



Philippines-China CHRONICLE



Publication of the Philippine Embassy in Beijing

Chinese President visits Philippines



President Arroyo offers a toast to the health of President Hu at the State Dinner on 27 April 2005.

Chinese President Hu Jintao paid a state visit to the Philippines on 26-28 April 2005 at the invitation of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The visit highlighted the celebration by the Philippines and China of the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations.

In his meeting with President Arroyo on 27 April, both agreed that bilateral relations are strong and are entering a "golden age of partnership." Major points of agreement include:

- Pursuit of strong bilateral economic cooperation; setting of a trade target of US\$30 billion by 2010;
- Further cooperation in the defense and security fields;
- Satisfaction with the trilateral agreement on joint seismic undertaking;
- Undertaking meaningful activities to mark the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations;
- China's continued support for RP's agricultural modernization; and
- Mining cooperation.

China thanked the Philippines for allowing it to open a consular office in Laoag. The Philippines thanked China for showing flexibility thus allowing it to participate in the Early Harvest Program of the China-ASEAN FTA.



Presidents Hu and Arroyo at the welcome ceremony at Malacañang Palace. Standing behind are Madame Liu Yongqing and First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

President Arroyo also thanked the Chinese government for its concessional loans for the Philippine Northrail project.

After their meeting, Presidents Arroyo and Hu witnessed the signing of 10 government-to-government agreements and four business agreements (pls. see box below).

President Arroyo also presented Hu with the first edition stamps issued by the Philippine Postal Corporation commemorating President Hu's visit and

the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

In the afternoon of 27 April, President Hu called on Philippine Senate President Drilon and Speaker of the House Jose de Venecia and addressed a joint session of the Philippine Congress.

On 28 April, President Hu visited Fort Santiago in Intramuros and the Kaisa Bahay Tsinoy Museum which chronicles the history of Chinese in the Philippines.

He was also hosted to lunch by the local Chinese Filipino communities.

At the end of the visit, the two sides issued a joint statement.

President Hu was accompanied by his wife Madame Liu Yongqing and officials of the Chinese Government.



Philippine President Arroyo presents Chinese President Hu Jintao with commemorative stamps during President Hu's visit to the Philippines.



Presidents Arroyo and Hu witness Trade Secretary Juan Santos and Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai signing the MOU on infrastructure cooperation.

Philippines and China celebrate 30 years of diplomatic relations

On 9 June 1975, the Philippines and the People's Republic of China established diplomatic relations. Thirty years hence, bilateral relations are multi-faceted, robust, cooperative and mutually-beneficial. To quote the leaders of both countries, bilateral relations are entering a "golden age of partnership." To celebrate the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations, both countries have undertaken and will be undertaking a year-long series of meaningful activities. *Chronicle* reports the first of these activities on pages 2-3.



Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos with Chairman Mao Zedong during the former's state visit to China on 7-9 June 1975, during which diplomatic relations were established.

Agreements signed during the visit

Government

- Opening of a Chinese Consulate in Laoag
- General loan agreement of US\$500 million of preferential buyer's credit from the Government of China to the Philippines
- MOU on infrastructure cooperation
- MOU on promotion of trade, investment and economic cooperation
- Agreement on economic and technical cooperation
- MOU on the Early Harvest Program between RP and China under the ASEAN-China Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation
- MOU on the special treatment for Philippine rice
- Framework agreement on provision of RMB 200 million concessional loan
- MOU on maritime cooperation
- Cooperation agreement on youth affairs

Business

- Agreement between Philnico and Jinchuan/Shanghai Baosteel Company on a US\$950 million investment in the redevelopment of the Nonoc Project
- MOU on cooperation between China National Machinery and Equipment Corporation (Group) and North Rail for Section 2 Phase 1 of the Northrail Project
- Framework agreement for upstream opportunities in the Calamian Area in offshore northwest Palawan
- Project of integrated GSM system between Huawei and Digitel Telecommunications

Philippine, Chinese leaders exchange messages

"The past thirty years have seen the journey of two neighboring and long-standing friends towards new and closer levels of cooperation, mutual understanding and goodwill. These many years of great efforts and achievements of breakthroughs and milestones have shaped Philippines-China relations into one that is vibrant, encompassing, and beneficial to both countries and the region."

-- President Arroyo to President Hu Jintao

"...China-Philippines relations have scored remarkable progress, brought tangible benefits to our two countries and two peoples and made positive contributions to peace, stability and prosperity in the region. China-Philippines friendship has become a shared treasure of our two peoples."

