



# Philippines-China CHRONICLE



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## Philippines-China trade hits US\$13 billion, exceeds target

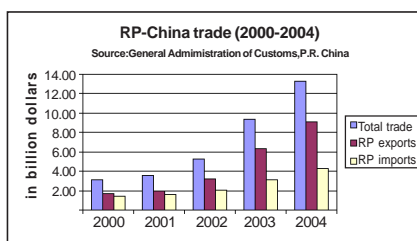
Trade between the Philippines and China reached US\$13.33 billion in 2004, up 41.8 percent from 2003, exceeding the US\$10 billion targeted for the year by officials of both countries.

According to Chinese Ministry of Commerce figures, Philippine exports to China amounted to US\$9.06 billion, while imports from China reached US\$4.27 billion, representing growth rates of 43.6 and 38 percentages, respectively. The Philippines posted a trade surplus of US\$4.79 billion.

Top Philippine exports include semiconductor 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 43.78 percent in the past five years. In 2003, trade volume grew 79 percent and reached US\$9.4 billion.

During the visit of President Arroyo to China in September 2004, both sides targeted a trade volume of US\$20 billion by 2009.



## RP joins China-ASEAN Expo

The Philippines, led by Trade and Industry Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino, participated in the first ever China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) in Nanning on 3-6 November.

The Philippine Pavilion at the Expo featured an integrated presentation of Philippine trade, investment, and tourism.

Philippine Ambassador to China Willy C. Gaa, who was invited by the Chinese Ministry of Commerce to join the Expo, delivered remarks to encourage Chinese tourists to visit the Philippines in a seminar on Philippine tourism.

The CAEXPO is an initiative of Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao to promote economic relations between China and ASEAN.

Philippine Consul-General to Guangzhou Erlinda Q. Gavino, Commercial Attaché Archimedes Gomez and Jorge Judan, and Philippine Tourism Attaché to HKSAR Tess Mauricio also participated in the Expo.



Ambassador Gaa and RP Tourism Attaché to HKSAR Tess Mauricio at the Philippine Tourism Seminar at the China-ASEAN Expo.



## China donates US\$250,000 to RP

The Chinese Government donated a total of US\$250,000 to the victims of the typhoons that hit the Philippines in November and December.

The first donation, in the amount of P2.8 million (US\$50,000), was handed to Acting Secretary Franklin M. Ebdalin by Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Wu Hongbo on 26 November. The donation is for the victims of typhoons "Unding" and "Violeta" which struck Luzon in mid-November.

The second donation, in the amount of US\$200,000, was turned over by the Chinese Ambassador to Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo on 10 December. The latter is for the government's rescue and relief efforts for typhoons "Winnie" and "Yoyong" that hit Eastern Luzon in late November and early December.

Both DFA officials expressed the Philippines' gratefulness for China's timely donations.

## DND Secretary visits China

Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, Jr. visited China on 7-14 November at the invitation of Chinese Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan, during which both Ministers agreed to strengthen defense cooperation.

In their meeting, Minister Cao, who is also a Vice Chairman of China's Central Military Commission and a State Councilor, proposed more exchanges of visits among senior, mid-level and junior military officials to celebrate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations in 2005. Secretary Cruz welcomed the minister's proposal and invited the minister to visit the Philippines. The two Ministers also signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Defense Cooperation between the two defense ministries.

During the visit, the Secretary also called on Premier Wen Jiabao, who said that relations between the two countries are at their best since both sides enjoy mutual trust. Premier Wen also noted that the best way to celebrate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations is to enhance cooperation between both sides. He expressed hope that the Philippines can play a constructive role in bringing China closer to ASEAN. Secretary Cruz said that ASEAN looks to China in promoting stability in the region, and the Philippines will play its role in ASEAN. He also said that President Arroyo is looking forward to the visits of President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen and Minister Cao.

The visit is Secretary Cruz's first foreign visit since he assumed his current position. Aside from official meetings in Beijing, the Secretary also visited the Beijing Military Command, Shaanxi Provincial Military Command, Chengdu Military Command, and the Shanghai Naval Logistical Base.



Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan hosts dinner for DND Secretary Cruz at BaYi Bldg on 8 November.

