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They say "It takes a village to raise a child", then I must say, "It takes a community of members to build a successful organization".

But those eighteen years of significant changes and meaningful advocacies was not accomplished half-heartedly, but is an achievement built with earnest love for the community – which is why I can say that this organization is something we can be proud of. The work that we have done for this organization has not only helped communities, but has taught us the value of human life and the environment, the pains and joys of living, as well as the journey we are all taking in life. Most of all, it has taught us the importance of empathy.

With this said, Philkofa aims to further improve the organization after 18 years of its creation. This could be done through our goals, the 3Es and C: Enhance membership participation and information dissemination, Engage in sustainable development programs and strengthen Regional Coordinative Mechanism, Empower communities and members through knowledge sharing, community outreach, and Collaborate with institution, government agencies, local government units and organization With this in mind, I salute the past presidents and board members for all the accomplishments and remarkable work that was done in order for our organization to grow.

With Philkofa News, that is created with the intention of disseminating information in pursuit of reaching out to the members, I am encouraging you to contribute, participate, and be a volunteer to our organization. Each individual plays a vital role, for each member has the power to be of service to those in need, to paint a better reality for people, and to ignite a fire in their hearts.

We have succeeded in the dream of spreading the seed of hope and touching the lives of many throughout this journey. Our community of volunteers of the alumni participants is growing and will continue to do so. With a clear goal, let us strive to be of service towards our fellow countrymen.

With all my heart I can say that I am proud to be able to serve as President of Philkofa.

Inspire, and together we can make a difference! Mabuhay ang Philkofa!

Gina P. Borinaga
President, Philkofa

Greetings from the Korea International Cooperation Agency!

In 2019, we celebrate the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the Republic of Korea. This bilateral relations embarked from the post-World War II era and continues to be strengthened in this modern time through partnerships in trade, tourism, and cultural exchanges. Our KOICA office reinforces its contribution to the strong ties of Korea and the Philippines through Official Development Assistance. As the official development arm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea, more than 2,500 Filipinos have participated in KOICA-sponsored training courses and scholarship programs in various fields.

I would like to congratulate the Philippine KOICA Fellows Association (PHILKOFA) for prospering for yet another year ever since it has been founded in 2001, and for serving as a model KOICA club internationally recognized in the world. This year marks the 18th founding anniversary of PHILKOFA and this signifies 18 years of passion and volunteerism of previous scholars and fellows in reaching out to communities all over the Philippines. The continuous support and enthusiasm of PHILKOFA members has made it possible for our institution to pursue sharing the knowledge and expertise of Korean organizations to the Filipino community.

Our KOICA office guarantees full support to the key initiatives of PHILKOFA and hopes to further strengthen linkages between our office and the PHILKOFA members. We wish that KOICA and the Philippine KOICA Fellows Association continues to empower and inspire the Filipino community through our shared advocacies.

Maraming Salamat Po!

Song Min Hyeon
Country Director, KOICA

MESSAGES
LINGAPHILKOFA sa Mindanao
BALIK ARAL 2019
Marizon S. Loreto — June 29, 2019

The LINGAPHILKOFA sa MINDANAO Community Outreach was conducted in Barangay Daltan, Municipality of Tampakan, South Cotabato on June 29, 2019. Dubbed as “Balik Aral 2019”, the activity benefited 318 students (Kinder and Grades 1-6) of Datalbiao Integrated School and 85 students (Kinder and Grades 1-4) of Tukalmay Elementary School, in the same barangay. This outreach activity was initiated by PHILKOFA Mindanao and participated by PHILKOFA Board of Trustees, and members from Mindanao along with friends of PHILKOFA from the Philippine National Police (PNP), Local Government Unit of Tampakan, Municipal Environment and Resources personnel and the Municipal Disaster and Risk Reduction Management group. Mr. Daniel A. Avergonzado, the Head of the Datalbiao Integrated School, and other local officials expressed their gratitude and appreciation to PHILKOFA for their initiative of helping the community.

School supplies such as school bags, writing papers, notebooks, pencils, pens, scissors, and erasers were received by the students from Kinder up to Grade 6 with much delight. Donations of storybooks and five (5) sets of desktop computers were distributed to the school authorities of both Datalbiao Integrated School and Tukaymalay Elementary School. A cultural presentation was rendered by the children before the whole event ended. PHILKOFA members then went on to the tree planting activity. The success of the activity could be accounted for by the support of the PHILKOFA members who participated and donated for the event as well as the organizational partners such as the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Korea Chamber of Commerce Philippines (KCCP), Adarna House, Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office XI, Sagittarius Mines, Inc. and the Local Government Unit of the said municipality.