--President Hu Jintao to President Arroyo

"...both sides agreed to establish the China-Philippines strategic and cooperative relationship for peace and development."

--Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo to Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing

"I am confident that our efforts to sustain the momentum of the development of Philippines-China relations will bring our relationship to new heights of maturity and comprehensiveness in the years to come."

"Over the past 30 years... China and the Philippines have strengthened mutual political trust, expanded exchanges and cooperation I would like to work with you to actively implement the important consensus reached between the leaders of our two countries on developing the strategic cooperation between China and the Philippines and jointly push forward our bilateral relations."

-- Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing to Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo

Filcom visits 588-year-old tomb of Sultan of Sulu in Dezhou

Philippine Ambassador to China Willy C. Gaa led a group of Filipino community members on a "cultural and friendship" visit to the 588-year-old tomb of the Sultan of Sulu in Dezhou City, Shandong province on 21 May as part of the series of events to celebrate the 30th year of Philippines-China relations. The visit to the tomb was the first undertaken by the Filipino community in Beijing as a group.

The tomb is that of Sultan Paduka Batara of Sulu, who traveled to China along with a 340-member delegation in

1417 to improve relations between Sulu and China. The Sultan was welcomed by the Chinese Ming Emperor Zhu Di, and was conferred the title "East King." Unfortunately, on his way back to Sulu, the Sultan fell ill and died. Upon learning of his death, the Ming Emperor instructed local leaders to hold grand funeral rites, and to build for the Sultan a mausoleum in Dezhou in accordance with China's imperial tradition. Two of the Sultan's sons stayed behind to take care of the tomb.

The Sultan's descendants, 21 generations removed from him and carrying the family names of An and Wen, continue to live in Beiyang Village, beside the tomb.

The tomb of the Sultan of Sulu has been declared a protected historical and cultural site by China's State Council. The Chinese Government, including the Dezhou Municipal Government, has invested more than RMB 12.37 million (US\$ 1.5 million) in the renovation and maintenance of the tomb.

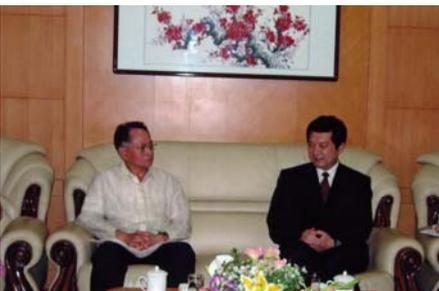
The Filipino community participants thanked Ambassador Gaa for organizing the tour as it gave them a wider understanding of the long history of Philippines-China relations.

In a written dedication at one of the halls on the tomb's grounds, Ambassador Gaa thanked the Governments of Dezhou City and Shandong Province for the excellent care they have taken to preserve the Sultan's tomb.

In the course of the visit, Ambassador Gaa called on Mayor Sun Yong Chun of Dezhou City and presented to him and Vice Mayor Miao Zhong Hua the 30th anniversary commemorative stamps issued by the Philippine Postal Corporation.



Ambassador and Madame Gaa with Dezhou Government officials, descendants of the Sultan of Sulu and the Filipino community at the site of the tomb.



Ambassador Gaa with Mayor of Dezhou Sun Yong Chun.

RP, China issue 30th anniversary commemorative stamps, envelopes



The official first day cover issued by the Philippine Postal Corporation in cooperation with the Tulay Foundation on the occasion of the visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to the Philippines and the 30th anniversary of Philippines-China relations.



The first day cover issued by the Chinese National Philatelic Corporation.

Rachy Cuna holds exhibit

Ambassador Gaa and Mr. Chen Haosu, President of the CPAFFC, opened "Journey: Passage to Beijing", an exhibit featuring the works of Filipino artist Rachy Cuna in painting, jewelry and floral design at the CPAFFC Gallery on 10 June. The exhibit was organized by the CPAFFC and the Association for Philippines-China Understanding (APCU).

In his remarks, the Ambassador noted the important role that CPAFFC and APCU play in promoting friendship and understanding between Filipino and Chinese peoples. He also noted that Mr. Cuna's works reflect the harmony between the East and West and, between China and the Philippines.



Amb. Gaa and Chen Haosu (4th and 6th from right) cut the ribbon to open the exhibit. Second from right is Mr. Rachy Cuna.



Ambassador Gaa and Dezhou Vice Mayor Miao Zhonghua show the Ambassador's dedication.