## DIPLOMATIC NOTES

### ARF Security Policy Conference

The Philippines participated in the first ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Security Policy Conference on 4-6 November 2004 in Beijing.

Assistant Secretary Alicia C. Ramos of the Department of Foreign Affairs headed the Philippine delegation, which included Assistant Secretary Alejandro Melchor II of the Department of National Defense, Assistant Director-General Zenonida F. Brosas of the National Security Council, Col. Samuel Narbuada, Defense and Armed Forces Attaché of the Philippines to China, and Third Secretary Elizabeth Te of the Philippine Embassy.

The Conference is aimed at increasing mutual trust and understanding and promoting confidence building among defense, military officials and diplomats of the ARF members.

The Philippine delegation noted during the Conference that the Philippines seeks to address its security threats through peace negotiations with insurgent groups, socio-economic development, promotion of

inter-cultural and inter-faith solidarity, security and law enforcement measures, and media support. It has established an inter-agency anti-terrorism task force to do this.

The Philippine delegation also explained that in addressing the threat of terrorism, the Philippines seeks to build domestic and international allies.

The Heads of Delegations also paid courtesy calls on Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing, Defense Minister Cao Gangchuan, and Premier Wen Jiabao.



DFA Assistant Secretary Alicia C. Ramos joins the heads of other delegations to the first ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Security Policy Conference in a photo session at the Tianlun Dynasty Hotel.

### PFVR participates in CEO Forum

Former Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos led a powerful delegation of Philippine CEOs to participate in the Eighth Annual CEO Forum hosted by BusinessWeek and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries on 9-10 November in Beijing.

In his keynote speech, the former President examined the economic, political and security implications of recent developments in the region, including China's "peaceful" rise, the emerging roles of India and Japan, and China's challenge to U.S. dominance.

During his visit, the former President, who is also the Chairman of the Ramos Peace and Development Foundation and the Boao Forum for Asia, met with State Councilor Tang Jiaxuan, former Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamad and WTO Director-General Dr. Supatchai Panitchpakdi.



PFVR and members of his delegation with Ambassador and Madame Gaa and the Filipino community in Beijing at the Embassy.

### ACB hosts dinner for VFM Wu

Philippine Ambassador Willy C. Gaa joined the ASEAN Committee, Beijing (ACB) in hosting a dinner for new Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei on 17 November, during which both sides exchanged general views on ASEAN-China relations.

The Malaysian Ambassador, then Chairman of the ACB, congratulated the Vice Minister on his recent appointment and expressed optimism that the long tradition of close friendship between ACB and the Foreign Ministry would continue.

### Friendship Society formed



The Philippines-China Friendship Society of the 13th Philippine Congress was formed on 22 November at the Westin Philippine Plaza in Manila with Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, as its Chairperson.

Members of the society include Senate President Franklin M. Drilon, Senators Manuel B. Villar, Jr., Francis N. Pangilinan, Richard Gordon, Pia S. Cayetano, and other senators.

### Commerce Minister fetes ACB

Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai hosted a dinner for the ASEAN Committee, Beijing (ACB) on 29 October at the Beijing Hotel. The dinner is the first between ACB and Minister Bo since the latter assumed his current position.

Minister Bo thanked ASEAN for the latter's recognition of China's full market economy status. He said this demonstrates ASEAN's determination to further cooperation between the two sides.

The Malaysian Ambassador, Chairman of the ACB, also took the opportunity to brief the Minister on the history, functions and activities of the ACB.

The ACB is composed of the ten Ambassadors of the ASEAN missions in Beijing.



Ambassador Gaa (3rd from right) and other ACB Ambassadors and diplomats with Chinese Minister of Commerce Bo Xilai (center) at the Beijing Hotel.

### Results of the 8th ASEAN-China Summit and related meetings, Vientiane, 29-30 November 2004:

- Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN - China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity
- MOU between ASEAN and China on Transport Cooperation
- Agreement on Trade in Goods of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-operation between ASEAN and China
- Agreement on Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co-Operation between ASEAN and China

Copies of the documents and the Chairman's Statement of the 8th ASEAN+China Summit entitled "Deepening ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership" are available at the ASEAN website: <http://www.aseansec.org/16474.htm>

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## Filcom celebrates "Paskong Puno ng K" at Embassy

The Filipino community in Beijing, with the active support of the Embassy, organized for the second time, a highly successful Christmas party on 12 December 2004.

