

PHILKOFA NEWS

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2008 PHILKOFA General Assembly cum Christmas Party

The 7th PhilKOFA General Assembly cum Christmas Party was held on 12 December 2008 at the Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila, with the theme *“Unity in Diversity... Soaring High towards Global Competitiveness”*.

The most awaited event by PhilKOFAns is the General Assembly where members from different parts of the country gather together to set directions for the coming year, renew and strengthen camaraderie, friendship and partnership; meet new members; update on PhilKOFA developments and organizational accomplishments; have fun and share foods and gifts as it is the Christmas season. Guests from the Embassy of Korea, Korea International Cooperation Agency and Korea Chamber of Commerce-Philippines are also present to give their support to the association. New officers of the PhilKOFA Board are also elected in same event.

There were 64 delegates coming from the following

agencies/institutions: National Police Commission, SCUs (Mindanao State University-Iligan, ASCOT, SSC, Central Luzon State University, Laguna State Polytechnic University, Technological University of the Philippines, local government units of Manila, Malabon, Bulacan, and Camarines Norte, Bureau of Treasury, Bureau of Internal Revenue, Commission on Elections, National Economic Development Authority, Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency, Presidential Management Staff, Office of the Press Secretary, BCS, Population Commission–Cordillera Administrative Region, Department of Transportation and Communication, Philippine Ports Authority, National Telecommunications Commission–Cordillera Administrative





Bernardo R. Calibo presented the PhilKOFA President's Report for 2008. As a response and in behalf of the Alumni Association, 2008 Board President Calibo expressed deep appreciation for the untiring support to PhilKOFA of the Government of Republic of Korea through its Embassy in the Philippines, KOICA and the Korean Business Community lead by the KCCP. This was followed by the Report of the 2007 General Assembly Proceedings. It was prepared by 2007 Board Secretary Lily Garcia and read by the incumbent Board Secretary Aurora T. Collantes. Board Treasurer Teresita C. Puente presented the association's financial status.

The program also included raffle draws and intermission numbers. Major raffle prizes were won by the following: Ms. Mary Ann Guerrero of BPI-DA, DVD player; Ms. Mary Grace Gallardo of LSPU, oven toaster; Ms. Frelyn Olores-Duquez of NCC, sleeping bag; and Ms. Eleteria Garay of Bureau of Treasury and Ms. Vicelyn Layno of Bureau of Investments, sandwich maker.

Prior to socials, the election was held for the 2009 PhilKOFA Board of Trustees. Director Celia Romero of COMELEC provided the Guidelines on Voting and chaired the election process. After the votes were cast and counted, the following won the 11 seats of the 2009 PhilKOFA Board of Trustees: Dr. Bernabe Q. Sanchez (MSU-IIT-Iligan City Campus), Atty. Esmeralda Amora-Ladra (COMELEC), Ms. Aurora T. Collantes (NEDA), Ms. Rhean R. Delos Reyes (KOICA-PO), Mr. Voltaire Z. Palaña (OP-PMS), Ms. Teresita C. Puente (LGU-Pasig City Health Office), Ms. Editha S. Abergas (formerly of NEDA), Dir. Ma. Aurora C. Quiray (POPCOM-CAR), Prof. Pacifico T. Vizmonte (CLSU), Ms. Judy A. Vermudo (ADB), and Ms. Bai Cabayan D. Bacar (DAR-ARMM). Director Calibo, the then incumbent Board President, after serving PhilKOFA for 2 consecutive terms (2.5 years), abstained from being nominated to the Board to give chance to other officers to lead the association. The newly elected officers had a separate meeting after the socials.

Region, CICT–National Computer Center, Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Agrarian Reform–Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, PAG-ASA, CCMAP, Senate, Bureau of Plant Industry, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, House of Representatives, SCP, Forest Management Bureau, DOJ (PPA), Local Water Utilities Authority, National Commission on Indigenous People, NHFPI, PHILRADS, Bureau of Investments, Asian Development Bank and KOICA.

The event started at 1:00 PM with the registration of delegates and I.D. processing (courtesy of SMARTMATIC). Atty. Emerald Amora-Ladra, VP for NCR/Bicol, and Prof. Jun Vizmonte, VP for North Luzon served as emcees.

