



# Philippines-China CHRONICLE



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## President Arroyo visits China

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo paid a highly-successful state visit to China on 1-3 September 2004 at the invitation of Chinese President Hu Jintao.

During her visit, President Arroyo held talks with President Hu, Premier Wen Jiabao and Central Military Commission Chairman Jiang Zemin, all of whom agreed that Philippines-China relations were at their highest point.

To further boost relations, both sides agreed to strengthen various cooperation and consultation mechanisms. These include the foreign ministry consultations, consular consultations, and the Joint Committees on Trade, Agriculture, and Science and Technology.

Both countries also committed to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations next year with meaningful activities.

The President thanked Chinese leaders for China's role in the agricultural and infrastructure development of the Philippines. She also sought China's support for the realization of her "10-point agenda," a national socio-economic development program that seeks to better the lives of Filipinos at a concrete level.



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo with Chinese President Hu Jintao during the welcome ceremonies at the Great Hall of the People on 1 September 2004.



President Arroyo receiving a warm welcome from her granddaughter Mikaela (center) and children from the Philippine Embassy and the Filipino community before her meeting with the community in Beijing on 2 September 2004.

In terms of trade volume, a target of US\$20 billion was set for the next five years (i.e., 2009).

Both sides also agreed that expanded exchanges and dialogue in military and security fields will further strengthen the level of political trust between the two countries.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to peace and stability in the South China Sea and their preparedness to continue to discuss cooperative ventures, such as joint development, pending the comprehensive and final settlement of territorial disputes and overlapping maritime claims in the region.

The Philippines reiterated its commitment to the one-China policy and recognized China's market economy status.

Chinese business leaders also called on the President to express their confidence in her leadership and economic policies.

The President also presented a letter of commendation to Mr. Yuan Longping, the "Father of Hybrid Rice." She noted that China's hybrid rice has doubled the income of Philippine farmers and promoted the development of the Philippine economy.

In her meeting with members of the Filipino community in Beijing, the President thanked them for their support for her re-election and sought their assistance in realizing her 10-point agenda.

On the last day of her visit, President Arroyo delivered a speech at the opening ceremony of the Third International Conference of Asian Political Parties in Beijing Hotel on 3 September.

The President, who also visited Guangzhou and Xi'an, was accompanied by a lean official delegation of 14 and a powerful commercial delegation of more than a hundred top Filipino businessmen.

The visit was the President's first overseas trip after she won a fresh mandate to lead the Filipino people in the May presidential elections.



President Arroyo visiting the Terracotta Museum in Xi'an on 2 September 2004.

## Government agreements

Six government-to-government agreements were signed during the visit. These include the following:

- MOU on Fisheries Cooperation
- Implementation Program of the MOU on Tourism Cooperation between DOT and CNTA
- Agreement on Mutual Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic and Official/Service Passports
- Supplemental MOU between North Luzon Railways Corporation and China National Machinery and Equipment Corporation (Group) on the Northrail Project
- MOA between PNOC and CNOOC for Joint Marine Seismic Undertaking in Certain Areas of the South China Sea
- LOI on Friendly Exchanges and Cooperation between the Office of the Press Secretary of the Philippines and the State Council Information Office of China.

## Business agreements

- LOI on the construction of an integrated glass manufacturing facility at the Bataan Technology Park
- Joint venture on an iron ore processing facility in Panganiban, Camarines Norte
- Supply contracts on wireless hi-speed data services
- Supply contracts on coconut by-products
- Credit facility for the purchase of pharmaceutical and hospital products
- Contract for the purchase of 100 buses using CNG (compressed natural gas)
- Trial planting of Chinese hybrid corn

## DOT conducts workshop

The Office of the Tourism Attaché organized on 3 September 2004 a Philippine tourism workshop at the Jianguo Hotel in Beijing for representatives of major Chinese tour wholesalers and airline partner Cathay Pacific Airways as part of the activities of the Department of Tourism for the state visit of President Arroyo to China.

The tourism workshop was conducted by former Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan, who also used the forum to discuss with members of the Chinese travel trade, their ideas and suggestions on optimal promotional strategies that the Philippines could immediately adopt vis-à-vis the Chinese market. A video presentation on the Philippines in Chinese was also used during the workshop.

## DIPLOMATIC NOTES

**Madame Gaa hosts ALC Tea Party**

Madame Erlinda C. Gaa, wife of Ambassador Gaa, hosted a tea party for the ASEAN Ladies Circle on 24 September 2004 at the Embassy's Acacia Hall.