18th Founding Anniversary Celebration
“A Night of Scholars”
Marizon S. Loreto — July 27, 2019

The 18th Founding Anniversary Celebration of PHILKOFA was successfully held at the Oak Ballroom of Sequoia Hotel in Quezon City on the 27th of July 2019. The event was attended by about 90 PHILKOFA members and was hosted by Ms. Regina Arquiza, KOICA Program Officer, and Mr. Jay-Ar Manuel Igno, a University of the Philippines Professor and fellow PHILKOFA member. Ms. Gina Borinaga, the PHILKOFA President and a former KOICA scholar in 1999 for TV documentary program, opened the program with a message of thanksgiving and appreciation to the members, former Presidents, partners KOICA and KCCP. Founding President, Noel Sevilla narrated PHILKOFA’s early beginnings since its creation in 2001. Mr. Sangback Lee, the KOICA Acting Country Director at that time, expressed his admiration to PHILKOFA for being the leading KOICA Alumni Association in the world. Former CHED Director, Dr. Libertad Garcia, praised loyal PHILKOFAns for their commitment to the organization as volunteers for the last 18 years. Guest Speaker Atty. Jose Manuel Diokno, a Dean of the College of Saint Benilde and Chairperson of Free Legal Assistance Group, expressed his admiration to PHILKOFA, not only the leaders but the whole organization. In his message, he emphasized that “it takes a village to raise a child, but it also takes the entire support system to operate this for so long.” Plaques and Certificates of Appreciation were presented to former Presidents of PHILKOFA, namely, the founding President Noel Sevilla, Ms. Judy Vermudo and Ms. Maria Aurora Quiray. Dr. Libertad Garcia and Atty. Jose Manuel Diokno were also awarded Plaques of Appreciation for their inspiring messages. Additionally, the Korea Chamber of Commerce Philippines (KCCP) was accorded the plaque of appreciation for their support to PHILKOFA particularly in granting scholarship to deserving students and other non-financial support to the organization. The celebration was filled with performances from the Sindaw Philippines Performing Arts Guild and stand-up comedian Joel Olivera. Indeed! It was a memorable and fun-filled 18th PHILKOFA Founding Celebration!
Community Assistance in Itogon, Benguet

Genaro M. Tolentino — October 6, 2018

The Philippine KOICA Fellows Association (PHILKOFA) in close coordination with the local members of the PHILKOFA Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM)- Cordillera Administrative Region conducted a community outreach program in Itogon, Benguet on October 7, 2018. The area was one of the most devastated areas hit by Typhoon Ompong (International Name: Typhoon Mangkhut) in 2018.

The typhoon hit and caused devastation in the northern part of Luzon specifically the Cagayan Valley, the Ilocos and the Cordillera regions. Many of the casualties, particularly in Itogon, Benguet were families of small-time miners which were buried by huge landslide.

Relief distribution followed with PHILKOFANS giving bags of raincoats, flashlights, blankets, mosquito nets as well as food items donated by KCCP, CJ Philippines, Rotary International and other PHILKOFANs from government and non-government agencies.

In addition, the group also organized a “Tungtungan”, a local term for dialogue between and among the families of the victims, the LGU and the PHILKOFANS, the purpose of which is to listen to the specific needs and suggestions of the victims for possible action by the LGU and the PHILKOFA. This was facilitated by Mr Art Uro, acting RCM Coordinator of CAR and Engr. Genaro Tolentino, VP for Luzon.

Luzon Holds Knowledge Sharing on Agricultural Technologies and Strategies

Genaro M. Tolentino — October 6, 2018

PHILKOFANS from the Local Government Units, National Government Agencies and their Regional Offices, Department of Education, State Colleges and Universities and the Cordillera Administrative Region participated in the Knowledge Sharing on Agriculture and Rural Development Strategies held at Hotel Veniz, in Baguio City last October 6, 2018.

The knowledge sharing focused on topics related to Agricultural Technologies and Rural Development Strategies. Below are the topics discussed by the resource persons, who were graduates of degree courses and training courses in Korea from 2016 to 2018:

2. Mr. Mark Anthony Mangoba of the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization, Nueva Ecija, Region 3. Master of Science Degree Program on Agricultural Processing and Marketing.

An open forum followed every after two presentations. Dr. Rodolfo Estigoy facilitating skills generated active participation and response from the audience. PHILKOFA and KOICA awarded a certificate of appreciation and token to the resource persons. Truly, the spirit of volunteerism is evident among the PHILKOFANS.
Visayas Region Hosts 17th Anniversary Celebration
Michael Nuñez — July 26, 2018

The Visayas Regions hosted the 17th Annual Celebration of the founding of PHILKOFA in Lahug, Cebu City last July 28-29, 2018. The fiesta-themed celebration which comprised of four (4) activities: Anniversary Celebration, Visayas Regional Assembly, Knowledge Sharing and Community Outreach were attended by Philkofa members from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao with the President of Korean Chamber Commerce of the Philippines, Mr. Ho Ik Lee, as special guest speaker.

The Celebration started with a recollection, which was facilitated by Reverend Father Dennis Cagantas, Parish Priest of the Holy Spirit Parish, Visayas State University in Leyte. The good priest stressed out the importance of knowing where our society is and the God-given gifts that we can share to improve the situation. A workshop revealed varied experiences of participants in Korea, which Father Dennis associated with the God-given gifts that they can share to local communities.

