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As with Manila, Aquino Wins in South Korea

Sen. Benigno Aquino III won the presidential race in the Overseas Absentee Voting for the 2010 national elections held in South Korea from April 10 to May 10, mimicking the results of the first automated elections held in the Philippines on May 10.

Sen. Aquino will be the country's 15th president.

In South Korea, Eduardo Villanueva got the second most number of votes for president, followed by Richard Gordon.

For vice president, Manuel Roxas took the lead here, trailed by his rival Jejomar Binay. Binay eventually clinched the vice presidency in the national canvass.

For senator, among the top vote-getters in South Korea are: Biazon, Rozzano Rufino; Bong Revilla; Cayetano, Pilar; Defensor-Santiago Miriam; Drilon, Franklin; Enrile, Juan Ponce; Estrada, Jinggoy; Guingona, Teofisto; Hontiveros-Baraquel, Ana Theresia; Osmena, Sergio III; Recto, Ralph; and Sotto, Vicente III.



Incoming President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino, III. Photo taken from the official campaign site at www.noynoy.ph.

Meanwhile, the Citizens' Battle Against Corruption, or CIBAC, garnered the most votes for Party-List.

Philippine Ambassador to Seoul Luis T. Cruz thanked the members of the Filipino Community for their invaluable support in ensuring the success of the OAV.

"Because of their active participation, South Korea ranked 7th among the different Philippine embassies in Asia-Pacific in terms of the number of registered voters who exercised their right to suffrage," he said.

"The importance of this political exercise could not be emphasized enough, as we put leaders who will guide our nation for the next six years in place," he added.

With 1,298 ballots cast, South Korea surpassed the 2004 and 2007 turnouts. There are 10,921 registered voters in South Korea.

One Filipino was also registered as an Overseas Absentee Voter in North Korea, although he did not cast his vote.

Filipinos in South Korea to Celebrate Independence Day, Migrant Workers Day in Incheon

In celebration of the 112th Anniversary of Philippine Independence and the 15th Filipino Migrant Workers Day, the Philippine Embassy will hold a Food Festival at the Pupyong Community Welfare Center in Incheon on Sunday, 13 June 2010.

The Food Festival will feature native delicacies from the different regions of the Philippines, prepared by various Filipino Community organizations in South Korea. The Festival will include traditional Filipino Games and performances.

"We would like to take advantage of our Independence Day and Migrant Workers' Day celebration to highlight Filipino cuisine, which is reflective of the diversity and creativity of the Filipino people," said Amb. Luis T. Cruz.

"From north to south, we have, over the years, developed different ways of preparing our food. The unique culture and geography of each region led to a proud menu of Filipino dishes that give a peak into the lifestyles, habits and beliefs of our people. We would like to share these with you," he added.

The Philippine Independence Day and Migrant Workers Day is annual event usually held in Seoul. In order to allow greater participation from other regions, however, the Philippine Embassy decided this year to rotate the hosting of the annual festivities among Korean cities and provinces that have a high concentration of Filipino nationals.

In Incheon, approximately 3,000 Filipinos have found a second home as students, workers or spouses of Korean nationals.

The celebration will be highlighted by a tree-planting ceremony which the various Filipino organizations pledged to nurture until maturity. The saplings were earlier featured in the National Day Reception for the diplomatic corps held at the Millennium Seoul Hilton on 7 June 2010.

The 112th Independence Day and 15th Migrant Workers Day is co-organized by the Pupyong Community Welfare Center, headed by Amb. Kwang-Yeol Shin. The Center is a close partner of the Philippine Embassy in implementing multicultural programs.

Embassy to Launch Photography Contest

The Philippine Embassy is inviting photographers, both amateur and professional, from the Filipino Community in South Korea to join the Photography Contest that the Embassy will conduct from June 21 to July 30, 2010.

The theme for the contest is simply "Filipinos in South Korea." The photo should feature Filipinos as they work, study, find recreation, attend religious services or, plainly put, live their daily lives in South Korea.

The winners will receive plaques and/or certificates of excellence from the Philippine Embassy. The winning photos will also be included in a book about Filipinos in South Korea, which the Philippine Embassy will publish in time for the 60th anniversary of the Philippine participation in the Korean War in September this year.

The detailed mechanics will soon be uploaded to www.philembassy-seoul.com. For further inquiries, interested applicants may email seoulpe@philembassy-seoul.com. All entries should be original and unpublished. The decision of the judges will be final.