First to deliver his inspirational message was His Excellency, Ambassador Joong Kyung Choi of the Korean Embassy in the Philippines. He was followed by Resident Representative Kim In of KOICA–Philippine Office. Next was Korean Chamber of Commerce Philippines President Jae Jang Jung, who was represented by KCCP VP Edward Eun-Gap Chang.

The messages conveyed by the Korean dignitaries emphasized on their partnership with PhilKOFA and confirmed their continued assistance and support to the Alumni, particularly in its activities and projects. They expressed their wish for the organization to prosper, continue to enhance relationships with partners, develop more partnerships, maintain its sense of dedication and selfless support in sharing the expertise and learnings from each individual Korean experience, and unite efforts to uphold the general membership. They congratulated the PhilKOFA because they were impressed by the active participation of its members and dedication of its officers. KOICA Resident Representative Kim In reiterated in his message that PhilKOFA remains to be number one Alumni Association among all the 28 recipient countries of KOICA training programs.



New PHILKOFA officers take oath of office



(Standing, L-R) Jun Vizmonte, Aurora Collantes, Tess Puenta, Bernabe Sanchez, Rhean Delos Reyes; (Seated, L-R) Editha Abergas, Esmeralda Ladra, Ambassador Choi Joong-kyung, KOICA Resident Representative Kim In

The new set of PhilKOFA officers took their oath of office on 21 April 2009 at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. The ceremony was presided by Korean Ambassador to the Philippines, H.E. Choi Joong-kyung.

Headed by this year's President, Atty. Esmeralda Ladra, the 11 officers will serve a term of one year from 2009-2010. Other board officers are Editha Abergas as VP NCR/Region 5, Aurora Quiray as VP Luzon, Voltaire Palaña as VP Visayas, Bernabe Sanchez as VP Mindanao, Aurora Collantes as Secretary, Teresita Puenta as Treasurer, Pacifico Vizmonte, Jr. as Auditor, Rhean Delos Reyes as Public Relations Officer, Bai Cabayan Bacar as Culture and Sports Committee Chairperson and Judy Vermudo as Social Services Committee Chairperson.

Created in 2001, PhilKOFA envisions itself to be a vital organization of Filipino KOICA scholars in promoting understanding and cooperation among peoples and nations.

With this year's highlight on the 60th anniversary of Korea-Philippines diplomatic ties, the association aims to support and strengthen the cooperative and friendly relations of the two nations through linkages and networking, sharing of expertise, undertaking development projects and activities, and extending widespread exemplary services for both Filipino and Korean communities.

2009 PHILKOFA planning in Baguio



The 2009 PhilKOFA Planning Workshop was held on 24-25 January 2009 at the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) Regional Office in Baguio City. 28 members from NCR, Luzon and Mindanao attended the planning workshop.

The workshop started with an invocation by Ms. Lily Garcia of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and NTC Director Jerry Tacay.

Atty. Esmeralda Ladra, PhilKOFA President, opened the workshop by welcoming the participants and giving an overview of the event. She emphasized that the activity was made open to all PhilKOFA members who wish to provide inputs in the formulation of the 2009 Work and Financial Plan. In so doing, the WFP will be owned by the entire membership of PhilKOFA.

The overview of the workshop includes re-visiting of the PhilKOFA Mission and Vision, theme and objectives of the workshop, directions for 2009, the expected flow of the workshop, and finally, the desired output for the workshop.

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Atty. Ladra further explained that the activities and projects to be implemented in 2009 should be anchored on the objectives of the Association, which are: promotion of friendly relations between Korea and the Philippines, sharing of skills and knowledge between and among KOICA fellows, establishment of a multilateral network of specialists from many disciplines, professional fields, institutions and agencies who have been beneficiaries of KOICA-sponsored trainings, activities, and projects mutually beneficial to KOICA fellows, and extension of exemplary services for the good of the Filipino community.

Ms. Rhean delos Reyes, KOICA Program Officer and PhilKOFA PRO, discussed KOICA priorities and its proposed activities and projects for 2009. These are the celebration of the 60th anniversary of RP-Korea diplomatic relations in March 2009 and the conduct of social services. Numerous activities are lined up in celebration of the anniversary.