The knowledge sharing activity was also held with the following speakers: Ms. Marilyn Miranda, an education supervisor at the Department of Education Regional Office and a former KOICA trainee in 2016, Ms. Sweet Mercy Pacolor, an Associate Dean of College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Judy Ann Dumayas, the Medical Center Chief of Eastern Visayas Sanitarium, Santa Barbara Iloilo, and lastly, Ms. August Melody Andong, NEDA Region-6.

The following day, PHILKOFANS proceeded to the dumpsite area in Bangkal, Lapu-Lapu City, where 150 children of informal settlers were the recipients of the outreach program in partnership with the Cebu-based NGO called LUGAW Group that led by Liv Campo. While PHILKOFANS provided the goods for distribution, the LUGAW Group assisted in gathering the mothers and children residing in the impoverished part of the city.

In his Anniversary message, President Ho Ik Lee emphasized the dedication and commitment of Philkofa all over the region and recognized Philkofa’s initiatives to strengthen camaraderie and friendship between two countries.

Knowledge Sharing on Capacity Building for Higher Education: Policy Making Course and Human Resource Development
The Philippine KOICA Fellows Association, Inc. (PhilKOFA), in conjunction with its 18th Founding Anniversary Celebration, held the “Knowledge Sharing on Capacity Building for Higher Education: Policy Making Course and Human Resource Development” on 27 July 2019 at the Sequoia Hotel in Quezon City. The presenters were: Ms. Christine V. Yambao, Campus Administrator of Western Mindanao State University – Malangas Campus; Mr. John Paul dela Cruz, Education Program Specialist II of the Office of Program and Standards Development, Commission on Higher Education (CHED); and Ms. Alona M. Belarga, Director for Instruction and Quality Assurance of West Visayas State University. Director Belarga reported that one of the highlights of her training was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Silla University and West Visayas State University as approved by the Board of Regents.

Knowledge Sharing: Shared Responsibility on Solid Waste Management and Climate Change - July 26, 2019
The Philippine KOICA Fellows Association, Inc. (PhilKOFA) conducted the first Knowledge Sharing (KS) activity which focused on Shared Responsibility on Solid Waste and Climate Change on 26 July 2019 at the Legislative Building of Parañaque City. The activity was in collaboration with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources’ Environmental Management Bureau (EMB-DENR), Local Government Unit of Parañaque (LGU-Parañaque) and the City Environment and Natural Resources Office of Parañaque (CENRO-Parañaque). KOICA scholars Rose Ann Tierra from the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), Christian Kevin A. Latiza from the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of DENR (MGB-DENR), and Rechale Ybañez and Eli Idefonso who were both from EMB-DENR, acted as resource persons. KOICA Assistant Country Director Jong Hee Park delivered the Welcome Address.

VP for Luzon Leads Regional Assembly in Baguio
Genaro M. Tolentino
In an attempt to revitalize the organization, the new Board of Trustees and Officers the Philippine KOICA Fellows Association, Inc. (PHILKOFA) identified the holding of Regional Assemblies as an initial step to make the organization more cohesive and stronger. In line with this, Engr. Genaro M. Tolentino, VP for Luzon, coordinated the conduct of Luzon General Assembly along with the Knowledge Sharing for Luzon. The Luzon General Assembly was held on October 6, 2018 at Hotel Veniz in Baguio City.

The assembly attempted to conduct election of the RCM Coordinator in the seven (7) regions that comprise Luzon but due to limited participants from other regions in LUZON, only PHILKOFA-CAR was able to elect their new Coordinator in the person of Mr. Art Uro of the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA)-CAR. In his response, Mr. Art Uro stated that he will do his best to revitalize PHILKOFA-CAR and contribute to the attainment of PHILKOFA’s vision, mission and goals.
I am in deep gratitude to be back to Korea for the second time around, from being a participant in a TV Documentary program in 1999 and this time as a Koica Club President in the Philippines. A lot has changed within my life for the past twenty years but my love and admiration to the beautiful country Korea never did. In fact, I am still in awe of how Korea rose to be a donor country to developing countries in 1990 – present, even after being a recipient country in 1945.

Last November 3-7, I was invited by Koica Country Director Song Minhyeon of the Korea International Cooperation Agency to participate in the 8th KOICA Club Conference at Seongnam, Seoul and Busan, Korea.

Our time in Seoul began with a warm welcome from the Koica Vice President for Africa, Middle East, and Latin America, Ms. Sook Hee Baek, and Koica Director of Capacity Enhancement Program Department, Mr. Joonsung Park, which made us more confident to be part of this significant endeavor.

The 17 Koica Club Leaders from Asia, Oceania and CIS namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Philippines, Vietnam, Fiji, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan were briefed and welcomed by a group of competent and Koica team led by Koica's Program Manager, Ms. Duri Yu.

