

RC Makati Rotaractors shine at Singapore Conference

The Rotaract Club of Makati was very fortunate to be given a chance to attend the 5th Asia Pacific Regional Rotaract Conference (A P R R C) in Singapore. DRR Cathy Gonzales was sponsored by DG Sid Garcia, while RAC Pres. Rio Radam and Dir. Alma Gonzales were sponsored by RC Makati, through the efforts of Youth Service Director Ed Galvez. Ed showed his solid support for the Rotaractors by joining them in Singapore and attending the conference himself. It was another great experience for Makati Rotaractors and the other 7 Rotaractors from District 3830 as they met new Rotaractors from the region.

The conference was held at the Singapore Sports School from November 22-25. Day 1, as usual, began with the registration and settling down of the delegates. In the evening, a welcome



Dir. Eddie Galvez with RC Makati Rotaractors





The first meeting of the year drew a better-than-usual turnout, which should augur well for the club. We hope we can keep it up.

PP Cesar Campos began the year with a prayer that reviewed the preceding year's nightmares and expressed hope for better times this year. Implored he: "Dear Lord, the past year was full of catastrophe—the devastating floods of Ondoy that claimed many lives and left countless families homeless. We pray that the New Year will spare us from such calamities." Looking forward, he looked at the incoming elections in May as an occasion that could mean more lives lost: "Lord Almighty and eternal Father, we ask Your help to avoid further loss of life and spare our people from suffering. We fervently pray and seek Your divine help so that politicians eager to win at all cost may not create situations that might bring trouble and claim more lives."

It could be that we're just warming up after the long Christmas break, but noticeably, there was only one announcement last week, and it had nothing to do with club affairs. PP Robert Kuan invited everyone to the grand opening of the spanking new St. Luke's Medical Center-Global City on Saturday, 16 January, at 10 AM (though he did suggest to come at 9). As you all know,



A Club Portrait

PP Robert is the chairman of St. Luke's. President Gloria Arroyo will be there for the ceremonial ribbon-cutting. "We're bringing St. Luke's closer to you," PP Robert said, "we want to serve you and make sure you're in the best of health." He informed that the hospital has a 2,000 sq.m. wellness center, with young and pretty staff to help you when you come for your executive checkup. This is your chance to see the "world-class facilities" of the hospital, as the staff have been instructed to tour guests around the facility during the opening. This, he said, "is our legacy to the Filipino people."

In his first president's time for 2010, Pres. Felix Amparo began with greetings for a happy new year. He reported that in the last two weeks of December, the Rotary Anns and some Rotarians spent time distributing Last Angel Christmas presents to our adopted children from the club's feeding, anti-TB and Gawad Kalinga Villa Paraiso projects (as well as children in selected institutions and communities), and

thanked all the Anns and Rotarians who took part in the sorties. He then called attention to the Kaunlaran, with its new format and new full-color look, with its clearer pictures and improved printing. He explained that for the month of January the cost of printing is being shouldered by Aris del Mundo, whose sponsorship gives him a full-page advertisement in the club bulletin. The invitation to sponsor a particular month, from February to July, is now open. Pres. Felix expressed the hope that, with the better looking publication, we can get our members interested in sponsoring future issues.

Rufino is a name that rings bells in this club. We have Charlie, a past president and a TRF major gift donor; and we have his son Carlo, who, taking after his father, was named Baby Rotarian of the Year last year.

Last week, another Rufino was here, taking center stage as guest speaker—Javier Vicente Rufino, better known as JV, PP Charlie's eldest son, who is carving out a name for himself as director for Mobile for the Inquirer Group of Publications, after his stint as editor in chief and senior vice president of Inquirer Interactive



A book for JV Rufino

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JR NEREUS ACOSTA, Ph. D.

