city to work in as Greece's envoy. In April, Ambassadors Tiglao and Nicolaidis were in Boracay, a world-class beach resort in central Philippines, together with other Greeks doing business in Manila who chose the island to celebrate Easter, complete with the traditional lamb roasted in a pit by the beach.

The Greek Embassy in the Philippines is located at the 12th floor Sage House Building, 110 V.A. Rufino St., Legaspi Village, Makati. Telephone number is (632) 817-4444 while its fax number is (632) 817-3417. Email: [gremb.man@gmail.com](mailto:gremb.man@gmail.com) and [gremb.man@mfa.gr](mailto:gremb.man@mfa.gr).

The embassy's temporary internet site is [gremb.man.googlepages.com](http://gremb.man.googlepages.com), which contains information on requirements for visas, including downloadable forms. ■

## TRADE AND CULTURAL NEWS

### Embassy Promotes Latest Manila F.A.M.E. International among Greeks (17-20 October)

The Embassy has been promoting the biennial Manila F.A.M.E. International among the Greek business sector, resulting in a steady influx over the years. Promotional efforts are carried out in conjunction with the Athens Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), as well as the Honorary Consulates in Greece and Cyprus. The latest edition was held on 17-20 October 2007 at the

Golden Shell Pavilion. Organized by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM), the Manila F.A.M.E. International is Asia's longest-running trade show for houseware, home furnishings, home accents, gifts, holiday décor and fashion accessories.

The Manila F.A.M.E. International showcases beautiful products



highlighting Filipino imagination, ingenuity and love of color. ■

### Filipino Businessmen Attend Hi-Tech Partenariat in Thessaloniki

Filipino businessmen attended the Hi-Tech Innovators' Partenariat 2007 in Thessaloniki on 05-06 October 2007.

The team was headed by Mr. Emmanuel Almonte of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and Philippine National Counsellor for the Partenariat. The members were made up of representatives from the computer sector: Pointwest Technologies Corporation; Microgold Information Solution & Products, Inc.; Business Processing Association of the

Philippines; Moscorn, Inc.; and Computer Professionals, Inc.

The event focused on the sectors of information technology (IT), software, research and advanced technology.

The team was assisted by the Philippine Embassy's Trade Section and the Philippine Honorary Consulate in Thessaloniki.

According to Mr. Almonte, the Philippine delegation made at least a dozen business matchings by the end of the conference. ■



From left:  
Mr. Oscar Sañez,  
Ms. Maria Cristina Coronel, Mr. Alex Ventura, Dr. William Torres, Mr. Emmanuel Almonte, and Ms. Elizabeth Ventura.



Minister Eleanor Jaucian, 2<sup>nd</sup> Secretary Patricia Barrera and Administrative Officer Hermogenes Garcia at the opening of the first 'Greek Milk and Cheese Festival' on 05 October 2007 held at the Peace and Friendship Stadium in Athens.

### International Christmas Bazaar at Helexpo To Feature Philippine Products

The Philippine Embassy will participate in the 8<sup>th</sup> International Christmas Bazaar on 15-16 December 2007. The bazaar will be held at its new venue, the Helexpo Palace located along Kifissias Avenue.

The bazaar is organized by the Friends of the Child, a charitable association of Greek women which was established in 1987. The proceeds will be used to support the Friends of the Child's Nursery School for children of single mothers in need.

The Embassy has been participating in the yearly bazaar since 2000. On sale will be Filipino products such as bags, placemats, decorative items, embroidered cloth, shell craft, woodcraft, and ladies accessories (including necklaces made from fresh water pearls).

Also on sale will be traditional Filipino food products that have been enjoying popular patronage since they were introduced to the international bazaar audience seven years ago. ■

### KAPHILCA Presents 'Kasuy' Legend In Markopoulo International Tales Festival

The Katipunan Philippines Cultural Academy (KAPHILCA) represented the Philippines in the *International Tales Festival* held in Porto Rafti, Markopoulo, on 22 September 2007. Kaphilca presented the legend of the cashew nut ('*Kung Bakit Nasa Labas and Buto ng Kasuy*' or 'Why the Cashew Nut is Outside the Fruit')

Kaphilca's presentation consisted of a narration of the tale in Greek. The students acted out the tale with dialogues in Filipino. Some of the children wore costumes of animals, flowers, and plants



and danced on stage. The International Tales Festival was organized by Erasinou Roes, a cultural non-profit organization focusing on cultural exchange, in cooperation with the Municipality of Markopoulo, under the auspices of the National Book Centre of Greece.

The festival aims to introduce the youth in Greece to other cultures through tales narration from countries all over the world. Several countries from Europe, Asia, and Africa also participated in the festival. ■



# Impressions after a 2-year absence from the Philippines

Patricia V. Barrera  
*Second Secretary and Consul*

The first things I noticed upon arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) after enduring almost 18 hours of actual traveling time and airport lay-over in Singapore, were the smiles and greetings of the airport personnel which were most welcome. After a two-year absence, it was heartwarming to know that we are still a happy people even in the face of adversity and uncertainty over the future. I was indeed home.