PHILIPPINES 30 CHINA: ENTERING A GOLDEN AGE OF PARTNERSHIP

Embassy and CPAFFC host 30th anniversary reception



Ambassador Willy Gaa presents CPAFFC President Chen Haosu with the RP-China relations 30th anniversary commemorative stamps and envelope.

The Embassy and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) jointly hosted on 10 June a reception to mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the Philippines and China.

In his remarks, Ambassador Gaa said that with the healthy and multifaceted relations between the two sides, bilateral relations are indeed entering a golden age of partnership.

He cited new avenues of bilateral cooperation in the past twelve months, including the holding of the first bilateral Defense and Security Dialogue in May and the conclusion of the joint marine seismic undertaking in certain areas in the South China Sea in September 2004.

He also took the opportunity to announce other activities to mark the 30th anniversary of bilateral ties, such as the visit of former Chinese Ambassadors to the Philippines and the visit of 100 Philippine youth to China, both of which will take place in July.

At the reception, CPAFFC President Chen Haosu and Ambassador Gaa also unveiled the commemorative envelope issued by the China Philatelic Corporation bearing the first day cover of the stamps for the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations.

Cultural performances, including Philippine folk dances performed by the *Beijing Mabuhay Folk Dance Troupe*, musical numbers from Beijing-based Filipino singer Lisa Tanner, and instrumental performances by Chinese artists using both zither and *erhu*, were rendered.



Beijing Mabuhay Folk Dance Troupe performs Filipino folk dance Wasiwas.

Filipino, Chinese students interact

More than 100 Filipino students from various universities in Beijing and Chinese students taking up Philippine Studies at the Beijing University gathered at the Embassy's Acacia Hall on 2 April 2005 to get to know each other and establish friendly exchanges.

Dubbed "Filipino-Chinese Students Friendship Day," the program included speeches by Filipino students in Chinese and Chinese students in Filipino; a showing of the film *Magnifico*; games to test the students' language skills; and a *merienda* of Filipino snacks.

The Chinese students were led by Mr. Li Zheng, Vice Dean of the Foreign Languages Department of Beijing University, and Mr. Wu Jiewei, Director of the Philippine Studies Program at the University. Also present in the event was Mr. Tang Hao of the International Department of the All-China Youth Federation.

During the program, books on Philippine culture and history donated by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) were also turned over to the Beijing University by Consul Jaime Victor B. Ledda.



Consul Jaime Victor B. Ledda (left) turning over books donated by the NCCA to Mr. Li Zheng, Vice Dean of the Foreign Languages Department (center), and Mr. Wu Jiewei, Director of the Philippine Studies Program (right) of Beijing University.

La Salle Dance Company performs in Beijing

The La Salle Dance Company gave a highly-applauded performance at the Embassy's Acacia Hall on 28 April 2005. The young dancers wowed Chinese officials from the Ministry of Culture, All-China Youth Federation, the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, diplomats, journalists, businessmen and members of the Filipino community with folk, jazz and modern dance performances.

The activity was organized by the Embassy for the 30th anniversary celebrations.



Members of the La Salle Dance Company and their choreographer, Danilo Salvaña, Jr. (center, seated)



The photo shows the cover of the commemorative publication entitled "Entering a Golden Age of Partnership: The Philippines and China on the 30th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations." The bilingual publication is produced by the EM International Economic and Cultural Exchanges Center and the Embassy. Those who wish to obtain a copy of the publication are requested to write the Embassy.

Chinese Government provides 10 scholarships to RP Government

To mark the 30th anniversary of the Philippines-China diplomatic relations, the Chinese Ministry of Education, through the China Scholarship Council, provided the Philippine Government with 10 full scholarships to study Chinese in various universities in Beijing. The papers of the applicants, from various departments of the Philippine Government, are currently being processed.

Embassy holds photo exhibit on Philippines-China relations

The Embassy held a photo exhibit on Philippines-China relations in three locations in June—at the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries on 10 June; the Philippine Embassy Acacia Hall on 12 June; and the Hilton Hotel on 17 June.

The Exhibit, put together jointly by the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, the National Commission for the Culture and the Arts, the *Kaisa Heritage Center* and the *Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran*, chronicles the history of Philippines-China relations starting from as early as the Tang Dynasty to the present day. The exhibit also shows the influence of Chinese culture on Philippine society and culture, and the shared heritage that both peoples have in fighting oppressors. It also shows, in a capsule, the current active interaction between the two countries.



Some of the photos displayed at the exhibit to mark 30 years of RP-China diplomatic relations.