The Christmas Party, with the theme "Paskong Puno ng K," saw a record number of attendees and raffle prizes, and showcased the best Filipino bands and performing artists in Beijing.

Not forgetting less fortunate compatriots affected by typhoons "Winnie" and "Yoyong" in the Philippines, the community generously donated money to help provide relief for the victims. Lucky raffle draw winners also voluntarily auctioned off their prizes for the benefit of the typhoon victims.

The party started with a celebration of Holy Mass by Fr. Don Allen. This was followed by the welcome remarks of Ambassador Willy C. Gaa, who in his remarks emphasized that "Paskong Puno ng K" not only referred to *Kainan, Kantahan at Kodakan*, but more importantly, to Christ's birth (*Kaarawan ni Kristo*) and the community's support for the typhoon victims (*Kawanggawa at Kalinga sa ating mga Kababayan*).

The party, which was also attended by Chinese MFA officials headed by Asian Department Director General Cui Tiankai, also afforded Ambassador Gaa the opportunity to thank the Chinese Government for its \$250,000 donation to the Philippine Government's typhoon relief efforts.

Bonna Banaag and Omar Lacap were the emcees of the program. The Organizing Committee of "Paskong Puno ng K" is composed of Resie Ona, Ed Guerrero, Ed Abella, Rico "Boris" Manaloto and Vice Consul Jim San Agustin.

The Embassy would like to thank again the Organizing Committee of Paskong Puno ng K, sponsors of the raffle prizes and those who brought food to the party.



Ambassador Gaa delivers his Christmas message at the Filcom Christmas Party.

## PROFILE Jorge M. Judan Commercial Attaché

*(This is the 20th of a series of features on Philippine diplomats currently serving in China)*



Mr. Jorge M. Judan is the Philippine Commercial Attaché in the People's Republic of China.

Jorge joined the Foreign Trade Service Corps (FTSC) of the Department of Trade and Industry in August 1997. Prior to his posting in Beijing, he served as Commercial Attaché at the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo, and earlier, as Commercial Attaché at the Philippine Embassy in Jakarta with concurrent accreditation as Commercial Attaché at the Philippine Embassy in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Jorge graduated from the University of the Philippines with a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology in 1985. He, then, received a Diploma in Executive Development Program from the Asian Institute of Management in 1988.

## Filipino Community raises ₱194,529 for typhoon victims



The Filipino Community in Beijing responded positively to the Philippine government's call for donations to help provide relief to victims of the typhoons that struck Luzon in November and December.

A total of ₱194,529 was collected by the Philippine Embassy in Beijing during the Filipino Community Christmas Party held on 12 December 2004 at the Embassy.

On 20 December, Ambassador and Madame Willy C. Gaa, together with Vice Consul Charlotte Tang and Filipino Community representatives Mr. and Mrs. Roberto Oña, turned over to Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo the amount of ₱126,260.10 intended for the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC).

In the afternoon of the same day, Ms. Resie Ona turned over the amount of ₱68,268.90 to the Philippine National Red Cross through the Department of Tourism.



Filipino children re-enacting the Nativity Scene



Organizing Committee Members Bonna & Resie (3rd & 5th from left) leading the fun.

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Kababayans lining up for yummy food.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PHILIPPINES-CHINA RELATIONS

### PGMA welcomes Chinese leader

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo welcomed to Malacanang on 18 October Mr. Wu Guanzheng, Member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

During his courtesy call, the visiting Chinese leader alluded to the President's state visit to China on 1-3 September and the implementation of several agreements forged during the visit.

The President noted China's contributions to infrastructure development in the Philippines and expressed hope for more investments from China.

The senior official of the CPC and his delegation of seven visited Manila on 17-20 October upon the invitation of House Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.



PGMA with Hon. Wu Guangheng (left), Member of the Standing Committee, Political Bureau, Communist Party of China, during a courtesy call at the Malacanang Music Room. With them are Speaker Jose C. de Venecia and Rep. Lorna Silverio, Chairwoman, House Committee on InterParliamentary Relations and Diplomacy.