Of course, the traffic is ever present and getting worse by the year. But traffic can also be taken as a sign of a bustling metropolis...a living, thriving city. There were signs of workers and students going to and fro everywhere I went—from Makati to Quezon City, Manila to Binondo and San Lazaro, Alabang to Las Piñas-coastal. In other words, Manila is a city that never sleeps. Hear that, New York?

We may gripe about the Philippines being this and that, but then again, which country doesn't have its own share of problems? In other words, we should count our blessings and be glad for what we have: democracy, Filipino style; having more meals than any other people on earth; freedom of speech, especially in media. Other countries are not in this happy situation.



The Makati Central BUSINESS DISTRICT (CBD)

And if there's anything one can learn from living and working abroad, whether as a government employee or Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) is this: **STAND UP FOR THE PHILIPPINES.** It's the only country you can ever call home. ■



ORTIGAS CENTER



Source: www.en.wikipedia.org

## Int'l medical tourism confab

(Continued from page 1)

event.

The four-day event aims to develop medical value travel and to be the catalyst for industry alliances among medical establishments, health benefits companies, insurance travel partners, government agencies and other related enterprises. It is expected to draw in more than 250 trade participants from over 23

countries.

According to DOT, the global medical travel industry is currently worth \$40 billion with over 780 million patients seeking faster, more affordable and world-class medical care outside their home country.

Aside from site visits and tours to top Philippine hospitals, the delegates will be treated to post-conference trips to some of the country's top tourist destinations.

The DOT is working to make the Philippines one of the top destinations in the world for medical tourism. "We have some of the best hospitals and stand-alone specialty clinics in Southeast Asia. Our country is the place where medical travelers and their companions can be cared for with the warm, nurturing and friendly nature of the Filipino," Durano said. (Source: www.wowphilippines.com.ph)



Photo above shows Consul Shemaine Kyriakidis (center) and Labor Attaché Jaime Gimenez (8-R) with the members of the volleyball teams from Larnaca (blue), Limassol (orange), Paphos (red), and Nicosia (yellow).

## Cyprus Inter-Island Women's Volleyball Tournament

by Ester Beatly, Tinig Pinoy Sports Editor

The much-awaited Inter-Island Women's Volleyball Tournament 2007, organized by Filipino Community Association in Limassol and the Cypro-Philippine Association in Nicosia, and sponsored by Western Union, was held on two consecutive Sundays, on 14 and 21 October 2007 in Cyprus. Four teams from Larnaca, Limassol, Nicosia, and Paphos played in this 2-day tournament. Limassol beat Nicosia in the final match held on October 21 at the St. Catherine Catholic Church car park in Limassol.



# Ambassador Tiglao Visits Mt. Athos



Mt. Athos: The Holy Mountain which towers over the peninsula.

Ambassador Rigoberto Tiglao and Consul a.h. Nicolaos Margaropoulos visited the famed Mt. Athos ("Holy Mountain") peninsula Oct. 8 -10, staying in a monastic kella or household dedicated to St. Nicolaos, and headed by Abbot Kyrillos. They visited the monasteries of Profitis Ilias, Pantokratos, Stavronikita, Iviron, and the Vatopedi and their spectacular Byzantine era churches.

The Mt. Athos peninsula of more than 20 monasteries, 12 cloisters, and about three dozen household cells is a major spiritual center of Greek Orthodox Christianity and the heart of the

religion's monastic tradition.

The region is a self-governed monastic state within the sovereignty of the Hellenic Republic and under the direct jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. The region is restricted and visitors are required to get a special entrance permit called *diamonitirion*, a form of Byzantine-era visa. It is said to be the only place on the planet where females are strictly prohibited from entering.

Ambassador Tiglao visited Mt. Athos, he said, as part of his own spiritual journey as an individual, and as a diplomat, to deepen his understanding of Greek Orthodox Christianity, which plays a prominent role in Greek society.

Greek Orthodox Christianity is an essential part of Greek nationalism, with the Greek Orthodox Church preserving the Greek way of life through several



Consul Margaropoulos with Mt. Athos monk Theostiriktos



View of an area in Mt. Athos from the Ambassador's room in the spiritual cell.

centuries of Ottoman occupation and playing a major role in the formation of the Greek modern state.

"It's one of the most unique and beautiful places on earth and one of the most spiritual," the ambassador remarked. ■



The ambassador in a monastery with a Mt. Athos monk.

## Ambassador Tiglao Attends 'Dialogue of Civilizations'

Ambassador Rigoberto D. Tiglao attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Session of the World Public Forum, 'Dialogue of Civilizations', which was held on 10-14 in Rhodes.