EMBASSY INDEPENDENCE DAY ACTIVITIES

Filipino community celebrates 107th Araw ng Kalayaan

The Filipino community celebrated Independence Day at the Philippine Embassy grounds with a Holy Mass on 11 June and a Filipino Community *Salu-salo* on 12 June 2005.

The 11 June mass was celebrated by Irish priest Fr. Joseph Loftus. In his homily, Fr. Loftus likened the Filipino *diaspora* to that of the Irish in the early 20th century. He expressed hope that just as Ireland had developed economically to now be an importer rather than exporter of labor, so too will the Philippines someday. He also observed how national days are often bigger events abroad than at home, citing St. Patrick's Day in the US, the Irish population of which is bigger than Ireland's itself.

12 June 2005 started with a flag-raising ceremony attended by Embassy personnel led by Ambassador and Mrs. Gaa and some Filipino community members. This was followed by the viewing of the photo exhibit on Philippines-China relations (*pls. see article on p. 3*).

At 11:30 a.m., the Independence Day messages of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo were read by Consul Jaime Victor B. Ledda and Vice Consul Jim Tito San Agustin, respectively. Ambassador Willy C. Gaa then delivered his Independence Day message.

In his speech, the Ambassador described the *salu-salo* as "not only a celebration of the historic declaration of our independence but a venue for us to renew friendships, share common experiences in a foreign land, and even for a day, feel genuinely at home among our countrymen."

Ambassador Gaa further stated that "even as we are here toiling in a foreign land, there are many opportunities open to us to perform our civic duties as Filipino citizens." He praised the nationalism and work ethic of Filipinos in Beijing.

Other parts of the program included a dance number from the Embassy children, performances by a number of Beijing-based Filipino bands, and two folk dances by the *Beijing Mabuhay Folk Dance Troupe*, a Beijing-based Filipino dance group composed of dance enthusiasts, including Embassy personnel.

The program was glibly hosted by Ms. Bonna Banaag, who works for the Canadian Embassy, and Mr. Omar Lacap, a Beijing-based disk jockey who recently won GMA-7's *KiliTV* stand-up comedy contest.



Emcees Bonna Banaag and Omar Lacap encouraging a child to sing.

The community also enjoyed a sumptuous lunch of traditional Filipino fare such as *lechon*, *bistek tagalog*, *pansit*, *menudo* and *dinuguan*. As with previous gatherings, and in the spirit of *bayanihan*, many Filipinos voluntarily brought Filipino dishes to be shared by everyone. San Miguel Baoding donated San Miguel, Valor and Blue Star beer for the occasion. Metrobank, the first Filipino bank in China, was the main sponsor of the event.

This year's Independence Day theme is "*Kalayaan 2005, Isang Pilipinas, Bayan Ko, Mahal Ko.*"

Filcom holds tennis and billiards contests

In celebration of the 107th anniversary of Philippine Independence, the Filipino community in Beijing held the All-Pinoy Tennis Open on 5 June 2005 at the Excel Tennis Center and the All-Pinoy 9-Ball Billiards Tournament on 11 June 2005 at the SDR Billiards Center.

Winners of the competitions are as follows:

- Tennis:**
- Singles Champion: Mr. Elmer Hernas
- Singles Runner-up: Mr. Winston Hernas
- Doubles Champions: Mr. Elmer Hernas & Ms. Stephanie Cruz

- Doubles Runners-up: Mr. Rod Camposagrado and Mr. Alex Cruz

- Billiards:**
- Champion: Mr. Ronel Pengson
- Runner-up: Mr. Billy Abergas



Players of the 2005 *Pinoy* Tennis Open.



Ambassador Gaa (center) and participants of the All-*Pinoy* billiards tournament.



Embassy kids dance to the tune of "Chocolate".



Singing cooks and waiters perform at the celebration.



Beijing *Mabuhay* Dance Troupe performs *Paseo de Iloilo*.



Pinoy bands and singers jam with each other.



Winners of the billiards tournament.

EMBASSY INDEPENDENCE DAY ACTIVITIES



Ambassador Willy Gaa delivers his toast remarks.



Ambassador Willy Gaa and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei toast to Philippine Independence



Ambassador Willy Gaa and Madame Linda Gaa pose with Consul Jaime Ledda and Mrs. Gina Ledda while waiting for guests to arrive.



Colonel Sam Narbuada (3rd from left) with Defense Attachés from the US, Spain, Cambodia, Indonesia and Myanmar.



The officers and staff of the Philippine Embassy pose before the reception on 17 June at the Hilton Hotel.

Embassy hosts Independence Day reception in Beijing

The Embassy held a reception to celebrate the 107th anniversary of Philippine Independence on 17 June 2005 at the Hilton Hotel.

