



# Philippines-China CHRONICLE



Vol. 3 No.3 May-June 2002

Publication of the Philippine Embassy in Beijing

## Manila, Beijing observe Philippines-China Friendship Day

Manila and Beijing observed for the first time the Philippines-China Friendship Day on June 9, twenty-six years after two countries forged diplomatic relations and months following the signing of a Presidential directive declaring the special date of celebration.

The Philippine Embassy highlighted the occasion in several programs related to the celebration in Beijing of the 104th Anniversary of the Declaration of Philippine Independence on 12 June.

Ambassador Josue L. Villa also drew attention to the Philippines-China Friendship Day in separate print media interviews with China Economic Herald and International Business Daily.

In Manila, the Chinese Embassy in cooperation with the Cultural Center of the Philippines, University of the Philippines and the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, held an exhibit of Xinhua News Agency photos entitled: *Neighbors, Friends and Partners: Philippines-China Relations* at the National Library from 5 to 29 June. China Filmweek 2002, which ran at the CCP from 13 to 16 June, and at the UP Film Center from 18 to 20 June was also undertaken by the Chinese Embassy to mark the occasion.

## Agreements on transnational crime and narcotics take effect

Two agreements which were signed during the State Visit to China of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in October 2001 recently entered into force. On 28 May, the Chinese Foreign Ministry informed the Embassy that the Chinese Government has completed the necessary domestic legal procedures for the entry into force of the following agreements:

\* Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation Against Illicit Traffic and Abuse of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals; and

\* Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crime.

In accordance with the relevant articles of the abovementioned MOUs, both agreements entered into force on 28 May 2002, the date of the later written notification by the Parties through diplomatic channels. The Philippine Government ratified the MOUs earlier.

## Her Excellency's Message on the 104th Anniversary of Philippine Independence



*Binabati ko ang buong sambayanang Pilipino gayundin ang ating world class Filipino workers sa iba't-ibang panig ng daigdig sa pagdiriwang ng ating ika-104 taon ng Araw ng Kasarinlan.*

*Kalakip nito ang ating taimtim na dalangin na simulan nating lahat ang lubusang pagkakaisa at pagpunyaging kailangan upang ating makamtan ang biyaya ng kasarinlan at kaligayahan, kasaganaan ng bawat Pilipinong may katutubong pagmamahal sa kaligayahan at kapayapaan.*

*Today, we are called upon to stay united and to flesh out our independence which our country's President General Emilio Aguinaldo, proclaimed in Kawit, Cavite, on June 12, 1898, and established the first democratic republic in Asia and Africa.*

*By remembering that day in history, we hope to remind our people of how hard a struggle our forebears had fought, of how much blood had been shed, to win our country's place in the community of nations.*

*Today, 104 years after, we are called upon to flesh out democracy in terms of alleviating mass poverty; eradicating graft and corruption; putting up a common front against international terrorism; setting high moral standards in governance; providing peace, justice dignity and sense of the community which is none other than national unity.*

*Today, the Philippines is at the threshold of profound social, economic, political and cultural changes as we enter the brave world of the coming century and beyond.*



*It is only by forging anew our unity as one country and people, and strengthening our freedom on the basis of sustainable development and far-reaching reforms, change and renewal - enhancing our profound love of God and our pride in the Filipino race - can we attain our individual and collective goals, and seek our rightful place in the international community of nations.*

*Mabuhay ang sambayanang Pilipino!  
Mabuhay ang Republika ng Pilipinas!*

*GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO  
President of the Republic of the Philippines*

## Landed visa policy for Chinese tourists expanded

Bureau of Immigration Commissioner Andrea D. Domingo issued a memorandum order on 10 June designating all six international airports as ports of entry for Chinese tourists who wish to avail themselves of the "visa upon arrival" privilege. The directive expands the coverage of the landed visa policy for group tours from Mainland China and will enhance the appeal of the Philippines in China's booming outbound travel market.