As noted by the title, discussions focused on the differences between the civilizations of East and West, and called for more understanding of the other in order for mankind, irrespective of race or politico-religious beliefs, to live in harmony. In order to defuse the apparent 'clash of civilizations', the forum urged for better education, economic equality, using religious and cultural exchanges, using music as a universal language of dialogue, and the role of mass media.

*It's been an honor and a pleasure for Ambassador Tiglao to meet old and new friends visiting Athens ...*



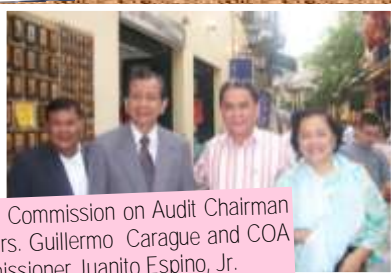
2007: Senator Juan Miguel Zubiri and Mrs. Audrey Zubiri.



2007: Senator Joker P. Arroyo and Mrs. Fely Aquino-Arroyo with their daughters.



2006: Veteran and Multi-Awarded broadcast journalist Tina Monzon-Palma, with Mrs. Getsy Tiglao, herself a former journalist.



2006: Commission on Audit Chairman and Mrs. Guillermo Carague and COA Commissioner Juanito Espino, Jr.

## New Immigration Policies Affecting Filipino Household Workers in Cyprus

(as of 4 October 2007)

### 1. Eligibility and Period of Employment

a) Persons qualified to employ household workers from third countries for **more than four (4) years:**

- ✓ Senior citizens/elderly people who are 75 years old and above
- ✓ Persons with special needs
- ✓ Persons suffering from serious medical condition such as cancer, multiple sclerosis, muscle atrophy, kidney disease, myopathy, mental illness and serious psychological problems, limited vision or blind, advanced stages of arthritis causing deformation, Alzheimer, and obesity

The applications of above persons shall be accepted for further evaluation by the Department of Immigration and Migration but **without prior approval** from the Division of Population and Migration Department.

b) Except for the above, all others who are qualified to employ household workers from third countries shall be entitled a period of employment of **strictly four (4) years only**, except in extreme cases wherein an extension period of nine (9) months could be granted and subject to the approval of the Department of Migration.

### 2. Change of Employment

- a) No change of employment will be allowed for the duration of the first year of employment of household workers from third countries except in case of death, relocation or immigration of employer, transfer of employer to an old age home, and illegal action of the employer against the household worker;
- b) The household worker is not allowed to change employer over two times for the duration of the 4-year period of employment, unless in case of labor dispute and the decision is in favor of the household worker;
- c) In case the household worker who is employed by an employer qualified to employ for a maximum period of four (4) years and she desires to be transferred to another employer qualified to employ for more than four (4) years or employment, the change of employer will be allowed if the conditions can be justified and provided that the new application will be done within the first two (2) years of initial employment;
- d) Change of employer is not allowed after

three (3) years and six (6) months of employment except in cases of household workers who have completed five (5) years of continuous and uninterrupted stay in Cyprus and has the right to apply for a long-term residency.

### 3. Release Papers

- a) Employers are not allowed to give more than two (2) release papers to a household worker from third countries for the last three (3) years;
- b) Approval for change of employer will be granted only if the release paper is still in effect, which is within one (1) month from the date of issuance or at the latest within one (1) week from the expiration of the release paper but with the approval of the Department of Migration;
- c) The employment of the foreign household worker with release papers to persons/families who do not qualify and have to follow the URES procedures is not allowed;
- d) For the duration of the validity of the release paper (i.e. one month), the foreign household worker will be allowed to remain at the house of the employer. If this is not feasible due to serious friction/conflict (i.e. labor dispute, sexual harassment, etc.), the foreign household worker is under obligation to inform the Department of Migration of her/his temporary address so that she/he can be easily located for the purpose of departure from Cyprus in case she/he does not find an employer.

### 4. Abandonment of Employment

If the foreign household worker abandons her/his place of employment/employer and is being searched (as being in the Immigration Stop List) or if she/he has applied for political asylum and the employer is interested to employ another household worker, the number of times the employer has been abandoned by household workers shall be considered prior to any approval of a new application. In case the employer has been abandoned by the household worker more than two (2) times and there is an evidence of liability on the part of the employer, the decision for the application will be made by the head of the department of migration. ■

*Unofficial English translation of  
Ref. No. M.P.No. 30/81/6 dated 4 October 2007  
issued by the Civil Registry and Migration  
Department of the Republic of Cyprus*

Philippine Embassy, Athens

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**ROLANDO T. CARDONA**  
General Utility Man  
Ext # 115