Ms. Aurora Collantes, Board Secretary, presented the 2008 assessment of PhilKOFA activities and projects. Overall, activities and projects implemented in 2008 amounted to Php 393,705.13. Ms. Tess Puente, Board Treasurer, presented the financial report for 2008. As of the workshop, it was reported that the Alumni Association has Php 35,400.65 cash on hand.

After the presentation of the assessment and financial reports, the participants were divided into area-based groups: NCR and Region V, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Each group generated a list of proposed activities and projects for possible implementation in 2009. The integrated output constituted the 2009 Work and Financial Plan that was submitted to KOICA on February 2009. In closing, the participants held a simple ceremony and prayed for the

Lord to bless the plan and requested for the successful and meaningful implementation of all activities in 2009.

The workshop was followed by a short program which was attended by officers and members of the Korean Association in Northern Luzon led by its President, Mr. Peter Ahn. In his brief remarks, Mr. Ahn informed the PhilKOFA of the Association's activities in this part of the country. He also expressed his willingness to cooperate with PhilKOFA in its objective of promoting cooperation and understanding between the two countries.

On behalf of PhilKOFA, Atty. Ladra expressed her appreciation to the officers of the Korean Association for attending the activity and assuring of the start of a beautiful friendship between the two associations and possible cooperation between them.

A dinner and fellowship ended the 2009 PhilKOFA planning workshop.



After a day's hardwork, the planning team toured the City of Baguio.

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Mindanao assembly and other events

PhilKOFAns in Mindanao vowed to continue reaching out to different communities in the region in facilitating educational opportunities for

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First encounter with the new Korean Ambassador

THE 2008 PHILKOFA BOARD OF TRUSTEES HAD A courtesy visit to the new Korean Ambassador to the Philippines, His Excellency Choi Joong Kyung (former Vice-Finance Minister in Korea) on 24 October 2008, at the Ambassador's Office, Korean Embassy, Makati City. The good-looking Ambassador warmly received the Board in his office.

The PhilKOFA Board briefed the new ambassador about the association. The then PhilKOFA President Bernard R. Calibo explained the major projects and activities for the year 2008, among them were medical missions, sustaining the basic economic community through agricultural livelihood programs, and events such as PhilKOFA Anniversary and Annual General Assembly.

The PhilKOFA Board acknowledged the KOICA for its untiring assistance to the association. Under the leadership of Resident Representative Kim In, PhilKOFA has attained the global recognition as the number 1 KOICA Alumni Association among 28 countries.

The newly signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PhilKOFA and the Korean Chamber of Commerce-Philippines (KCCP) was also cited. The partnership aims to promote strong partnership between PhilKOFA and KCCP officers and members nationwide.



The 2008 PhilKOFA Board with Amb. Joong Kyung Choi and KOICA and Korean Embassy officials.

The Honorable Ambassador was pleased with the PhilKOFA presentation and meeting with the PhilKOFA Board. He said that there is really a very close cooperation between Korea and the Philippines. The significant role of the Philippines in Korea's history of independence can't be forgotten and Koreans will forever cherish it. He also mentioned the 2009 celebration of the 60th anniversary on the Diplomatic Relations between the Philippines and Korea. Relative to this, the Ambassador said that PhilKOFA's participation in the year's coming anniversary event is expected and will be much welcomed.

Dinner followed at the Korean Garden Restaurant in Makati City.

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Members and friends of PhilKOFA with B'laan elementary students as PhilKOFA's scholarship beneficiaries.

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poor but deserving children and in protecting the environment.

With the theme "**PhilKOFAns Reaching Out for Education and Environment in South Cotabato, Sarangani and Gen. Santos City**" the 3rd Mindanao Regional Consultative Assembly was held at the Rockridge Resort, Brgy. Lambayong, Tampakan, South Cotabato. 18 PhilKOFA members coming from 14 different government agencies and private organizations

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attended the assembly. Ms. Eileen S. Estrada convened the assembly with members from RCM XII acting as the secretariat.

The objectives of the Assembly were to foster camaraderie among PhilKOFAns in Mindanao, to increase awareness on the role of members as stewards of nature, to update members on current projects, and to come up with more plans and activities for Mindanao.