Chinese nationals who are members of group tours organized by accredited tour operators in the Philippines and China may get the landed visas from either the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), Mactan, Subic, Laoag, Davao, and Clark, which will allow them to stay in the Philippines from seven to 14 days. Each of them will be required to pay a fee of US \$25, the same amount being charged by all Philippine embassies and consulates.

The landed visa project was first implemented on a pilot basis at the Laoag Airport in January. In a statement, the BID said the success of the pilot project led to its decision to extend the policy to cover the other five international airports.

## Business mission visits Manila, Cebu

A 37-member delegation representing various industry sectors in China visited Manila and Cebu from 17 to 23 June to explore business opportunities in the Philippines.

The businessmen, organized by Beijing Basic International Business Consultation Co., Ltd. (BBIBC), were briefed by Undersecretary Gregory Domingo and other officials of the Department of Trade and Industry and local government officials of Cebu about investment policies and promising areas for cooperation.

They also held one-on-one meetings with their counterparts at the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII) and Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry during their six-day visit.

The organizer informed the Embassy upon the mission's return in Beijing that most visiting delegates found prospective partners during the visit.

The visit was BBIBC's follow-up activity to the 19 February business seminar held in coordination with the Philippine Embassy.

## DIPLOMATIC NOTES

## • MILITARY EXCHANGE UPDATES •

**Defense chiefs vow to expand ties**

The Philippines and China pledged to further enhance their military-to-military relations through increased high-level visits and to expand cooperation to new fields of defense-related activities during the meeting between Philippine Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Chinese Defense Minister General Chi Haotian on 17 April.

General Chi said that China and the Philippines enjoy a special friendly relationship that is leading to a wider understanding by both sides of the national interests of the two countries.

Secretary Reyes told his counterpart that he will continue to pursue efforts to forge closer ties between Philippines and China towards a meaningful strategic cooperation.

**PAF General Defensor visits China**

Lt. General Benjamin P. Defensor, commanding general of the Philippine Air Force visited China on 17 - 20 June and met with his counterpart General Qiao Qingchen, the Air Force Commander of the People's Liberation Army.

During the meeting, General Qiao said that China attaches great importance to its friendly ties with the Philippines and pointed out that the increase in military exchanges between the two countries help deepen mutual trust and understanding.

General Defensor also visited Beijing Capital Air Defense unit and the Hongdu Aircraft Manufacturing plant in Nanchang. His visit to China is the first ever by a commanding general of the Philippine Air Force.

**Philippine ships dock in Shanghai**

Admiral Ruben Domingo led a Naval Task Group of a first ever visit of Philippine Navy warships to China on 22 June upon the invitation of PLA Navy. The two warships from the Philippine Fleet sailed four days from Manila and docked at the Shanghai Jetty after passing through the mouth of Huangpu River and Wusong harbor.

Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto Guingona and Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Wang Chungui attended the send-off ceremonies in Manila on 17 June. The sailing crew was composed of 294 sailors led by Captain Alfredo Abueg with Commanders John Eco and Benjie Pizan, Commanding Officers of BRP Rajah Humabon and BRP Rizal.

During his courtesy calls on PLA naval senior officials, Admiral Domingo expressed his sincere confidence that the ship visit has helped to enhance the spirit of military cooperation between China and the Philippines.

BRP Rajah Humabon and BRP Rizal hosted a festive dinner attended by the senior officials of Shanghai government, sailors serving China's East Sea Fleet and the Filipino community in Shanghai.

**New Hope, New Opportunities  
The Philippines according to the China Economic Herald**

China Economic Herald (CEH) featured the Philippine business profile in its 4 June issue, highlighting the positive business environment and promising areas of investment for Chinese firms with overseas expansion plans. The interview

by CEH with Ambassador Josue L. Villa, presented in the article in a Q and A format, focused on complementing economic strengths and mutual confidence between the Philippines and China as being good foundations for further growth in the bilateral economic partnership.

The article, published in the heels of the commencement in May of the ASEAN-China negotiations on the proposed Free Trade Area in the region, identified the areas, i.e., electronics, information technology, agricultural and fishery administration, vehicle parts and set manufacturing, infrastructure projects and tourism, where Chinese businessmen are welcome to invest.