Over the duration of our stay, we delved into our responsibilities. On our first day, each participating country spoke about their Best Practices. The following day, a workshop followed by a forum occurred. In this workshop, everyone was able to provide their own insights thanks to Mr. Park who managed the whole event. Through him, we were motivated to give each club branding, to manage our association independently, make a cultural connection, to make our learnings in Korea useful, and redefine Koica Club.

Being a Philkofa President, I was honored and proud when Mr. Park commended the tremendous efforts of Philkofa as we have been running our club autonomously, and have managed to build connections with Korean companies like the Korean Chamber Commerce of the Philippines among others. Along with those he had also mentioned that Philkofa is the most active Koica Club around the world. With this, I share our achievement to the past Presidents along with the Board of Trustees of Philkofa.

Apart from the lectures, we were invited to the Korea-Asia Friendship and Networking Night also held at the Silla Hotel in Seoul. It was a grand success with the presence of the Koica Club leaders, diplomats, ambassadors, officials and representatives from business sectors. It was a privilege to be involved in a forum comprising of Koica officials. Through this experience I found myself admiring their commitment and dedication to reach out to their partner countries.

While there were days dedicated to business, we were also given time to experience South Korea. A prime example would be our time in Busan. To go there, we took the Super Rapid Train which was a great experience on its own. Busan, being the second largest city in Korea, had an inspiring “rags to riches” story. It was incredibly interesting to discover its history, cultural heritage, museums as well as the bridges and harbor. Apart from those, we had also visited beautiful, clean, and white sand beach called Haeundae beach, Bexco which is the home of the Asean-Korea Summit in November. The market tour along with the dining at the seafood market was a superb experience.

Koica has tremendously made lives better, as a donor country to developing countries, to achieve its Sustainable Development Goals. With Philippines, being the second highest recipient of grant aid and fellowship, we are deeply grateful for that. I truly do hope that Koica club leaders all learned from this experience, and were motivated in committing to uphold the values and dignity of each and every individual.

It was a short visit but all the good and best memories stayed. Memories of learning, of cultivating new allies and friendships, of discovering once again the growth of Koica, and of course how fast and beautiful Korea has evolved through the years. Just like Koica’s slogan of “Peace. Prosperity. People”, I am honored to have been an instrument to build people’s lives better. Through Philippine Koica Fellows Association Inc, I hope to spread the seed of hope and empower people to peace and prosperity among my co-fellows and the community. No one will be left behind, we all go together, not only as a recipient country but a donor country just like Korea and Koica. Happiness for all, with Global Koica.
PHILKOFA Family Day with the Exceptional Kids
R. Amador — June 16, 2018

An opportunity for Philkofans and their families to spend a day of sports and fun with the Exceptional Kids at Sparta Philippines occurred last June 16, 2018. Spearheaded by Mr. Paolo Enrile, Director and Founder of Exceptional Sports, and Ms. Janett Jagger, in partnership with HOPE WORLDWIDE PHILIPPINES – this event was participated by ADHD Society of the Philippines Mandaluyong Center, ASP Manila, and Online Volunteers.

Each Philkofan was assigned to a child and together they formed a buddy system to encourage maximum learning and focus. The activity and the games allowed the kids to learn new skills and interact with families and special kids, and even build relationships by attending to each of their needs. Exceptional Sports is a program in Manila wherein children with special needs (Autism, ADHD, and other similar challenges) who are five years of age or older can participate in sports alongside their peers in an inclusive environment. The staff and volunteers are dedicated to empowering children of all abilities to reach their full athletic and social potential through the power of participating in football, basketball and fitness.

Korea National Day and Armed Forces Day
Editha S. Abergas

8 October 2019 marks the 71st year of Korea National Foundation. Celebrated annually, this year’s event was recognized as a very important affair as it coincides with the 70th year of Philippine-Korea relations. It was on 3 March 1949 when the Republic of the Philippines became the fifth country to recognize sovereignty of the Republic of Korea which was inaugurated on 15 August 1948. The friendship between the two (2) countries was strongly forged through deployment by the Philippines of the Philippine Expeditionary Force to Korea (PEFTOK) in the 1950’s to help South Korea defend itself from the invasion of North Korea. To-date, the Philippines and Korea celebrate its 70th year of true and lasting friendship.

To mark the Platinum Jubilee Year of Philippine-Korea relations, President Rodrigo Duterte and South Korean President Moon Jae-in mutually agreed to designate 2019 as the Year of Mutual Exchange of Philippines and Korea. This milestone was agreed upon during the Korea-Philippine Summit held on 4 June last year. Over the seven (7) decades of diplomatic relations, the Philippines and Korea have established partnerships in many areas either through government-to-government cooperation or people-to-people exchange. Both countries have become trading partners with Korea as the Philippines’ third largest foreign investor. Furthermore, the Philippines is the third major beneficiary of Korean grants in the world. This year’s celebration of Korean National Foundation Day was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, officials and members of the military, and private individuals engaged in Korean business and activities. It was highlighted by speeches delivered by the Korean Ambassador to the Philippines, His Excellency Han Dong-Man and the Philippine Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. They both emphasized the current status of diplomatic relations between the two (2) countries marked by trust and deep friendship. In the end, they promised to further strengthen diplomatic relations in the areas of trade, defence, education and culture.