PhilKOFA President Atty. Esmeralda Ladra, in her inspirational message, congratulated PhilKOFA Mindanao and RCM XII for spearheading the activity. She said that she was impressed with the efforts that its members had exerted for PhilKOFA. She encouraged all members to become more active and recruit more KOICA scholars to join the activities of the association.

The annual assembly was capped with the presentation of scholarship grants to 20 B'laan students of the Lampitak Elementary School, a tree planting activity participated in by 43 members at the Tampakan Municipal Nature's Park and visits to several eco-tourism destinations of South Cotabato, Sarangani and Gen. Santos City.



Pacquiao Tree (or Duguan) seedlings were planted at the Municipal Nature's Park in Tampakan.

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Medical mission in Lamut, Ifugao



PHILKOFA CONDUCTED A MEDICAL MISSION IN the municipality of Lamut, Ifugao last February 27, 2009.

Members from Northern Luzon and NCR, together with Lamut Rural Health Unit and nursing students from the Ifugao State College of Agriculture and Fisheries provided medical and technical assistance. The Lamut LGU, the Regional Population Office and KOICA, among others provided other resources needed for the successful implementation of the activity.

262 community members from Lamut, mostly couples and families belonging to the Responsible Parenting Movement, availed of the medical services. Children were provided with vitamin supplements. Excess medicines were left to the Barangay Nayon Nutrition Scholar and to the Lamut RHU.

After the activity, the team visited the rice terraces in Banaue and immediately proceeded to Baguio City for the Panagbenga Festival.

Livelihood training for women in Sorsogon held

Women's issues and development have always been on the forefront of PhilKOFA's vision



Ms. Sonia Catabian (in apron) showing kroepck making.



PhilKOFAs and Korea Overseas Volunteers (KOVs) distributing food items and clothes to typhoon and flood-affected families.

... but it is only now that specific projects and activities are being fleshed out and implemented. 18 women, all wives of fishermen in the coastal barangays of Balogo and Mahingan in Sorsogon, were the beneficiaries of a pilot livelihood training for women, held on August 28-30, 2009 at the Sorsogon State College [SSC], Sorsogon City.

The training aimed to deepen the women's awareness on the importance of self-employment to augment family income. Further, it aims to harness the largely untapped women's potential in community development. Ms. Sofia Catabian of the SSC Extension Office facilitated the training on shrimp kroepck and clam [tulya] crunches. The training surfaced issues on product packaging, marketing and profitability. The participants were also given sample shrimp kroepck and clam crunches products.

The partnership with the SSC was made possible through Mr. Antonio Fuentes, SSC President and a PhilKOFAn. In his remarks, he acknowledged the KOICA, through PhilKOFA, for the partnership. He recalled his "Rice Production Training" in Korea in 2000 when he was still an Associate Professor at SSC. He said that his fruitful experience in Korea had helped him become the SSC President. As such,

he continuously proposes projects and activities for the benefit of local communities in Sorsogon. As SSC President, the SSC Extension Office regularly conducts services with the local government such as education and training on gender and development, fish preservation, cooking using local fishes, entrepreneurship, among others.

Atty. Glenn Olves, representing Sorsogon City Mayor Leovic Dioneda, lauded the initiative of PhilKOFA in conducting such activities in the city. He welcomed all the guests including the 3 Korea Overseas Volunteers: Mr. Kim Nohyun, Ms. Park Youngsil and Ms. Lee Boram. The latter will be assigned to the SSC to teach Korean language. Atty. Olves guaranteed the volunteer's safety and well-being in the city, and assured the LGU's full support to Ms. Lee's projects and activities in the college. He also mentioned that the city welcomes Korean nationals who come to their city as tourists, students, retirees and entrepreneurs. This is line with the city's campaign to boost its economy by encouraging investments. A plan to have a sister city in Korea is on the planning stage: to exchange or share products, services, as well as expertise through skilled labor.

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PhilKOFA Panglimahan (5-in-1)



PhilKOFA Medical Team - composed of PhilKOFA members and friends, local health officers and workers, Philippine Army and the beneficiaries.



The Dental Team - dentists from the Philippine National Police, Zambales Dental Association, Rural Health Workers and PhilKOFAns.