### RP attracts Chinese students

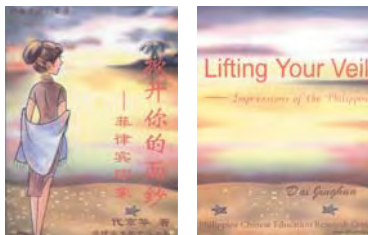
Seven Philippine schools, led by the Philippine Center for International Expositions and Missions (CITEM), participated in the China Education Expo 2004 on 23-24 October in Beijing.

Philippine participation in the expo is part of the country's efforts to promote its education services in China.

Philippine participants included schools for higher learning and those specializing in teaching English as a second language (ESL). These were the Far Eastern University (FEU), Our Lady of Fatima University, Philippine Women's University (PWU), Center for International Education (CIE), ECI Communicative Trainings, Inc., Evoke Learning Systems, Inc., and the Royal Institute of Higher Education (RIHED).

During the Expo, a seminar entitled "Philippines: your link to a global education" was also held to present the country's capability on education services.

### Chinese scholar writes book



Chinese scholar to the Philippines Dai Jinghua wrote a book entitled "Lifting Your Veil -- Impressions on the Philippines" after winding up her studies at the University of the Philippines.

Written in Chinese, the book is published by the Philippine Chinese Education Center, and provides Ms. Dai's insights on Philippine life, society and personalities.

Ms. Dai was China's exchange student to the Philippines under the 2002-2004 Executive Program of the Philippines-China Cultural Agreement.

Upon her return to Beijing, she presented copies of her book to Philippine Ambassador Willy C. Gaa, and thanked him for his support for her undertakings.

### Firefighters call on Amb. Gaa



Mr. Gerry Chua, Executive Vice President and Communications Chairman of the Association of Philippine Volunteer Fire Brigades, presents Ambassador Gaa with the seal of the Association. 23 members of the Association, representing its various chapters, called on the Ambassador on 20 October 2004. The group participated in the 10th China Fire Expo on 17-24 October 2004 in Beijing.

### Mano Po 3 Cast in Beijing



The autumn season saw the cast and crew of *Mano Po 3* flying to Beijing for a pictorial. The film won seven awards at the 30th Metro Manila Film Festival including Best Picture, Best Actress for Vilma Santos and Best Actor for Christopher de Leon.

### RP, China forge sister cities

Muntinlupa and San Fernando (La Union) cities signed sister-city agreements with Liuzhou and Hezhou cities, respectively, of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 04 November. The signing of the agreements was part of the First China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) held in Nanning on 3-6 November.

Mayor Jaime R. Fresnedi of Muntinlupa City, Vice-Mayor Bernardo L. Valero of San Fernando City, Executive Vice-mayor Zhou Zhouxin of Liuzhou City and Mayor Chen Lidan of Hezhou City represented their respective cities in signing the agreements.

Philippine Consul General to Guangzhou Erlinda Gavino witnessed the ceremony.

### RP vows travellers in CITM

The Philippines participated successfully in the China International Travel Mart (CITM) in Shanghai on 25-28 November 2004.

Led by the Philippine Tourism Attaché in Beijing and the Philippine Department of Tourism (DOT), 36 participants representing Philippine tour and travel agencies, airlines, hotels and resorts, the Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the DOT China Market Task Force, joined the event.

Some "quick wins" from the event, included two charter flights from Hangzhou with 150 persons each for the Spring Festival; a charter flight from Beijing for 200 persons; and six tour groups, either going to Boracay or Palawan.

The Philippine Bayanihan National Folk Dance company also drew crowds to the Philippine booth with their performances.

Philippine participation in the CITM was telecast on ABS-CBN's "Magandang Umaga Bayan" and "The Insider."



Cristina Cruz of Holiday Inn Galleria; Rea Gutierrez of Club Noah; Lourdes Cumba of Costabella; Carmelita Valdes of ABS-CBN; Rose Libongco of Westin Philippine Plaza; Jazmin Esguerra of DOT Beijing; Eduardo Jarque, Jr. of DOT Manila China Market Task Force (CMTF); Rene Reyes of DOT CMTF; Warren Palacio of DOT Beijing; and Director Rolando Canizal of DOT CMTF.