In his toast remarks, Ambassador Willy C. Gaa said that the Filipino people take the occasion to rededicate themselves to the cause of their founding fathers and the values that they stood for – freedom, democracy and the Filipino way of life.

Ambassador Gaa also noted the rapid progress in Philippines-China relations. He said the successful exchange of state visits between President Arroyo and Chinese President Hu Jintao helped elevate bilateral ties to higher levels. He added that the growing exchange of visits between officials of the two sides will further cement the strong bonds of friendship between the Filipino and Chinese peoples.

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei, who graced the occasion, delivered remarks congratulating the Philippines and the 30th anniversary of Philippines-PRC relations.

Embassy joins San Miguel Blue Star Beer Festival

Ambassador and Madame Willy Gaa led representatives of the Embassy in participating in the *Fourth Baoding Blue Star Beer Festival* on 27 May 2005 in Baoding, Hebei Province.

San Miguel Blue Star Beer, which has a 75 percent share of the beer market in Baoding, is known as the “City Beer of Baoding.”

In his remarks at the opening ceremony, Ambassador Gaa noted how San Miguel has successfully localized itself in China to produce a beer beloved to the people of Baoding.

He also expressed the hope that San Miguel Baoding, which is the biggest foreign enterprise in the city, will continue to play a part in the development of the Baoding economy. He thanked the local government and Party officials for their support of San Miguel Baoding.



Ambassador Gaa speaks at the opening ceremony of the 4th Baoding Blue Star Beer Festival.

Hilton holds *Fiesta Filipina* Philippine Foodfest

A Philippine food promotion was held on 17-25 June 2005 at the Hilton Beijing. Dubbed “Fiesta Filipina,” the promotion was held in cooperation with the Philippine Department of Tourism and the Philippine Embassy in Beijing.

Aside from a sumptuous spread of Filipino dishes, the *Bayanihan Philippine National Folk Dance Company* also gave performances during the food festival.



Ms. Tet Narbuada (3rd from right), wife of RP Defense Attaché Samuel Narbuada, and members of the *Defense Attachés' Wives Corps* sampling *biko*, *maja blanca* and *leche flan* at the *Fiesta Filipina* Foodfest at the Hilton. Standing, from left to right, are the wives of the defense attachés from US, Japan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Spain and Chile.

Amb. Gaa wins photo contest

Philippine Ambassador to China Willy C. Gaa was one of the third place winners in a photo contest entitled “China through Camera Lens of Diplomats” organized by the Deputy Chief of Missions Group in China.

Entitled “Great Walls of Power,” Ambassador Gaa’s winning entry depicts the forceful wall-like waters of the Three Gorges Dam.

Speaking for the prize winners, Ambassador Gaa said that it was through the lens of a camera that he fell deeply in love with China.

A photo entitled “The Potala Palace” shot by a Russian diplomat won top prize in the competition.

The photos were exhibited at the Jin Tai Art Museum in June.



“Three Gorges Dam: Great Walls of Power” by Ambassador Willy C. Gaa

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FROM THE CONSUL'S DESK

During the past six months, our Consular / Assistance to Nationals Section has encountered and handled a number of situations involving Filipino nationals which could be very instructive for our *Kababayans* here in China. Below is an illustration of an actual experience and the lessons that we could draw from it:

Several Filipinos have traveled to China to teach English upon invitation of an institution or language school. In one instance, a Filipino from Cebu logged on the internet and chanced upon an offer to teach in China. He forwarded his application via an e-mail message. He received a reply from the director of the language school who invited him to proceed to a city outside Beijing to teach English. The school director explained that his services were needed immediately and he was urged to apply for a tourist visa.

When the Filipino teacher arrived, the school director presented several documents in Chinese language for the teacher to sign with a view to facilitate the latter's employment. Eager to get started, the teacher signed the contract papers. However, the school closed three months later and the director was neither able to pay the teacher his three months' salary nor to convert his visa status. The teacher decided to seek employment elsewhere but he was so unnerved that he took the director's PDA. Upon arrival in Beijing, he called up the school director and said that he would return the PDA only after receiving his back pay. In turn, the school director threatened to file criminal charges against him.

What remedies are available for the Filipino teacher?

The Filipino teacher could seek the Embassy's intervention in persuading his employer to pay his three months' salary. The Embassy can remind the employer of his obligations towards his employee as stipulated in the valid employment contract, and argue that the company's financial difficulties does not nullify the contract. In the past, the Embassy has been successful in demanding the protection of employees' rights under a valid contract. However, complications may arise for those holding invalid/lopsided contracts and inappropriate visas. Nevertheless, the Embassy endeavors to protect the rights of all Filipinos regardless of status of employment.