GEARING TOWARDS ITS SOCIAL GOALS, PhilKOFA conducted five relevant social activities on 16 May 2009 in East Darita, San Antonio, Zambales.

Dubbed as PHILKOFA PANGLIMAHAN, coined from the word PhilKOFA, the name of the organization and LIMAHAN meaning five activities: medical and dental check-up, haircut, free legal service and voter's registration in cooperation with the Ramon Magsaysay Technical University's Master of Public Administration class, the local government unit of East Darita, San Antonio, Zambales as well as representatives from the Philippine Army.

Doctors from PhilKOFA and the rural health unit diagnosed about 300 patients. Dentists from the Zambales Dental Association and the Philippine Army conducted tooth extraction and check-up to about 200 patients. Local chapter members of Integrated Bar of the Philippines provided free legal advice to the community.

After the mission, the group enjoyed the clear waters of Zambales through swimming and island hopping.



Post-activity meeting and assessment.

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PhilKOFA President, Atty. Esmeralda Ladra, shared her message of hope for the fisherfolks' wives—encouraging them to be open to new opportunities and eventually venture to the world of small-scale entrepreneurship. KOICA Program Officer Ms. Rhean Delos Reyes discussed briefly KOICA, emphasizing on Training Program as one of its flagship programs. She also conveyed Resident Representative KIM In's message of thanks to SSC President Fuentes for his warm reception to Korean volunteer Ms. Lee Boram in their school. The former

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The medical mission and beneficiaries

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requested full and continued support for Ms. Lee's projects and volunteer activities while in SSC. Mr. Kim also welcomes additional request for Korean volunteers from Sorsogon State College.

Outreach Program

The group proceeded to the Municipality of Magallanes for the gift-giving activity. Members and friends of PhilKOFA, Korea Overseas Volunteers, LGU and SSC personnel distributed food items (including 52 kilos of KOICA rice), clothes and other basic items to about 25 families affected by typhoon Dante that hit the community. Magallanes Mayor Abelardo L. Arambulo thanked the group for the assistance given to his constituents.

Special PhilKOFA Board Meeting

The Special Board Meeting was presided by Atty. Esmeralda Ladra and attended by PhilKOFA officers and members. Agenda was the current financial status of PhilKOFA, and updates on the remaining projects and activities for this year such as tree-planting and the 3rd Mindanao Consultative Assembly in General Santos City in September 2009, medical mission and the Visayas Regional Assembly in Bohol in October 2009, and the 1st National Conference of KOICA Scholars in Manila in November 2009, among others.

The group capped off the meeting with the immediate plan to organize a task force for the National Conference since this will be a big and important event for both PhilKOFA and KOICA and its partner agencies.

Valenzuela Medical Mission

ON 30 MAY 2009, PHILKOFA CONDUCTED FREE medical check-up and dental services in General T. De Leon, Valenzuela City.

In addition, school supplies were distributed to 100 elementary grade pupils. The activity was conducted in cooperation with the Knights of Columbus, Council 10695 Valenzuela Chapter and the Mater Dei Marriage Encounter Community.



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Forces to Korea (PEFTOK) Memorial Monument will be constructed in the Philippine Military Academy. As pointed out by Amb. Choi, the choice of the PMA as a place to honor the Filipino Korean War veterans is ideal because it will surely instill the example of the PEFTOK soldiers in the young minds of PMA cadets. The project, which is funded by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs of Korea, will be an opportunity to remind them that the ones who have trodden the same path before the young cadets were truly courageous and dedicated to democracy.

The other two projects are the construction of the RP-ROK PEFTOK Memorial Hall also funded by the Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs, and the Friendship Space funded by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). The memorial hall will have a shrine, the PEFTOK office, and war memorial hall; while the Friendship Space will be used for special events such as the memorial of the Korean War and will contain facilities for vocational training, library services and cultural exchange.