**GEMMA Y. COLOMA**  
Consular Clerk  
Ext # 112/116



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

Consular Services ng Linggo ( from page 1)  
website ng Embahada: [www.athenspe.net](http://www.athenspe.net),  
na kung saan ay makukuha (download)  
ang mga application forms para sa  
passport renewal at iba pang mga consular  
services. ■

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## LABOR PAGE

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**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

### MGA PAALALA

- ✓ Maaaring kumuha ng Overseas Employment Certificate (OEC or exit pass) sa Labor Office isa o dalawang araw bago umuwi ang mga magbabakasyong OFWs sa Pilipinas. Kailangang mag fill-up ng info sheet at magdala ng kopya ng passport at permit.
- ✓ Para magpatuloy ang coverage ng OWWA benefits, kailangang i-renew ang membership pagkatapos ng 2 taon mula sa unang pagiging miyembro ng OWWA sa ilalim ng Voluntary Membership Program.
- ✓ Mangyaring kunin sa Labor Office ang mga nag-apply ng ID ng OWWA at Pag-IBIG. Maraming mga IDs ang matagal nang hindi pa nakukuha ng applicants.

## POLO, OWWA NAGSAGAWA NG LABOR AT MEDICAL OUTREACH SA THESSALONIKI

Nagsagawa ang Philippine Embassy — Labor Office ng labor and medical services para sa mga Pilipino sa Thessaloniki noong 29-30 September 2007.

Sa pangunguna ni Labor Attaché George Eduvala, nagkaroon ng pakikipagpulong at pagbibigay payo sa mga Pilipino tungkol sa mga problema sa trabaho at kanilang katayuan bilang manggagawang dayuhan sa Gresya.

Kasama din si Ms. Jocelyn Hapal, OWWA Welfare Officer, upang ilapit ang serbisyo at mga benepisyo sa mga kasapi ng OWWA. Nagbigay din ng libreng check up ng blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol levels sa mga Pilipino bilang bahagi ng kampanya sa pag-iingat laban sa sakit at pagbibigay halaga sa kalusugan. Kasama

rin sa grupo si Administrative Assistant Carlos Montenegro, at sina Ms. Lida Cueto at Ms. Elva Rabino, mga lisensyadong midwives at caregiving training graduates, bilang OWWA volunteers.

Sa dalawang araw ng outreach, bumisita at nakipagpulong si Honorary Consul Nikolaos Margaropoulos. Ang outreach ay idinaos sa parish hall ng Immaculate Concepcion Catholic Church sa tulong ni Father Bienvenido Dulfo.

Halos isandaang Pilipino ang nakinabang sa mga serbisyo dahil din sa tulong at pakikipag-ugnayan ng Filipino community sa pamumuno ni Mrs. Violeta Magnaye, presidente ng Filipino Community in Northern Greece, Thessaloniki. ■



*Labor Attaché George Eduvala (8-L), Welfare Officer Jocelyn Hapal (2-R), Consul Nicolas Margaropoulos (8-R), at mga OWWA volunteers kasama ang mga miyembro ng Filipino Community sa Thessaloniki.*

## Mas Malaking OWWA Training Program, Sinimulan

Sinimulang muli noong Septyembre 1, ang OWWA training program para sa ikalawang batch sa taong ito. Mahigit sa dalawandaan limampung Pilipino ang lumahok sa walong training classes sa care giving, basic computer operation, computer troubleshooting and maintenance, at Greek language courses.

Bukod sa training na ito sa Filipino Workers Resource Center, isa pang care giving training class ang binuo para lamang sa mga miyembro ng Filipino Christian Fellowship in Athens (FCFA) sa pamumuno ni Mr. Manny Basingan. Magsisimula din ang isa pang training class



*Si Labor Attaché George Eduvala sa pagbubukas ng OWWA training class sa FCFA.*

para sa magulang ng mga mag-aaral sa Philippine School of Greece.

Para sa mga organisasyong interesadong magkaroon ng training para sa kanilang kasapi, makipag-ugnayan agad kay Ms. Jocelyn Hapal, Welfare Officer. ■

## Pag-IBIG sa Cyprus

May dalawandaang Pilipino sa Cyprus ang lumapit para sa Pag-Ibig Overseas Program ng Philippine Embassy noong 11-12 Agosto 2007.

*Si Pag-IBIG Representative Jean Santos habang pinupulong ang mga Pilipino sa Cyprus tungkol sa mga benepisyo ng Pag-IBIG Overseas Program.*

Si Ms. Jean Santos, Pag-Ibig Officer, ay nakipag-ugnayan sa mga Pilipino sa Larnaca, Nicosia at Paralimni sa Cyprus para sa patuloy na programang savings at housing loan.

Mayroong 500 miyembro ng Pag-IBIG, trenta porsyento ng tinatayang 12,000 Pilipino na naninirahan at nagtatrabaho sa Cyprus. ■