The Philippine KOICA Fellows Association, Inc (PhilKoFa) is deeply honoured to be invited during the annual celebration of the Korean National Foundation Day. But this year was marked as a very special year as no less than HE Ambassador Hang Dong-Man invited members of PhilKoFa to grace the occasion. In other words, the celebration was opened to all the members of PhilKoFa. To this gesture, we are so grateful. Once again, we thank the Republic of South Korea for a very fruitful and lasting friendship.

Happy Korea National Foundation Day!

Soft Launching of Philippines-Korea Society

The University of the Philippines Korea Research Center (UPKRC), in coordination with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, launched the Philippines-Korea Society on 20 December 2018 at the Isabela Ballroom of Makati Shangri-la. The event was graced by His Excellency Han Dong Man, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in the Philippines. Present and former Board of Trustees of the Philippine KOICA Fellows Association, Inc (PhilKoFa) were invited to witness the momentous occasion which aims to promote people-to-people exchange of friendship between the two (2) countries.
My KOICA Experience
Cristina Yambao

On our first morning at Seongnam, we had the pleasure of experiencing the colourful autumn foliage that greets one with a distinct experience of the cool Korea morning as we roamed around the KOICA Headquarters. More incredible fall colours ushered us as we took the four-hour trip onboard a posh tourist bus going to Busan City. This is what greeted the ten fellows, coming from various universities in the country that were invited by KOICA to participate in the Capacity Building Higher Education Policy Invitational Training. The Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) called for a Policy-Making Course in Higher Education (First Batch) was a competitive grant course through the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). The basic criteria in the selection was for the Fellows of the Philippine Higher Education Career System Executive Development Program (PhilHECS EDP). The PhilHECS EDP is a three-month course of CHED in collaboration with the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) that started in 2016. This is a professional advancement and career management program for senior executives in state universities and colleges. This program was designed to develop the academic institution’s leaders to being molded as a competent higher education executive that is envisioned to improve the public higher education sector of the country. As such, being granted a Fellowship in Korea and pursuing it with a group, that already shared a common training experience, made the trip fun and truly collaborative.

Silla University was the host university throughout the training program and this private university in Busan City, S. Korea provided the fellows a very warm accommodation that manifests their spirit of pride in the glorious Korean culture and tradition. The officials and personnel for the training carefully crafted learning sessions that were delivered by the highly competent resource persons who were from the academe and the partner industries. As such, universities have to competitively vie for the research funds to be granted to them based on the responsiveness and the alignment of their proposals on the administration’s developmental thrust.

The entire sessions and university visits provided for the exposure to the preparedness of the state universities in responding to the call of Education and Industry 4.0. Along with the training exposures, there were also scheduled visits to the beautiful landmarks in Busan City such as its local market, the Haenundae beach, the United Nations Memorial Cemetery in Nam District, and in nearby cities such as Ulsan for the Hyundai Plant; Asan Memorial Hall, Jangsaengpo Whale Museum as well as other sites. There was also a special time for us to be immersed for a few hours with a local family and get exposed to the warmth of the Korean hospitality in the comfort of their homes. Moreover, the exposure to their local culture and tradition every time we share meals with the faculty and colleagues is a truly wonderful experience on the taste and sight of Korea that lingers on one’s senses even long after we left Busan City.

All of these made the trip to Korea extra meaningful. Our deep gratitude goes to KOICA for the amazing experience to learn and collaborate with colleagues in the academe and at the same time, be exposed to the brilliant and dynamic people of Busan as well as to the charismatic personality of the people of Korea.

Filipino Training and Scholarship Exchange Alumni of Korean International Cooperation Agency Foster Collaborations through Knowledge Sharing
Pia Sison – October 7, 2019

Have you heard of Korea International Cooperation Agency’s Global Fellowship Program called CIAT? It actually stands for “Capacity Improvement & Advancement for Tomorrow,” but did you know that in the Korean Language, CIAT sounds like, which is the Korean term for “seed”? CIAT hopes to spread seeds of hope across its global neighborhood by creating an avenue for civil officials, engineers, researchers, and policymakers to indulge themselves with knowledge of effective systems, modern technologies, and the latest know-how that would help in the advancement of their local organizations. Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), the government organization for the Official Development Assistance of the Korean Government, has already been established in the Philippines for 25 years. Through these years, they have created developmental projects, facilitated fellowship programs, and dispatched Korean overseas volunteers and experts. Why don’t you try checking if you have a KOICA office in your countries to see the different programs they offer?

On October 7, KOICA, together with its alumni association called PHILKOFA, hosted a Knowledge Sharing Forum titled, “Fostering Collaborations Through Knowledge Sharing,” in collaboration with the University of the Philippines (UP) Korea Research Center. The forum covered topics from Korean Culture, Cyber Policing, and Gender Equality Leadership. Speakers were all former fellows and scholars of the KOICA-sponsored training and scholarship programs. Therefore, this Knowledge Sharing serves as a way for these fellows and scholars to share the new ideas and knowledge they have gained during their recent stint in South Korea. The program was opened by Ms. Gina Borinaga, the President of the Philippine KOICA Fellows Association, and by Dr. Aldrin Lee, the current OIC Director of the UP Korea Research Center.