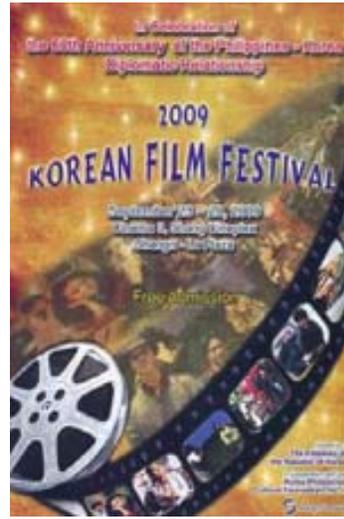
2009 Korean Film Festival's successful run

THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IN the Philippines, the Korea-Philippines Cultural Foundation, Inc. and the Shangri-La Plaza successfully hosted the 2009 Korean Film Festival from September 23 to October 6, 2009 at the Shang Cineplex.

Held in celebration of the 60th year anniversary of the Philippines-Korea diplomatic relations, the Korean Film Festival showed the excellence of Korean cinema and why it has gained international acclaim for its uniqueness and diversity over the past two decades. While Korean soap operas are already wildly popular in the Philippines, the sponsors hoped that there will be a more open cultural relationship between the Filipinos and Koreans through other forms of cinematic arts.

The Festival featured some of the multi-awarded Korean films from the past decade. One of these is *Old Boy*, an action film directed by Park, Chan-wook and the second installment of the popular Vengeance Trilogy. In 2004, it received the Grand Prix in the Cannes Film Festival and remains one of the most-acclaimed Korean movies to date.

Films shown during the festival include *Barking Dogs Never Bite*, a dark comedy directed by Bong, Joon-ho, who also directed *Memories of Murder* in



2003 and *The Host* in 2006; *Sa-kwa*, a romantic drama directed by Kang, Yi-wan; the drama film *Beyond the Years*, directed by Im, Kwon-Taek; and *The Show Must Go On*, another drama film directed by Han, Jae-rim which won the Best Picture Award and Best Actor award for Song, Kang-ho at the 28th Blue Dragon Film Awards in Nov. 2007.

The other films are *Forbidden Quest*, a historical comedy directed by Kim, Dae-woo; and *Driving with My Wife's Lover*, a drama film directed by Kim, Tai-sik, which was shown in the 2007 Sundance International Film Festival, the 2007 International Film Festival in Rotterdam and the 2007 Belgrade International Film Festival.

Despite the heavy rains that affected Metro Manila during the Festival period, Shangri-La Plaza still recorded an average of 72% utilization of Cineplex 3 during the festival run.

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Korea celebrates the National Foundation Day

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA CELEBRATED ITS National Foundation Day on October 3, 2009.

To celebrate this milestone, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the Philippines hosted the Korean National Day Reception on October 8 at the Ambassador's Residence in Forbes Park, Makati. This was hosted by His Excellency Choi, Joong-Kyung, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Philippines.

The National Day Celebration for this year was made more special because the year 2009 marks the 60th Anniversary of the Philippine Korea Diplomatic Relations. This was echoed by Amb. Choi,

who spoke of the shared history of the Philippines and Korea in his welcome speech.

The reception was attended by over 500 guests from the Philippine Government, the diplomatic corps in the Philippines, the Korean business community and Philippine civil society.

In his welcome speech, Department of Foreign Affairs Acting Secretary Rafael Seguis highlighted the strong partnership between the Philippines and Korea, which has grown from strength to strength.

The 60th anniversary of Philippines-Korea diplomatic relations is a yearlong celebration of the friendship and alliance of the two countries.

Aurora-KOICA rice relief operation in the National Capital Region



KOICA Relief Team - composed of KOICA staff and Korean volunteers, and PhilKOFA members and friends - during the re-packing of Aurora-KOICA rice at DSWD-NROC in Pasay City.



Amb. Choi Joong-Kyung hands out rice packs as Valenzuela Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian as KOICA Country Rep. Kim In looks on.

AS PART OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT'S relief efforts for the victims of Typhoon Ondoy, Ambassador Choi, Joong-Kyung led the distribution of Aurora-KOICA rice to affected families in several cities in Metro Manila. The KOICA Relief Team, composed of Korea Overseas Volunteers and PhilKOFA members, joined the Ambassador in the relief operations.

On October 9, 2009, Amb. Choi distributed rice to 325 affected families in Baranggay Ugong, Valenzuela City with Mayor Sherwin Gatchalian. Bucheon City Vice Mayor Lee, Jin Hun also turned over their donation of medicines to the City Health Office. In Pasig City, Amb. Choi turned over to Rep. Roman T. Romulo 5,000 rice packs for typhoon victims.