An essay on a Chinese scholar's assessment of the Philippines as an overseas destination of Chinese capital was published alongside the main article.

**ACB follows ASEAN - China free trade negotiations**

The ASEAN Committee Beijing (ACB), under the chairmanship of the Philippines from May to August, invited Director General Yi Zhaozhun of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation to a luncheon on 24 June for an exchange of views on the progress of negotiations on the proposed ASEAN-China free trade area.

Director General Yi, who is China's chief negotiator in the ASEAN-China Trade Negotiating Committee (TNC), said the Chinese side considered the commencement of talks to be China's first important step after its entry into the World Trade Organization in December last year.

He observed that there is a high level of interest among China's business sector to participate in the process of strengthening regional integration under the proposed framework.

DG Yi conveyed to the ASEAN Ambassadors in Beijing that China hopes to conclude a win-win agreement with ASEAN.

The TNC held its first meeting in Beijing on May 14 - 15 on the fringes of the ASEAN-China Senior Economic Officials Meeting and convened for the second time in Jakarta on 27 - 28 June. Subsequent meetings are scheduled in Manila, Brunei, and Singapore in the coming months.



**ACB Family Outing.** Ambassador Josue L. Villa (extreme right) is shown with fellow ASEAN Ambassadors during the ACB Spring Family Outing in Miyun County on 18 May. Nearly 200 participants including 60 children representing the ASEAN embassies in Beijing joined the games and activities in the outing.

**Business talk in Dalian.** Minister Beth Buensuceso, Deputy Chief of Mission, briefed some 100 Chinese businessmen on investment opportunities in the Philippines at a business forum in Dalian, a progressive city in Northeast China's Liaoning province, on 22 May.



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## PROFILE

**Maria Teresa T. Almojuela**  
**Second Secretary and Consul**



*(This is the seventh of a series of features on Philippine diplomats in China)*

Ms. Maria Teresa T. Almojuela or Issa to her friends and colleagues, Second Secretary and Consul, handles the economic promotion portfolio at the Embassy. She assumed her duties in Beijing in May 1999 after serving the Philippine Consulate General in Xiamen for nearly three years.

Ms. Almojuela joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in February 1995 at the age of 21 after passing the Foreign Service Officers' Examinations. Issa considers her posting in China a "deeply fulfilling and interesting" start to her career as a diplomat.

Before joining the diplomatic service, she worked as an Information Officer at the Office of the Senate President for 18 months. Following cadetship under the Foreign Service Institute with her colleagues in the FSO batch "Banyuhay", Issa handled media liaison work and events-coordination during the Philippines' hosting of the APEC in 1996.

Issa obtained a degree in Communications, major in Journalism, and completed units in the Master's in International Studies Program at the University of the Philippines. Issa speaks Chinese and French and hopes to specialize in trade and environment policy.



**Consular Database.** Consul General Isaias Begonia of Guangzhou PCG is shown training staff at the Consular Section of the Embassy on the new database program that streamlines the processing and retrieval of visa applications. He visited Beijing in May to demonstrate applications of the program he developed which is now being adopted by posts in China.

## Legal Corner

**Q:** Before coming to China as entertainers, members of Flamboyant Band had a "written agreement" with their employer, Club X, on the band's salary and terms of employment. However, the management of Club X failed to follow the terms agreed, and the band members were not receiving their salaries on a regular basis three months into their stint in China. What legal avenues can Flamboyant Band pursue to ensure that the terms of their agreement are followed by their employer?

**A:** Without notarization and acknowledgment by either the government of the Philippines or the People's Republic of China, any "written agreement" between the Band and its employer in China lacks the power of enforcement. It may not be used as legal basis to pursue obligations owed by Club X to the members of Flamboyant Band.

The best recourse under such circumstance is an amicable settlement between the parties involved.

Filipinos finding themselves in similar circumstances may seek the assistance of the Philippine Embassy or the nearest Philippine Consulate to help them in negotiating reasonable terms of settlement.