“We provide educational support to students who have interest or are currently working on a Korea-related topic in their research. We also serve as a university-wide hub, so we coordinate all events that are Korea-related in the UP system. And further, we also link Korean academic institutions and Korean community organizations in the Philippines and this event is one of them. Our partnership with PHILKOFA will hopefully make way for more partnerships in the future,” says Dr. Lee from the UP Korean Research Center.

For more information on the CIAT programs offered by the Korea International Cooperation Agency in the Philippines, you may reach them at ciat.philippines@koica.go.kr. To view all the activities of the Philippine KOICA Fellows Association, check their official website at http://philkofa.org/ and for the events and programs of UP Korea Research Center, like them on Facebook at @UPKRC and check their website at https://upkrc.wordpress.com.
The Philippines remains to be challenged by the prevailing concerns on poverty, income gaps between urban and rural communities, malnutrition, and environmental degradation. Various national government agencies have worked together to address the said concerns as elaborated in the many strategies identified in the national and local development plans, yet the efforts only made a nil improvement in the far-flung villages or barangays of the country.

In the search to find alternative solution and doable action to alleviate the impoverished and environmentally challenged barangays in the Province of Iloilo, August Melody Andong, an Economic Development Specialist of the National Economic and Development Authority Regional Office VI, took the initiative of applying the lessons learned in Saemaul Undong or New Village Movement.

Saemaul Undong is Korea’s rural development model in the 1970s which paved the way for improving the lives of the Koreans in a span of only 10 years, thereby, eliminating absolute poverty and hunger in their country. The theory and practice of Saemaul Undong is a rural development plan that is anchored on three Korean values or principles which are diligence, self-help and cooperation. Saemaul Undong’s implementation is also focused on four (4) development domains such as: environment and social welfare, infrastructure, income increase, and attitudinal reform. The domain on attitudinal reform is the missing component in all of the development approaches in the Philippines. Recognizing that values, behaviors and attitudes of the people play a crucial role in achieving the desired sustainable community development in the Philippines, Andong pilot tested the adoption and application of Saemaul Undong in Barangay Poblacion SouthEast (Pob SE Zone) in her hometown, the Municipality of Lemery in Iloilo.

Utilizing a localized campaign slogan “Bagong BayANIhan ng Barangay”, the ignition stage began with orientations and volunteer activities to raise awareness on protecting the environment through solid waste management project. The residents in the four sitios of Pob SE Zone were then challenged to clean their environment and to compete in implementing the most creative technique in recycling plastic containers. Added to the campaign was the visit of the first batch of 24 Korean student volunteers from Yeungnam University (YU) in 2016 who visited Pob SE Zone to demonstrate Saemaul Cleaning and to share the good practices of Korea in managing solid waste. Due to a positive outcome, Andong formulated the New Villageship for Sustainable Development (NNVSD), a Saemaul pilot project for Pob SE Zone. Implemented under the Green Learning, Green Jobs and Green Economy Saemaul Development Action Plan (3Gs of Saemaul@PH Action Plan). NNVSD project scale covers four major village development components such as: Lifelong Learning Education on Attitudinal Reform, Environment and Universal Welfare, Social Infrastructure Development, and Livelihood for Sustainable Village. With the progressive efforts and readiness of Pob SE Zone, the NNVSD project received a project assistance of USD 10,000 from Gangwon-do Saemaul Undong (GGSMU) Center in August 2017 which was used for the construction of one recycling center building, purchase of 12 units of sewing machines, and start-up fund for a livelihood project per sitio.

Andong, also coordinated the visit of the second batch of 25 Korean student volunteers from YU in July 2018 who conducted volunteer services on recycling and backyard gardening in Pob SE Zone. The ongoing livelihood projects in the sitios are food processing (pickled papaya, ginger-turmeric tea, sweet and spicy vinegar), textile recycling (pot holders, pillow cases, bags), and plastic recycling (table decors, bricks). Values Transformation Leadership Training for Men and Women were also conducted in order to promote attitudinal change among the residents of Pob SE Zone.

The Bagong BayANIhan ng Barangay campaign and the implementation of NNVSD is just one example of a successful application of the learnings earned from the KOICA-PSPS Scholarship Program. However, the adoption and application of Saemaul Undong principles in the Philippines is made possible because it was modified according to the culture of the Filipinos and adjusted to the present conditions and environment in the area of implementation.