JR Nereus Acosta, better known by his nickname Neric, is the current Vice President for Mindanao of the Liberal Party of the Philippines and Secretary General of the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats. He was former Secretary General of the Liberal Party and served as representative of Bukidnon province in Northern Mindanao to the House of Representatives for three consecutive terms (1998-2007). Apart from sponsorship of major environmental legislation on clean water, solid waste management and biodiversity protection, he was the principal author of the groundbreaking Clean Air Act that has become a model of environmental legislation in Asia.



During his tenure as a member of the House of Representatives, he served as Chairman of the Committee on Ecology and Vice-Chairman of the Committees on Science and Technology, Human Rights, and Foreign Relations. He has represented the Philippines in numerous international forums, including the United Nations Special Assembly on HIV/AIDS and the Asian Forum of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, where he served as the Deputy Secretary General.

Prior to his election to the Congress, Dr. Acosta was involved with BINHI, a Grameen Banking non-government organization. In the early 1990s he trained with Dr. Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh, who won the Nobel Peace laureate in 2006 for his work in microfinance through his Grameen Bank. With family and close associates Neric began a pioneering replication program for Grameen Banking for rural women in Bukidnon under BINHI in 1989-1990, projects he carried on when he entered politics in 1995, even as he sought new linkages between government and NGO entities. Today, BINHI is a partner of the Center for Agricultural Development (CARD), which was named Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Public Service in 2008.

An academic and civil society stalwart, he earned his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Hawaii as an East West Center Scholar. He received a BA in Political Science from the University of the Philippines, an MA in Public Affairs (International Relations and Political Studies concentration) from the Indiana University of Pennsylvania and attended the special programs on Leaders in Development Program (1999) and Environmental Economics (2002) at the Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University. In 2004 he was named the first Filipino World Fellow of Yale University.

Dr. Acosta is currently an Associate Professor at the Asian Institute of Management and the Ateneo de Manila University. He continues to be active in microfinance, rural development and environmental protection projects in his native Bukidnon.



Tuesday, 12 January 2010
The Conservatory, The Peninsula Manila

- Call to Order..... Pres. Felix Amparo
- Invocation Gary Quemado
- Philippine National Anthem
- RC Makati Hymn
- Introduction of Visiting Rotarians and Guests ... Eddie Galvez
- Greetings to Birthday and Wedding Anniversary Celebrators
- Club Functions & Committee Announcements
- Turnover of Computer set to: Kabisig ng Kalahi represented by KnK President Vicky Wieneke
- President's Time Felix Amparo
- Introduction of the Guest Speakers VP Francis Macatulad
- Speech:

JR NEREUS "NERIC" ACOSTA, Ph. D.
Vice President for Mindanao
Liberal Party of the Philippines

- Q&A
- Response Pres. Felix Amparo
- Raffle
- Adjournment

Eddie Galvez
Moderator

Johnson Tan
Greeter

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dinner was prepared by the organizers. It was followed by some teambuilding activities and games.

The opening ceremonies were held on the 2nd day, which saw the delegates in their formal attire. DRR Michael Choy, being the Organizing Chairman gave the opening address. In his message, he talked about the essence of this year's APRRC theme: "Learn. Grow. Serve." He emphasized the belief that "We can help others best only when we are in a position to do so." The Philippine delegation was the 2nd largest, after Taiwan. But it was the Philippines that had the most number of Rotarians and DRR attendees.

The conference also became a venue for cultural exchange, leaders' discussion sessions, fellowships through sports and games, and chill-out parties which helped promote bonding and international understanding among the delegates. But most importantly, the Rotaractors learned new things that

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JANUARY: Rotary Awareness Month

Today: 12 January (Tuesday)

Guest Speaker:

JR Nereus Acosta, Ph. D.

Vice President for Mindanao

Liberal Party of the Philippines

Thursday, 14 January

Career Guidance Seminar

Don Teodoro Santos Institute

Mabalacat, Pampanga

In charge: **Dick Funk**

Tuesday, 19 January

Leo De Leon

President

Allegro Beverage Corp.