On the other hand, the Embassy will not condone actions such as keeping his employer's PDA to elicit payment of unpaid salary. This only makes the employee vulnerable to criminal action by the employer, and lessens the room for a satisfactory negotiation.

To avoid getting into a similar situation as the above case, Filipinos intending to work in China may wish to consider the following advice:

1. Do not be deceived by recruiters who promise high-paying teaching jobs in China. While it is true that the demand for English teachers in China is increasing, not all schools are authorized by the Chinese government to hire foreign teachers. Most of the cases of contract breaches and illegal recruitment involve unauthorized schools and fly-by-night recruitment agencies who hire Filipino teachers via the internet. Always check the background of your prospective employer, and try to contact other teachers already stationed there, if any.
2. Officially, tourist "L" visas could not be converted to working "Z" visas or Business "F" visas. While many clandestine establishments offer this service in Beijing, you must beware of the risks involved, such as legal procedures being sidestepped, thus causing complications later. Many Filipinos sign employment contracts while still holding tourist or business visas. Do not do so because this fact alone nullifies the contract.
3. Do not sign a contract unless you have carefully studied its contents. In some cases, the contracts are lopsided or too general to provide any protection for the employee. For contracts in Chinese, always ask for an equivalent and equally binding contract in English.
4. Do not aggravate a bad situation by doing something drastic or illegal. For instance, if your employer refuses to return your passport, do not right a wrong with another wrong, such as blackmailing or threatening him. Either resort to legal action on your own or report your employer to the Embassy, and we will persuade him to return something that rightfully belongs to you.

Notice of registration and election to all Filipino citizens

All citizens of the Philippines abroad, not otherwise disqualified by law, at least eighteen (18) years of age on the day of the election, and who wish to vote for Senators and Party List Representatives for purposes of the 14 May 2007 National Elections must file applications for registration/certification as overseas absentee voters from 1 October 2005 to 31 August 2006. The voting period will be from 14 April 2007 to 14 May 2007.

Qualified Filipinos residing in the cities of Beijing and Tianjin, and the provinces of Hebei, Henan, Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, and the Autonomous Regions of Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Xinjiang and Xizang (Tibet) are advised to contact the Philippine Embassy in Beijing.

More details and updates may be obtained from the following websites:

- www.dfa.gov.ph
- www.comelec.gov.ph
- www.philembassy-china.org

Commission on Appointments confirms Embassy promotions

Jaime Victor B. Ledda



Elizabeth T. Te

First Secretary and Consul Jaime Victor B. Ledda was recently promoted to the rank of Career Minister, while Third Secretary and Vice Consul Elizabeth T. Te was promoted to Second Secretary and Consul.

The Philippine Commission on Appointments confirmed their promotions on 25 May 2005.

**Philippines-China
CHRONICLE**

is a quarterly publication of the
Philippine Embassy in Beijing.

Contributions and comments are welcome.

Address: No. 23 Xiushui Beijie,
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
www.philembassy-china.org

DIPLOMATIC NOTES

Philippine legislators visit China

RP Congressmen, headed by House Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Antonio Cuenco (center), call on NPC Foreign Affairs Committee Vice Chairman Wang Yingfan (6th from right).

Congressman Antonio Cuenco, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Philippine House of Representatives, led a 14-member delegation in an official visit to China on 14-20 June 2005 at the invitation of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress.

During the visit, the delegation held talks with Vice Chairman Wang Yingfan of the Foreign Affairs Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), and Vice Chairman Han Qide of the NPC Standing Committee at the Great Hall of the People. They also met with Chairman Nan Zhenzhong of the Friendship Group between the NPC and the Philippine House of Representatives, and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei.

After Beijing, the congressional delegation also visited Kunming, Lijiang and Shanghai.

RP police in ASEAN+1 workshop

Philippine police superintendents attended the ASEAN-China Workshop for Senior Police Officers organized by the Chinese Ministry of Public Security on 12-23 June 2005 to promote regional cooperation in fighting transnational crime. Participating in the workshop were Police Chief Superintendents Leonardo E. Dionisio and Jose Antonio C. Salvacion and Police Senior Superintendent Teodorico B. Capuyan.