**Q:** Ms. Daisy Batungbakal, a Filipino, married Mr. Steve Brickman, an American, in Manila in 1998. In 2000, Daisy divorced Steve in the US, citing irreconcilable differences. Last year, Daisy married Mr. Finn Ollsen, a Danish national, under Danish law and obtained cards and other documents under her new married name. Daisy, now based in China, approaches the Embassy to renew her passport with a request that her name in the passport be amended to reflect her new status. Is this possible?

**A:** No. Daisy will not be granted this request because Philippine law does not acknowledge divorce and it was she, a Filipino citizen, and not her alien husband who initiated the divorce. Under the Family Code, only a divorce obtained by an alien spouse of a Filipino citizen capacitates the Filipino citizen to remarry under Philippine law. Accordingly, Daisy's marriage to Mr. Ollsen is not recognized under Philippine law. Her case does not meet conditions that allow a Filipino woman who is divorced to revert to the use of her maiden name or to use a new family name in her passport.

To help Daisy address the inconvenience of her situation, the Philippine Embassy can issue a certification stating that the name appearing on her Philippine passport and that appearing in her other documents refer to one and the same person.

## Party marks birth of Filipino Club Beijing

Members of the Filipino community in Beijing organized a National Day "pa-morningan" party on 7 June at Schiller's in Chaoyang, marking the birth of the Filipino Club Beijing (FCB).

The event organizers led by Mr. Boris Manaloto invited fellow expats to support the programs of the FCB and help enhance interaction and camaraderie in the community. Ambassador Villa graced the occasion and encouraged the community to be "ambassadors of goodwill".

## Special Feature

## Pinoy math wizard in Beijing

Dr. Marie Redina M. Victoria, an Assistant Professor of Mathematics at the University of the Philippines, is giving a lecture series on "Dynamical Systems" at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), Academy of Mathematics and Systems Sciences. Her lecture series started on 27 March and will run until 31 July.

Dr. Victoria holds a Doctorate Degree in Mathematics and is in Beijing for post-doctoral studies. Earlier this year, Dr. Victoria conducted a seminar in CAS before a distinguished group of Chinese scholars and scientists and presented a paper entitled, "Spectral Properties Preserved by an Admissible Perturbation". This paper was part of the main results of her Doctoral Dissertation researched and written at the Universitaet Gesamthochschule Essen, Germany.

When asked what she likes doing best, the hardworking and unassuming Dr. Victoria answers, "it is learning more mathematics from experts abroad and teaching this knowledge to our countrymen back home".

What makes Dr. Victoria happiest is being with her husband, Jose Roberto, and their children: Jose Redentor, Marie Robree and Jose Roberto II. "At home, I am just a plain wife and a loving mother, nothing more, nothing less", she says.



## KALAYAAN 2002 MESSAGE



**TEOFISTO T. GUINGONA, JR.**  
Vice President and Secretary of Foreign Affairs

*As we commemorate the 104th anniversary of Philippine Independence, we recall with gratitude the sacrifices and achievements of our forebears in their unrelenting quest—during centuries of colonial rule—for justice, equality and freedom.*

*We are edified and inspired by the example of our heroes: Lapu Lapu's bravery in Mactan; the bravery of Dagohoy, Malong, and Diego Silang; Jose Rizal's rational vision of reform and Andres Bonifacio's passion for independence; the valor of Emilio Aguinaldo and his men, winning battles against forces superior in numbers, experience, and arms.*

*We thank God for our Independence. Before dusk, on the twelfth of June 1898, our flag's sun and stars rose—with the notes of our national anthem—in the summer breezes of Kawit. We take just pride in being the first country in Asia to win freedom from colonial rule and to adopt a democratic and constitutional government.*

*It is right and just that we pay tribute to those who paid a steep price for our liberty and won for our people a permanent legacy of courage and selfless dedication, of unity and freedom.*

*But beyond paying tribute, it is imperative to continue what they began. The responsibility to safeguard the freedom that they won for us is now ours. The duty is ours to conserve their legacy of nationhood. It is now our task to combat poverty and help raise the quality of life of every Filipino, in a democratic milieu inspired by moral values and national traditions, by the example of our heroes and our experience of people empowerment.*