Adopting the theme of the Philippine *barrio fiesta*, the ladies of the Embassy, dressed in traditional *kimona*, welcomed the ladies of the other ASEAN Embassies to a bright hall decorated with colorful bunting and fiesta booths. They also introduced Philippine goodies like *pansit*, *pancit molo*, *lumpiang sariwa*, *pan de sal at menudo*, *puto*, *kuchinta*, *leche flan*, *sago't gulaman*, and *melon juice*.

The Sining Kumintang ng Batangas, the official cultural performing group of Batangas Province, which was in China for the Beijing International Cultural



L-R: Madame Qin Xiaomei, Wife of Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, Madame Linda Gaa, Madame Maliha Majid (Malaysia) and Madame Chin Leemoi (Singapore) during the ASEAN Ladies Circle Tea Party at the Philippine Embassy on 24 September 2004.

Tourism Festival, gave a delightful performance of Spanish-influenced songs and dances entitled *aires de verbena*. The Mabuhay Beijing Folk Dance Troupe, a performing group composed of Filipino expats in Beijing, also regaled everybody with the *Timikling* or bamboo dance. The Embassy ladies did their share by dancing to Ryan Cayabyab's *Da Coconut Nut*.

In her welcoming remarks, Madame Gaa noted that fiestas are occasions for thanksgiving, fellowship, happiness and fun. She said that through the tea gathering, the Embassy ladies hoped to share with their ASEAN sisters glimpses of Philippine life, culture, music and dance.

Madame Qin Xiaomei, wife of Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, and other officials from the Association of Former Diplomats of China were the special guests for the afternoon.



The Sining Kumintang ng Batangas performing for the ASEAN Ladies Circle Tea Party at the Philippine Embassy on 24 September 2004.

**Signing of LOI on Media Exchanges**

Presidential Adviser for Communications Silvestre C. Afable, Jr. and Minister Zhao Qizheng, Minister of the State Council Information Office shake hands after signing on 3 September the Letter of Intent on Friendly Exchanges and Cooperation between RP's Office of the Press Secretary and China's State Council Information Office. Under the LOI, the two sides agreed to promote exchanges between their respective media organizations and encourage wider coverage of political, economic cultural and related events in the two countries.

**RP co-chairs CAMMY 1**

The Philippines co-chaired with China the First China-ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Youth on 29 September in Beijing.

Mr. Paolo Benigno A. Aquino IV, Chairman and CEO of the Philippine National Youth Commission (NYC) and Mr. Zhou Qiang, First Secretary of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Communist Youth League of China, ably steered the meeting which resulted in the adoption of the "Beijing Declaration on ASEAN-China Cooperation on Youth" and the "Joint Workplan for the First ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting on Youth," undertakings which outline plans and activities to further the cooperation between the youth of ASEAN and China for common advancement.

In addition to Mr. Aquino, other members of the Philippine delegation included NYC Commissioner Araceli Aves, Embassy First Secretary Jaime Victor B. Ledda (then in his capacity as Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy) and Third Secretary Marie-Charlotte Tang. Prior to the meeting, Mr. Ledda co-chaired the CAMMY 1 Preparatory Senior Officials Meeting with Mr. Wang Xuefang, Deputy Secretary-General of the All-China Youth Federation.

**ACB visits Dalian**

Ambassador Gaa joined the ASEAN Committee Beijing (ACB) in visiting Dalian on 8-9 July at the invitation of Dalian Mayor Xia Deren.

During the meeting with Mayor Xia, the latter emphasized the importance of ASEAN as an economic partner of China and Dalian and stressed the investment possibilities between the two sides. He noted that China's central government policy of revitalizing the traditional industrial base in the northeast has given a wider opportunity for Dalian to develop itself and strengthen cooperation with other countries, including ASEAN.

The ACB, represented by its Chairman Indonesian Ambassador Aa Kustia, noted the complementarities of China and ASEAN and the possibilities of enhancing investment cooperation between ASEAN and Dalian.

The ACB is composed of the 10 ASEAN Ambassadors in Beijing.

**FVR in Education Forum**

Former President Fidel V. Ramos led a delegation of Philippine education officials and educators to the "Education Forum for Asia (EFA) Conference on Education Cooperation 2004" in Beijing on 22-26 August.

RP education institutions represented included the Development Academy of the Philippines, Far Eastern University, De La Salle University, Yuchengco Center for East Asia, University of the East, Jose Rizal University, Ateneo de Manila University, and the University of Asia and the Pacific.