Embassy welcomes newcomers

Cynthia David



Dennis Pecson

The Embassy welcomes the addition of Attachés Cynthia David and Dennis Pecson to its family. They take the positions of Ms. Maria Aurora P. Real and Ms. Ma. Adora T. Cruz, who recently returned to Manila following completion of their tours of duty.

RP joins ARF workshop in Mongolia

Representing the Philippines, Embassy Second Secretary Elizabeth T. Te participated in the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Workshop on "Evolving Changes in the Security Perceptions of the ARF Countries" held on 21-22 June in Ulaanbaatar.

The Workshop aims to promote understanding, build trust and confidence among ARF participants through the exchange of views and cooperation. Ms. Te presented a paper on the Philippines' security perceptions at the Workshop.

Participants in the Workshop noted prevailing security threats such as the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Several ARF countries also noted that the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula continues to be a security concern. Participants also noted new security challenges such as terrorism, piracy, human trafficking, drug trafficking, money laundering, ecological degradation, and the spread of communicable diseases.

Participants also exchanged views on the prospects of the ASEAN Security Community and security cooperation in Northeast Asia.

Post contributes to charity bazaar

Ms. Charlotte Tang, Third Secretary of the Embassy (2nd from right), Cultural Officer Ma Teresa Narbuada (right) and Ms. Au Real, Attaché (left) with Second Secretary Yin Po Myat of the Myanmar Embassy in front of the Philippine Embassy booth at the International Charity Bazaar.

The Philippine Embassy, together with more than fifty foreign embassies in Beijing, participated in the International Charity Bazaar held at the International Club on 16 June 2005.

The Bazaar was organized by the Association of Former Diplomats of China under the leadership of Madame Qin Xiaomei, wife of Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

Proceeds of the bazaar went to Chinese out-of-school youth and victims of the tsunami that hit Asian countries in December.

The Embassy sold Philippine handcraft items, Oishi snack products donated by Shanghai Liwayway Group, and San Miguel beer donated by San Miguel Baoding.

Embassy ladies, who manned the booth, decorated it with Philippine flaglets and "WOW Philippines" posters.

Post invites Chinese investors to RP

The Philippine Embassy, together with other ASEAN Embassies, joined the Second China-ASEAN Free Trade Area Seminar organized by the Association for the Opening-up of China's Mid-Western Region.

Representing the Embassy were Ambassador Willy C. Gaa, First Secretary Jaime Victor B. Ledda and Third Secretary Marie-Charlotte Tang. Mr. Ledda gave a presentation on Philippines-China economic relations and the business and investment opportunities for Chinese businessmen.

Aside from ASEAN Embassies, some 200 Chinese government officials, businessmen, scholars, and journalists participated in the seminar.

ACB tours Yunnan cities

The ASEAN Committee, Beijing (ACB) visited Kunming and Yuxi cities on 31 March-2 April 2005 at the invitation of the Yuxi Municipal Government.

In Yunnan, the ACB called on Yunnan Vice Governor Li Hanbai, Kunming Vice Mayor Li Jiang, and officials of Yuxi.

The ACB also visited a cigarette factory of Hongta Group— one of China's top cigarette companies, and attended a seminar organized by the Yuxi Municipal Government, where 15 local companies introduced their products.

The visit was organized by the Association for the Opening-up of China's Mid-Western Region.

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

Embassy wins trophies at ACB outing

Ambassador Willy C. Gaa led the Embassy staff and family members in participating in the ASEAN Committee Beijing (ACB) Family Outing on 9 April 2005 at the Beijing Dragon Club.

Gamely joining all the sporting events, the Embassy tied with the Embassy of Vietnam in winning the most number of trophies. The Embassy won first prizes for both the male and female categories of tug-of-war. Madame Linda Gaa and Freddie Sumala won first place (female, VIP) and third place (male) for bowling.

The Embassy of Vietnam took home the ACB Family Outing Cup for winning the most number of competitions.



Philippine Embassy ladies sweating it out during the tug-of-war female category competition.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PHILIPPINES-CHINA RELATIONS

RP, China hold security talks

The first Philippines-China Annual Defense and Security Dialogue was held on 23 May 2005 at the Philippine Department of National Defense (DND). DND Undersecretary for Policy Antonio Santos headed the Philippine delegation, while General Xiong Guangkai, Deputy Chief of Staff of the People's Liberation Army, led the Chinese delegation.

The meeting covered issues such as cooperation between the two defense establishments, tensions in the Taiwan Straits, the South China Sea, and other regional and international issues of common interest. The Chinese side invited the Philippines to participate in joint maritime exercises within the year. China also agreed to train five Philippine military officers, and formally donated engineering equipment to the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The next round of the dialogue will be held in Beijing in 2006.