Knowledge Sharing on Health Education and Community Leadership
November 7, 2018

The Philippine KOICA Fellows Association, Inc. (PhilKOFA), in collaboration with the Provincial Health Office of Laguna, organized the “Knowledge Sharing on Health Education and Community Leadership. The activity conducted on the 7th of November 2018 in Sta. Cruz, Laguna was spearheaded by Dr. Rene Bagamasbad, Provincial Health Officer and

PhilKOFA Board of Trustee. The resource persons were: Ms. Anne Katherine Cortez, Senior Education Program Specialist of the Department of Education; Ms. Rodavil A. Jacama, Community Development Worker from the City Social Welfare and Development of Imus, Cavite; Ms. Lolita V. Tuliao, OIC-Vice President for Membership Management Group and Branch Manager of PhilHealth; and Ms. Evangeline F. Racelis, Senior Manager of the International and Local Engagement Department of PhilHealth. A total of 130 Barangay Health Workers attended the Knowledge Sharing.
KOICA Scholar: A Memoir of a Beautiful Journey

Lorenz Moron

“Without KOICA, I would not have gone this far – both personally and professionally”

A Weather Specialist II of PAGASA, the country’s weather bureau, Engr. Lorenzo A. Moron maintained his passion for science, particularly in Meteorology. In 2016, in his earnest desire to sharpen his craft and broaden his horizon in the field of meteorology, he applied for a scholarship grant by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) for a Master’s Degree in Atmospheric Environment at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS) in South Korea and fortunately qualified as recipient for such program.

His excitement to pursue academic advancements abroad was mixed with some feeling of longiness with his family. For 18 months of academic journey, he had to bear the challenges of living away from his family and cultural adjustment in a new environment. Every day he had to fight the battle of academic difficulties which squeezed and challenged his critical and analytical abilities. He also needed to finish his master’s thesis which equally requires a laborious effort to finish the research on time. His thesis entitled, “Polarimetric Analyses of Selected Tornadic and Nontornadic Thunderstorms in the Philippines”. Such study requires expertise on tornado analysis using Doppler radar. He joined the official publication of the Filipino EPS (Employment Permit System) Workers Association known as SulyaPinoy as a volunteer-writer as well where he contributed several articles in various monthly issuances.

His goal of taking the program was simple – to finish his study and apply such learning back home but he was blessed more than what he expected. Despite his challenging training in the university, he managed to balance his academic and social life. Together with his girlfriend, a Filipina taking her Ph.D. in another university in Korea, they made fun-filled and unforgettable memories by enjoying the beauty of the country’s four seasons such as snow and ski boarding during winter, cherry blossom in spring, flower festivals in summer and the mesmerizing colorful surroundings in autumn. He strived to finish his thesis with the assistance of an expert from the University of Nebraska, USA, apart from his master’s thesis in the University. In October 2017, he presented his thesis study at the Asian Conference on Meteorology at Busan, South Korea, organized by the Meteorological Societies of Korea, Japan, and China. He successfully presented his study during his final defense in January 2018 and graduated from his Master’s Degree Program in February 2018. During the graduation ceremony in February 2018 at the Korea Meteorological Administration, he was honored and privileged to be chosen to deliver the graduation message on behalf of the 15 graduating students from different parts of the world. With great pride and exceeding joy, he thanked KOICA its continued support extended to developing countries to promote human resource and development for sustainable economic growth. He expressed his sincere gratitude to KOICA for such a life-changing opportunity. He felt deeply indebted to KOICA for all of his life’s achievements, personally and professionally.

Moreover, he was also invited by PIKO as Keynote Speaker during the annual celebration of “Hayo and Gilas PIKO” held at the Philippine Embassy in Seoul. Such activity signifies the culmination of the academic journey of some Filipino students in various Universities in Korea. In his message, he emphasized how Filipino scholars abroad could be of great help towards the sustainable economic growth of our country. Hence, he encouraged everyone to practice their profession and render to our home country that needs it the most. He advised the graduates to uphold the ideals and principles, the positive values and inspirations taught from school and prove to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines that Filipino graduates from Korea are great assets of the republic by rendering their service to our home country with confidence, pride, and excellence.

Finally, as he went back home, he continues to serve his agency, PAGASA, under the Hydrometeorology, Tropical Meteorology and Instrument Research and Development Section of the Research and Development and Training Division and get involved in various research and development activities for improvement of operational services of the agency. The opportunity he got from KOICA really made a positive impact in his life. It undoubtedly boosted not only his potential capability in the field of meteorology but also provided him great inspirations of love, responsibility, and commitment. And today, God has blessed them with a healthy baby boy who is turning 4 months this month. He learned to become a responsible leader, not just at work, but to his own family as well. “I will be forever grateful to KOICA and to our Almighty God for what I am now and who I will become in the future”, he said.