The EFA was organized by the China Scholarship Council, BOAO Forum for Asia, and the UNESCO to address the continuing need for a more responsive, dynamic and higher quality of education in Asia.

**Filipina wins ISSA Presidency**

Philippine Social Security System President and Chief Executive Officer Corazon de la Paz became the first woman and first Asian to be elected president of the International Social Security Association (ISSA) at elections held during the 28th ISSA General Assembly in Beijing on 18 September.

De la Paz won 60 percent of the votes and bested three other candidates from France, Belize, and Zambia.

ISSA groups together 380 social security organizations from 145 countries, and promotes development of world social security and population advancement.

**Philippines at 2004 BICTF**

The Philippines had a strong presence at the 2004 Beijing International Cultural and Tourism Fair (BICTF) held on 24-26 September 2004 at the Sun Dong An Plaza in Wangfujing, Beijing.

Ambassador Willy C. Gaa represented the Philippines at the opening ceremonies of the travel fair and later visited the Philippine booth and participated in the presentation on the Philippines conducted by Tourism Attaché Jazmin Esguerra.



Ambassador Willy Gaa (center) with Tourism Attaché Jazmin Esguerra and Tourism Administrative Assistant Mr. Warren Palacio at the booth.

**Ballet Phils in 6th Asian Arts Fest**

Ballet Philippines, one of the country's premier ballet companies, represented the Philippines in the 6th Asian Arts Festival held in Beijing and Changchun on 18-29 August 2004. The group's visit implements Item 8 of Article 1 of the RP-China Executive Program of the Cultural Agreement between the Philippines and China.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## PROFILE

Colonel Samuel L. Narbuada  
Defense Attaché

(This is the 19th of a series of features on Philippine diplomats currently serving in China.)



Col. Samuel L. Narbuada is currently the Philippine Defense and Armed Forces Attaché in the People's Republic of China.

He was born on 24 Jan 1958 in Cebu City. He was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in the Regular Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines after his graduation from the Philippine Military Academy in 1979.

In the Intelligence Service, Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFP) Col. Narbuada served with distinction as Chief, Operations and Intelligence Division, and as Group Commander of four different ISAFP Military Intelligence Groups for several years. His previous designations include the following: Operations Officer, Presidential Anti-Smuggling Task Force (PASTF) "Aduana"; Commander, Anti-Smuggling Task Group-Mindanao, PASTF "Aduana"; Chairman, Regional Military Intelligence Coordinating Committee in Mindanao and Palawan; Assistant Officer-in-Charge, Office of Listening Post, Hong Kong;

Member, ISAFP Inspection Team; Chief, Special Projects Branch, OID, ISAFP; Assistant Chief, Operations & Intelligence Division (OID), ISAFP; Assistant Group Commander, Military Intelligence Group 5, ISAFP; Production Officer, Intelligence Task Group 5, Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC); Commanding Officer, ISAFP Troop School. He was also designated as Platoon Leader of the 11th Infantry Battalion, Philippine Army; and Assistant Operations Officer of the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division in the Philippine Army.

Col. Narbuada has completed numerous local and foreign military courses, which include: Ordnance Officer Course, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Course, and Infantry Officer Advance Course at the Philippine Army Training Command; Intelligence: Basic and Advance Courses at the Special Intelligence Training School, ISAFP; VIP Security and Dignitary Protection Course and Basic Ranger Course at the Scout Ranger Training Unit, PA; International Intelligence Officer Basic Course at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, USA; and the Army Command and General Staff Course at the Training and Doctrine Command, PA. He also holds a Master's in Management degree from the Philippine Christian University.

Col. Narbuada's performance in his various assignments has earned for him numerous awards and decorations. Among these are three Distinguished Service Medals; two Bronze Cross Medals; 21 Military Merit Medals; one Military Commendation Medal; two Long Service Medals; Military Civic Action Medal; various campaign medals and ribbons, and other awards and badges. He also received numerous letters of commendations, plaques of appreciation and certificates of merit.

He is married to the former Maria Teresa B. Endozo of the Department of Foreign Affairs, with whom he is blessed with four (4) children.

Classroom galing sa  
Mamamayang Pilipino Abroad

*Kababayans* are invited to contribute in nation-building by sponsoring the construction of classrooms in the Philippines under a program called "Classroom, Galing sa Mamamayang Pilipino Abroad."