Topic: Coffee 101 and its Health Benefits

Tuesday, 26 January

Mr. Danny Abinoja

Chairman of the Board

PCG Savings & Loan Association

Tuesday, 16 February

Hon. Grace M. Padaca

Governor, Isabela

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would help them grow as leaders as they continue to serve through Rotary and Rotract.

The plenary sessions started with a very interesting topic entitled: "Stress, Distress, De-stress." It was discussed by Ms. Sanveen Kang, a clinical psychologist from the Institute of Mental Health's Department of Psychology and a consultant psychologist at the Corporate Consulting Services. Her topic interested most of the participants for they were able to relate to it.

The second plenary speaker, Ms. Joanne Teoh Kheng Yau, spoke on "From Image to Impact—Digital Activism in a Video Age," which was very time-appropriate. The speaker was very familiar with the said topic for she is a TV journalist and multimedia documentary-maker who has spoken around the world on digital activism and the use of social media tools for advocacy.

Another interesting activity for the day was the presentation of "Country Reports" wherein each country presented facts about their country's tourism, food and culture. Here the Philippines was ably



BIRTHDAYS

ROTARIANS

Gerry Garcia, 16 Jan.

PP Ric Librea, 17 Jan.

Cesar Cruz, 18 Jan.

Bert Manabat, 18 Jan.

ROTARY ANNS

Menchu Tiglao, 14 Jan.

Mely Parungao, 14 Jan.

Au Melvin, 18 Jan.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Chris & Patty Chilip, 13 Jan.

PP Fred & Mely Parungao, 16 Jan.

PP Roland & Caling Young, 16 Jan.

Mundy & Sylvia Gonzalez, 17 Jan.

Recap from page 2

for two years and before that, of INQ7 Interactive for five. JV gave us a full view of the mobile market in the Philippines—an estimated 112 M mobile subscribers by 2014, some 40% higher than the 2008 figure of 68M, and a steady growth in the ownership of media devices (TV, radio, DVD/VCR player, mobile phone, desktop PC, laptop, home internet), which are becoming more and more affordable. At yearend 2008, the Philippine wireless market was a P154B+ industry, with Smart (P93.6B wireless revenues, 35.2 M subscriber base) taking the lead in the Telco contest, followed by Globe (P55.6B wireless revenues, 24.7 subscribers) and Sun a poor third with P4.7B revenues and 5 million subscribers.

Inquirer, the country's No.1 broadsheet, has entered the mobile market not only to keep in step with the

represented by DRR Cathy, together with 4 other Philippine DRRs. The Philippine report which discussed the Rotaract situation in the country was consolidated and penned by Cathy herself. In the evening, the DRRs had their "Leaders' Meeting" which included a discussion on the hosting of the next APRRCs until 2012. DDR Cathy also presented a report on Gawad Kalinga at the plenary session.

While the DRRs were meeting, a festival was held at the sports hall which was called "Pasar Malam: Rotaract Festival and Night Bazaar." It was one of the highlights of the conference wherein



11 December 2009

RC Makati Rotarians	58
Honorary and Exempt Members /	
Visiting Rotarians and Guests	37
Total Attendance	95
Make-Ups	15
Total Attendance Credit	73
Total Attendance Base	141
Exempted Members	41
Total Membership to date	182
Attendance Percentage	51.77%

Make Ups:

1. Boy Arteche
2. Gani Buenaflor
3. Javier Fernandez de Castro
4. Tommy de Leon
5. Gani Ferrer
6. Tony Herbosa
7. Bubi Krohn
8. Joseph Kuan
9. Drex Laggui
10. Enzo Lee
11. Fred Menzel
12. Vic Ong
13. PDG Tony Quila
14. Johnny Rocha
15. PP Roland Young

times but also because it is a cost efficient way to reach a mass market, because of the medium's ubiquity and engagement, and because it complements other media and platforms. Inquirer Mobile offers text alerts, in SMS and MMS, for Breaking News, Business, Lifestyle, Entertainment and Sports and has a Citizen's Call facility where readers can send text feedback to a mobile number and the item sees print in the PDI's Metro section. Inquirer Mobile also has a WAP/Mobile site that can be accessed at inquirer.net/mobile and wap.inquirer.net. This "most personal of media" holds vast promise and from the look of it, is here to stay

each country put up booths featuring their country's culture. Native food, costumes, and many other cultural features were experienced by the delegates. Pres. Rio gave away native key chains, as the delegates exchanged cards and souvenirs. Pres. Rio and Dir. Alma very much enjoyed this night as they got to visit other booths and met other Rotaractors.