PLA Deputy Chief of Staff Xiong Guangkai calls on Philippine Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz before the security talks.

DOT Secretary Durano steps up tourism promotion in Beijing

Philippine Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano and Tourism Envoy for China Alfredo Yao led a delegation of tourism officials, tour operators, hoteliers, resort and airline executives and media members to the Beijing Philippine Tourism Conference and Travel Mart on 21 June and the Beijing International Tourism Expo (BITE) on 22-24 June.

Speaking at the *Philippine Tourism Conference* organized by the Office of the Tourism Attaché in Beijing, Secretary Durano said that the number of Chinese tourists to the Philippines rose 105 percent in the first four months of the year, the highest growth rate for foreign tourist arrivals to the Philippines in the period. He added that DOT will continue to intensify efforts to attract more tourists from China through various marketing strategies and promotional offers.

Authorized outbound tour operators from Beijing and Tianjin, as well as the

China to train Philippine athletes

Philippine Sports Commissioner William Ramirez and Chinese Sports Minister Liu Peng signing the MOU on Sports. Looking on are Ambassador Willy Gaa (5th from left), First Gentleman Arroyo (center) and other sports officials.

Philippine Sports Commissioner William Ramirez and Chinese General Administration of Sports Minister Liu Peng signed a Supplemental Memorandum of Understanding on Sports Cooperation on 8 April 2005 in Beijing.

Under the MOU, China's Sports Administration will provide assistance in the training of Philippine athletes in the following sports disciplines: athletics, canoe/kayak, diving, fencing, football, gymnastics, rowing, swimming, table tennis, volleyball, beach volleyball, weightlifting, wrestling, and *wushu*.

The first batch of 51 Philippine athletes and 12 coaches from the sports disciplines of swimming, weightlifting, gymnastics and *wushu* arrived in Guangdong Province and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on 22 June 2005 to undergo intensive training in preparation for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, which the Philippines is hosting in November and December 2005.

Beijing media, turned out in full force at the Philippine Tourism Conference and Travel Mart, which was held at the Hilton Hotel. The two events were followed by a cocktail reception that featured Philippine food. Hilton Beijing flew in two Filipino chefs from Hilton Cebu for its Philippine Food Festival, which was also ongoing at the time.

The *Bayanihan* National Folk Dance Company provided entertainment during the cocktail reception. The group was also the featured performer after the Opening Ceremonies of the BITE 2005 at the Beijing International Exhibition Center.

The Philippine booth at the BITE was very busy and jampacked with clients due to its strategic location near the entrance and the animation provided by the *Bayanihan* dancers, who not only danced, but also distributed Philippine brochures in between dances.

RP, China hold trade meeting

The Philippines and China held the 24th Meeting of the RP-China Joint Trade Committee (JTC) on 9-10 June 2005 in Makati.

The Philippine delegation was headed by Senior Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino while the Chinese delegation was headed Commerce Vice Minister An Min.

Both sides reviewed the state of bilateral economic cooperation and agreed to strengthen cooperation in trade, agriculture, exploration of energy and mineral resources, and infrastructure construction.

Also discussed were a Philippine proposal for a joint study of the trade valuation methods of both countries; the Northrail project, a proposal to train Chinese teachers, China's bid for observer status in the BIMP-EAGA, the China-ASEAN Expo, building of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area, and implementation of the various economic cooperation agreements signed during the April visit to the Philippines of Chinese President Hu Jintao.

Parallel with the JTC was the convening of the inaugural meetings of the Joint Working Groups on Infrastructure Cooperation and on Mining Cooperation.

Aside from the JTC, Undersecretary Aquino and Vice Minister An also witnessed the opening of the China Machinery and Electronics Products Exhibition at the World Trade Center on 9 June.

The next JTC will be held in Beijing in 2006.



Philippine Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano delivering the main presentation on the Philippines during the Philippine Tourism Conference at the Hilton Hotel. Others in the photo are (left to right): Jazmin Esguerra, DOT Beijing Tourism Attaché, Tourism Envoy for China Alfredo Yao; Consul Jaime Ledda, Chargé d'Affaires, a.i. of the Philippine Embassy; and Teresa Tan, Country Manager for Philippine Airlines

Announcement

The Office of the Philippine Tourism Attaché is now located at the following address:

Room 14-01, 14th Floor, Building A, CITIC Building, No. 19 Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang District, Beijing
北京朝阳区建外大街19号国际大厦A座14层14-01室

Tel No: 65128809 Fax No: 85262331