The program, which aims to address the shortage of classrooms in priority schools in the country, is a joint undertaking of the Departments of Foreign Affairs (DFA), Labor and Employment (DOLE), Education (DepEd) and the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc.

Each classroom costs US\$4,000.00 and for economic and practical reasons, are built in pairs. The beneficiary schools are identified from the DepEd's listing of schools with classroom shortage. Pinoy in China are encouraged to participate in the program by sharing their resources.

For more information, kindly see Vice Consul Jim Tito San Agustin at the Embassy.

## Unveiling of Rizal bust



L-R: Tourism Attaché Jazmin Esguerra, Philippine Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan, Philippine Ambassador to China Willy Gaa and Madame Linda Gaa during the unveiling of the bust of Philippine National Hero Dr. Jose Rizal before the blessing of the Office of the Philippine Tourism Attaché on 21 July 2004. The bust of Dr. Rizal was donated by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

## New faces



Ms. J. Esguerra



Mr. W. Palacio

The Embassy welcomes the addition of Ms. Jazmin Esguerra and Mr. Warren Palacio to its family. Ms. Esguerra is the Philippines' first Tourism Attaché to China while Mr. Palacio is her Administrative Assistant.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

## Christmas party 2004

*Mga Kababayan,*

The Philippine Embassy is pleased to announce that the annual Christmas Party of the Filipino community in Beijing will be held at the Embassy on Sunday, 12 December 2004, from 9:00 a.m. onwards. The theme of the Christmas Party will be "Paskong Puno ng K (Kagalakan, Kantaban, Kainan, Kodakan, etc.)"

The Filipino community in Beijing will organize the Party with support from the Embassy.

A Holy Mass will be held at 9:00 a.m. This will be followed by performances by Filipino bands in Beijing and other numbers by the Filipino community. Exciting raffle prizes await everyone.

Donations of raffle prizes, cash, food and drinks are welcome.

For more information, kindly get in touch with Ms. Zsa Zsa Apolonio, Ms. Neri Magaso or Ms. Tintin Dimaano at the following telephone numbers: 6532-1872; 6532-2451 and MP-13911180495.

*Magkita-kita po tayong sa Party!*

## Embassy thanks Mr. Li



The Embassy thanked and bid farewell to Mr. Li Enhuai, who retired on 30 September 2004. The ever-loyal and hardworking Mr. Li is the longest-serving Chinese employee of the Embassy, having been the driver of Philippine ambassadors to China since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1975.

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Contributions and comments are welcome.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF PHILIPPINES-CHINA RELATIONS

## RP Posts in China align programs with PGMA's 10-point agenda

Philippine foreign service posts in China agreed on 23 July to vigorously promote tourism and trade with China, attract investments to the Philippines, and continue to protect and enhance the welfare of Filipinos in mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau.

The commitment was reiterated after a two-day consultation among the heads of foreign service posts in China (Philippine Embassy in Beijing and the Consulates General in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Xiamen and Hong Kong SAR.)

Former Tourism Secretary Roberto M. Pagdanganan and DFA Assistant Secretary for Asian and Pacific Affairs Alicia C. Ramos were present to provide guidance to the Posts. Service Attachés representing the Departments of National Defense, Trade, Tourism,



Foreign Affairs Assistant Secretary Alicia Ramos, Ambassador Gaa (center) and Consuls General Yap-Bahjin, Yabes, Belmonte-Jover and Gavino (L-R) signing the Agreed Minutes for the 3rd Consultations among Philippine Posts in China. Witnessing the signing are Tourism Secretary Pagdanganan (standing 8th from left) and other officials of the five posts.

## AFP Chief of Staff General Abaya visits China



Former AFP Chief of Staff General Narciso C. Abaya presenting a token to Ambassador Gaa.

Then Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff General Narciso L. Abaya paid an official visit to China on 22-28 September 2004 at the invitation of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China.

In Beijing, General Abaya called on Chinese

## CPPCC Vice chairman visits RP

Vice-Chairman Li Zhaozhuo of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) visited the Philippines on 15-20 August 2004 to promote closer ties between the CPPCC and the Philippine Congress.

During his visit, he called on Senate President Franklin Drilon, Speaker Jose de Venecia and Foreign Affairs Acting Secretary Rafael E. Sequis. Both sides exchanged views on the state and future directions of bilateral relations.

Labor, and Agriculture contributed actively in the discussions.