*Beyond recalling the past, it is significant to realize that our country is our responsibility. Each Filipino—young or old; in Luzon, the Visayas, and Mindanao, or abroad; whatever his occupation may be—must affirm in his mind and heart the conviction: bayan ko, sagot ko!*

*With determination, we must face the threats to our national integrity and unity. With resolution, we must face the challenge of poverty and global competitiveness. With hope, we must believe in our immense capacity to overcome problems, attain the development we need, and, once more, become worthy exemplars to other nations. It is in our deeds that we should say, in truth: "Bayan ko, narito ang sagot ko!"*

## Philippines, China convene 13th Foreign Ministry Consultations

The 13th Foreign Ministry Consultations between the Philippines and China was held in Beijing on 2-4 July. The Philippine delegation was led by Senior Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Lauro L. Baja, Jr., while the Chinese delegation was headed by Vice Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

During the meeting both sides reviewed the progress of bilateral relations for the past year, discussed measures to address specific bilateral issues, and exchanged views on regional and international issues.

The meeting was highly successful as both sides affirmed their commitments to strengthen cooperation in various fields, such as agriculture, trade and investments, science and technology, cultural exchanges, and tourism. Both sides also agreed to intensify cooperation against transnational crimes, drug trafficking and terrorism. The two sides also agreed to intensify cooperation through various fora such as the ASEAN + 1, ASEAN + 3, and ASEAN Regional Forum.

After the Consultations, the Philippine delegation paid a courtesy call on Vice Premier Qian Qichen at the Great Hall of the People.

## Consular Consultations held

The First Consular Consultations between the Philippines and China was held on 3 July in Beijing. The Philippine delegation was led by Assistant Secretary Belen F. Anota of the DFA Office of Consular Affairs, while the Chinese delegation was led by Director General Luo Tianguang of the MFA Consular Department.

The two sides discussed a broad range of subjects covering their respective visa and immigration policies. The consultations clarified a number of consular issues between the Philippines and China.

## ALC Cooking Demonstration



Mme. Caroline Villa (in white) is shown with Datin Malijah Majid (in pink) watching Malaysian ladies in the cooking demonstration activity held by the ASEAN Ladies' Circle (ALC) at the Philippine Embassy on 24 May.

## Envoys at the National Day



Ambassador Josue L. Villa (center) is flanked by H.E. Mr. Huang Guifang (left) and H.E. Mr. Chen Songlu (right) former Chinese Ambassadors to the Philippines, in a photo taken during the National Day reception held at the Hilton Hotel in Beijing on 12 June. Over 200 guests attended the event.

## WWW.Philembassy-china.org launched on the web

The Embassy formally launched its website, [www.philembassy-china.org](http://www.philembassy-china.org) on 3 July to broaden the reach of its service. The website publishes country information on the Philippines, an overview of Philippines-China relations, as well as tourism, business and visa information in English and Chinese.

Its Chinese facility aims to expand the interest and awareness of Chinese Internet users on the Philippines, with special focus on prospects for tourism, business and education exchange. China's Internet population was registered at 37.55 million in 2001, second only to the United States, and is projected to become the biggest in the world after 2005.

## Shanghai Museum unveils Ching Banlee Collection

The Shanghai Museum, considered as Asia's premier cultural showcase, unveiled on 21 June the exhibition of *Chinese Paintings and Calligraphy from the Ching Banlee Collection of the Philippines*. The antique works will be on display until 15 October at the No.2 Exhibition Hall at the Second Floor of the Shanghai Museum.

## Philippines- China CHRONICLE

is a bi-monthly publication of the Philippine Embassy in Beijing. Contributions and comments are welcome.

Address: No.23 Xiu Shui Bei Jie, Jianguomenwai, 100600 Beijing, People's Republic of China

Trunklines: (10) 6532 1872, 6532 2451, 6532 2518

Fax No. : (10) 6532 3761

E-mail: [beijingpe@cinet.com.cn](mailto:beijingpe@cinet.com.cn)