The rice were distributed to families in the Brent Gym Evacuation Center and Barangays Manggahan and Santolan Distribution Centers on October 21 and 22, 2009. The KOICA Relief Team also distributed rice to 160 families in evacuation centers in Barangays Bagumbayan and Manggahan in Quezon City on October 15, 2009.

The Aurora-KOICA rice is the product of the Korea-Philippines Rice Processing Center in Aurora province. A total of 120 tons of rice (2,400 bags) were distributed by KOICA and the Department of Social Welfare and Development to affected areas in the National Capital Region and Luzon provinces.

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Rededication of the Korea War Memorial Tower

ON SEPT. 23, 2009, MINISTER OF PATRIOTS AND Veterans Affairs of the Republic of Korea Kim Yang, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in the Philippines Choi, Joong-Kyung, and Undersecretary for Civil Veterans and Reserve Affairs Ernesto G. Carolina led the rededication of the memorial tower of the Philippine Expeditionary Forces to Korea located at the *Libingan ng mga Bayani*.

The rededication of the monument is part of the ongoing efforts to preserve the legacy of the 7,420 Filipino soldiers who joined the Korean War in 1951

as part of the United Nations Command.

In his speech, Amb. Choi said that since the soldiers' sacrifices have led to a strengthened Philippines-Korea diplomatic relationship, "it is but fitting that we take measures to preserve this monument on the 60th Anniversary of our countries' friendship."

Amb. Choi also revealed in his speech that 3 more projects with the same goal are going to be launched. By September, a Philippine Expeditionary

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Medical mission in Bohol as a joint activity of the Regional Coordinative Mechanism in the Visayas

ONE MAJOR ACTIVITY OF THE RCM-VISAYAS was the Medical Mission in Bohol held on 17 October 2009 in the town of Guindulman. The activity was considered as an offshoot/response to the earlier request of PhilKOFA President Esmeralda Amora-Ladra's late mother, "Mama Naty Amora" who became an honorary member of PhilKOFA before her death in July 2009. Seven Board of Trustees participated in the mission and PhilKOFA members. Medicines and vitamin supplements were distributed after the patients, both children and adults, had medical consultations from doctors/nurses who were PhilKOFA members and friends of PhilKOFA. Officials from the Municipality of Guindulman also assisted the PhilKOFAns in said activity.

The regular monthly meeting of the PhilKOFA Board was held after the medical mission at Bunhayag Resort, Guindulman, Bohol. Major agenda items discussed were the year's remaining

PhilKOFA projects, activities and event scheduled in November and December 2009, such as the First National Conference of KOICA Scholars cum 2009 General Membership Assembly (GA), fund-raising activities in the form of raffle tickets "PhilKOFACash", sportsfest; printing of PhilKOFA Newsletter (January to November 2009 Issue), among others.

The possibility of providing assistance to disaster-stricken areas like the typhoon Ondoy victims was discussed and it was suggested that PhilKOFA members who are victims of calamities should be given priority. A Board Resolution was proposed to be drafted to effect said suggestion. Further, Board Pres. Ladra also shared her experience with the Korean Ambassador, KOICA RR Kim In, other PhilKOFAns, and Korean Volunteers in the repacking and distribution of relief goods (rice and commodities) to flood victims in Valenzuela City.

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New PHILKOFA website

IN OCTOBER 2008, THE KOICA PHILIPPINE Office, through Resident Representative Kim In, unveiled the new official homepage of PhilKOFA: www.philkofa.org.

The site features PhilKOFA officers and members, the organization's projects and activities, and publication such as its official newsletter, *PHILKOFA News*.

Articles on KOICA's projects and technical cooperation programs such training, dispatch of Korea Overseas Volunteers (KOVs) and Korean experts, and support to NGO are likewise accessible on the site.

In Mr. Kim's message during the website's

inception, he commended the KOICA scholars for their relentless support and commitment to the organization's mission and vision that have made PHILKOFA a potent alumni force in the country, and the most dynamic group among the 28 KOICA Alumni Associations (KAA) worldwide.



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