Empowering Communities Through Knowledge Sharing: Water Resources Management for Climate Adaptation and Public Administration

On 27 September 2019, the Philippine KOICA Fellows Association, Inc. (PhiKOFA), in coordination with Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), conducted a special forum entitled “Empowering Communities through Knowledge Sharing: Water Resources Management for Climate Change Adaptation and Public Administration” at The Bayleaf Intramuros. The Resource Persons were Atty. Margret D. Bayhon of the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), Engr. Ernesto Mapoy, Jr. of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Ms. Lovely S. Mores of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and Ms. Lady Fatima H. Dela Cruz of the Bureau of Customs (BOC). Mr. Albert Magalang of the Environmental Management Bureau’s Climate Change Office was the Guest Speaker. Other presenters were Ms. Isabelle Pia Sison of KOICA and Ms. Gina P. Borinaga of PhiKOFA. A total of 129 participants which came from different government agencies attended the forum.
PHILKOFA Receives AY 2019-2020 Scholarship Grant Support from KCCP
Manet G. Mercado

The Korean Chamber of Commerce Philippines (KCCP) awarded the Certificate of Scholarship Grant Support for Academic Year (AY) 2019-2020 to the Philippine KOICA Fellows Association, Inc. (PhilKOFA) on 26 April 2019 at Dusit Thani Hotel in Makati City. The Certificate was presented by Mr. Ho Ik Lee, KCCP President, assisted by Mr. Chong Pal Kim, KCCP Scholarship Committee Vice Chairperson, to PhilKOFA Board of Trustees led by its President, Ms. Gina P. Borinaga, at KCCP’s 24th Annual General Membership Meeting (AGMM). The KCCP Grant will benefit eight (8) college students from Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, and the National Capital Region (NCR) collectively.

One of the PhilKOFA-KCCP Scholarship Program recipients also attended the AGMM. Ms. Eliana Y. Zapata, a graduating student taking up Bachelor of Science in Hospitality Management (BSHM) at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) – Sta. Mesa, Manila Campus, delivered a testimonial speech. She thanked KCCP and PhilKOFA especially for the financial support she received. Graduating scholars from Mindanao expressed their appreciation and gratitude both to KCCP and PhilKOFA through video messages which were shown at the meeting. Mr. Roger G. Pabuaya, Jr. completed his Bachelor of Science in Physics at Iligan Institute of Technology in June 2019. Ms. Jemma S. Anecio graduated with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at Initao College in Misamis Oriental last March 2019.

This AY 2019-2020, the eight (8) slots were awarded to two (2) existing scholars and six (6) new scholars. The existing scholars are: Ms. Gale Vera T. Caceres, a Bachelor of Science in Electronics Engineering student at the Don Honorio Ventura Technological State University, and Ms. Ma. Cielo Katrina G. Huevos, a Bachelor in Elementary Education Major in Pre-School Education student at Bulacan State University. The new scholars are: Ms. Clarence Gayle Y. Rey, a Bachelor of Science in Sociology sophomore at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines - Manila; Ms. Jay Rose G. Dasig, taking up Bachelor of Science in Food Technology at Southern Leyte State University - Main Campus; Ms. Michelle R. Dichon, a Bachelor of Science in Food Technology sophomore at Southern Leyte State University - Main Campus; Ms. Katrina D. Montes, a Bachelor of Fisheries freshman at the University of Southern Mindanao; Mr. George Q. Famoso, a Bachelor in Elementary Education Major in General Education student at Mindanao State University - General Santos City; and Ms. Ia Denise D. Collantes, a freshman taking up Bachelor of Science in Forestry at the University of the Philippines – Los Baños. The said scholars are entitled to a Grant amounting to Php 10,000.00 each semester, provided they comply with the requirements agreed by PhilKOFA and KCCP. Three (3) existing scholarships were cancelled in 2019 due to noncompliance with such requirements.
The Philippine Koica Fellows Association Inc. (PHILKOF) is an alumni association of KOICA scholars that aims to make a better world together by promoting equitable and sustainable development of its partner countries. It is also actively participating in the international community’s effort to enable poor people to improve their quality of life.

It is a private, non-stock non profit organization organized to promote fellowship and cooperation among the participants of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) sponsored scholarship and training programs in the Republic of Korea.

MISSION
Our mission is to be a link and among KOICA Scholars and other organizations for continuing education and resource mobilization and provide training programs and services to its members and communities.

WHAT DO WE DO?

• **We connect**

We provide several relevant services to our members and our communities like maintaining linkages between and among KOICA scholars in the Philippines through social networking sites, newsletters and websites., activities like Family Day, Teambuilding, Sports festival, Medical Mission Anniversary Celebration

• **We collaborate**

Not only with each other but with other organizations in an effort to raise awareness and support through academic courses, Workshops, Knowledge Sharing, Community Outreach and other activities to strengthen the association.

WHERE?
Our membership base is distributed into four geographic areas- National Capital Region, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

WHEN?
A network of regional coordinative mechanisms serves as the communication and support link between officers and members in the different regions of the country. In short, we host and attend events from all over!

BECOMING A MEMBER
An active member only requires a one-time membership fee. As a member, you are entrusted with PHILKOF obligations, duties and representation.
A non-active member is a member who has not yet paid his dues but is welcome in the association with open arms.
As an active member you are entitled the right to vote, hold any positions, attend activities and meetings as well as access to various facilities and services of the association.

LET’S KEEP IN TOUCH!

http://www.philkofa.org

Philippine Koica Fellows Association Inc.