There was also a "Doll Exhibit" during the festival led by Pres. Famay Rivera of the Rotaract Club of Parañaque East - Paragon of District 3830. The Rotaractors also played "Bingo" after

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Family Health & Nutrition Committee goes gift-giving

The Family Health & Nutrition Committee, which is chaired by **PP Freddie Borrromeo**, did its share of gift-giving during the Christmas season. Its beneficiaries: the children enrolled in the supplemental feeding program, which the committee operates.



Taytay

On the morning of 17 December, **PP Freddie** and his mom, **Lourdes**, met up with **IPP Larry Boyer & Ann Tere**, **Baby Rtn. Richie Santiago** and members of the Rotary Club of Makati San Lorenzo for a joint gift-giving activity with **RCMSL**, headed by **Pres. Jing Sarao**. They



Tanay

proceeded to Brgy. Sta. Ana in Taytay, Rizal where they met up with members of the Rotary Club of Metro East Taytay, led by **Pres. Josie Retirado**. All three clubs joined hands for the gift-giving program for 60 kids—**RC Makati** gave the kids gifts and books, **RC Makati San Lorenzo** gave them stuffed toys and rice, while **RC Metro East Taytay** gave them rice, canned goods and other goodies. The kids were treated to barbecue, compliments of **Baby Rtn. Richie** who brought 240 sticks of bbq.

From Taytay the group proceeded to **Halamanan Restaurant** in Tanay, also in Rizal, where **PP Freddie** hosted a rich feast of bulalo, pancit, grilled chicken and pork, fried chicken, kare-kare and lumpiang shanghai.

In the afternoon, **PP Freddie** and his mom, **IPP Larry** and **Ann Tere** drove to another part of Tanay to bring Christmas gifts to another 60 supplemental feeding children—30 in Brgy. Kay Buto and 30 in Brgy. Tandang Kutyo. Aside from the

Last Angel presents, the children also each received a bag of goodies from **PP Freddie**.

In the meantime, the **RCM San Lorenzo** group proceeded to Antipolo City where they distributed, on behalf of **RC Makati**, gifts to 60 participants of our feeding program—30 in Brgy. Calawis and another 30 in Brgy. Binayoyo. **RCMSL** has an on-going project in Brgy. Calawis.

Laughline

Wife vs. Husband

A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word.

An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position.

As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats, and pigs, the husband asked sarcastically, "Relatives of yours?"

"Yep," the wife replied without missing a beat, "in-laws."

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the festival which made the night even more memorable. Proceeds were earmarked for the benefit of typhoon victims in the Philippines and earthquake victims in Indonesia.

The 3rd day of the conference was the most tiring because of the "Mini-Olympics." Rotaractors joined their groupmates as they enjoyed playing during the fun games prepared by the organizers. But before the games that morning, two breakout sessions took place. During Breakout Session 1, the assembly was divided into four groups with four different topics. "Ready Cash or Ready Crash?" was Group A's topic, which had a speaker in the person of Michael Reyes, a trainer in Money Tree Asia Pacific Limited. Group B was about

"Service Learning: The New Paradigm in Community Service." Group C's topic was "Aikido: Defense Against Bullies and Buayas." Lastly, Group D presented "Art Communication: Bridging Cultures, Breaking Barriers."

-- **DRR Cathy Gonzales**

PROGRAM ADVISORY

NEXT WEEK
Tuesday, 19 January

Guest Speaker:
LEO DE LEON
President

Allegro Beverage Corp.
Topic: Coffee 101 and its Health Benefits