The consultation, the third among Philippine missions in China, was called by Philippine Ambassador to China Willy C. Gaa to assess the current state of RP-China relations, establish priorities and future areas of bilateral cooperation, and align the plans and programs of the Posts with the 10-point agenda of President Arroyo.

Philippine Consuls General in China are Jesus I. Yabes (Shanghai), Corazon Belmonte-Jover (Hong Kong SAR), Corazon Yap-Bahjin (Xiamen) and Erlinda Gavino (Guangzhou).

The next consultations will take place in Xiamen in 2005.



DFA Asian and Pacific Affairs Assistant Secretary Alicia C. Ramos (5th from left) meets with Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Shen Guofang (6th from left) on 23 July 2004 on the sidelines of the 3rd Consultations among Foreign Service Posts in China in Beijing. In Photo are: 1st Secretary Ledda (Beijing), Consul General Gavino (Guangzhou), Consul General Yabes (Shanghai), Consul General Jover (Hong Kong SAR), Ambassador Gaa (Beijing), Consul General Bahjin (Xiamen), Deputy Director-General Guan Mu (MFA), 3rd Secretary Te (Beijing), 3rd Secretary Mao Ning (MFA) and 2nd Secretary He Wei (MFA).

Defense Minister General Cao Gangchuan and met with his counterpart, PLA Chief of the General Staff General Liang Guanglie.

Noting the importance of military ties, General Liang reaffirmed that China and the Philippines have attained good neighborly cooperation and mutual trust. He stressed that the development of friendly relations is conducive to regional peace and security. He made proposals to further promote military relations, adding that on the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and the Philippines in 2005, both sides should push military-to-military ties to deeper and broader level.

The AFP delegation, together with delegates from 15 countries, was invited to observe a live-fire military exercise called "Iron Fist 2004" conducted by the 127th Mechanized Infantry Division of the PLA in Zhengzhou, Henan Province on 25 September.

General Abaya was accompanied during his visit by Commanding General Lt. Gen. Efren L. Abu, Philippine Army (PA); Commanding General Brig. Gen. Rodrigo F. Maclang, Light Armor Brigade, PA, and five other officials.

## Young artists win painting competition

Three Filipino children, two of them sisters, won top prizes in the 3rd World Children's Painting Competition and Exhibition jointly held by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and the Tianjin People's Government. Ms. Catherine and Christine Dolendo won the Grand and Bronze prizes, while Mr. Norlando Alegre, won the Golden prize. All three are students of the Philippine High School for the Arts in Mt. Makiling, Los Banos.

## RP-China trade hits US\$9.35 B

Trade between the Philippines and China reached US\$9.35 billion in the first three quarters of the year, up 45.3 percent from the same period in 2003. This means that the US\$10 billion target for 2005 is likely to be exceeded this year as trade volume is expected to hit US\$13 billion by December.

According to figures released by the Chinese General Administration of Customs, Philippine exports to China amounted to US\$6.23 billion, while imports from China reached US\$3.11 billion, representing year-on-year increases of 45 and 46 percentages, respectively. The Philippines posted a trade surplus of US\$3.12 billion.

Top Philippine exports include semi-conductor devices, machinery and mechanical appliances and their parts, copper cathodes, mineral oils, and fresh bananas.

RP-China trade has been growing at a rate of 38 per cent in the past five years. In 2003, trade volume reached US\$9.4 billion.

## RP opens tourism office

The office of the Philippine Tourism Attaché in Beijing was inaugurated on 21 July by no less than then Philippine Tourism Secretary Roberto Pagdanganan.

"China's 20-million outbound tourist market presents a great deal of opportunity for the Philippines. It is therefore of utmost importance that we maintain a strong market presence in China if we want to attract Chinese tourists to the Philippines," the Secretary stressed.

To penetrate the market, the Secretary said that the Philippines has outlined cooperative measures to strengthen the country's position as a "preferred destination" for the outbound Chinese market. These measures include competitive tour packages, brochures in Chinese, Chinese-speaking professional tour guides and airport receptionists, and improved visa policies.

He added that the Department of Tourism (DOT) will also conduct sales missions, participate in Chinese travel fairs, and sponsor familiarization trips for Chinese outbound tour operators and travel agents, media representatives and key officials to the Philippines.

The Embassy and the DOT hosted a cocktail reception in the evening of 21 July to announce the opening.



Tourism Secretary Pagdanganan and Ambassador Gaa striking the ceremonial gong that marked the opening of the Philippine Tourism Office in Beijing.