What's Inside :

Winners of the Essay-Writing Contest.....	2	Statements on Cheonan	3	Schedule of Financial Education Seminars....	4
Independence Day Speech of Amb. Cruz.....	2	FAQ on Travel Documents.....	3	Lecture on Filipino Culture	4

**Speech by H.E. Amb. Luis T. Cruz
During the National Day Reception at the Seoul Millennium Hilton on 7 June 2010
To Commemorate the 112th Anniversary of Philippine Independence**



Philippine Ambassador to Seoul Luis T. Cruz

H.E. Chang Tae-Pyeong, Minister for Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
H.E. Lee Hye-min, Vice Minister for Trade and incoming Ambassador to the Philippines,
H.E. Choi Jong-moon, Director-General for South Asian and Pacific Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,
Fellow Ambassadors from ASEAN Member-Countries,
Excellencies, Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening.

The story of Philippine Independence is one that reverberates deep and far.

As with any good story, it has a beginning, a climax and an end. Ours began with a passionate and deep-seated desire to be set free from colonial oppression, a desire that slowly brewed for three centuries and lingered under gathering clouds of nationalistic fervor. This intense yearning for self-determination reached its climax on June 12, 1898 when the Republic of Philippines,

forged by the courage and vision of its people, finally flew its flag as an independent country on equal footing with other nations.

The story continues. With a vibrant economy that has successfully overcome global crises and a political machinery that consistently prioritizes the security and welfare of its people, the Philippines is proud to be an active and responsible member of the international community. We are driven by the same courage and vision our predecessors displayed: we continue to strengthen our national foundations as we reach out to our neighbors on mutually important issues such as poverty alleviation, human security and environmental sustainability.

We have, for the better part, achieved success on these issues with the continuing partnership of like-minded countries. The Republic of Korea, for instance, remains a close and significant ally from when we stood side-by-side during the Korean War until now when relations have expanded to vast and diverse fields.

In particular, the Philippines holds in high esteem the "Low Carbon, Green Growth" economic model proclaimed by South Korea as a national aim that will guide its actions for the succeeding years. Our two countries are working closely together on Multi-Industry Clusters bound to raise agricultural productivity and community well-being in Philippine rural areas. As an archipelagic coun-

try, the Philippines also fully supports the objective of the 2012 World Expo in Yeosu on "The Living Ocean and Coast." South Korea is proving that business can be made *from*, and perhaps more importantly *for*, the environment.

As a show of solidarity with South Korea's—and the global community's—efforts to protect the only planet where all of us have found timeless stories of human conviction, hope and purposeful march towards progress, we are dispensing tonight with the usual cake-cutting ceremony. Instead, I will later invite our honored guests to join me onstage in a symbolic tree-planting ceremony, where the actual saplings will be planted in Incheon City on June 13 when we celebrate our Philippine Migrant Workers' Day.

The story of Philippine Independence reverberates deep into our national psyche, far across our neighbors and towards a future where our children can benefit from the full potential that a healthy, diverse and sustainable environment provides.

At this point, I wish to invite all of you to raise your glasses as I propose a toast to the nation and peoples of the Republic of the Philippines, to the enduring friendship between the Philippines and the Republic of Korea, and to our collective desire for a world we can proudly bequeath to coming generations.

Mabuhay!

Migrant Worker Wins Essay Writing Contest on Rizal

27 May 2010 – Philippine Ambassador to Seoul Luis T. Cruz announced today that Mr. Christian Romero, an employee of the Samsung Corporate Research and Development Institute, won the embassy-sponsored essay-writing contest held from February to April 2010 as part of activities to commemorate the 149th anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal's birthday on 19 June 2010.

Mr. Romero bested other contestants under Category B of the essay-writing contest, which focused on the theme *Finding Jose Rizal in South Korea: A Migrant's Perspective*. The category was open to all migrant Filipinos in South Korea, including students, workers and spouses of Korean nationals.

In his essay, Mr. Romero discussed how it was like for Rizal as a migrant Filipino during his time and compared Rizal's experiences with the present situation of OFWs.

"[Today,] access to emigration is seen by many as the only viable way out of poverty... While most of us found financial liberty abroad, Rizal found intellectual freedom and enlightenment," Mr. Romero wrote, asserting that "from [Rizal's] time until today, poverty is still an enemy that enslaves our nation."

Mr. Romero emphasized that Rizal, too, found difficulties as a migrant. "Just like the migrants I knew from the international migrant

center in my small Filipino community, Rizal had his own false expectations and was also likely a victim of circumstances," he stated.

Mr. Romero, a native of Pangasinan, has been living in South Korea for three years. He learned of the contest while gathering information about the Overseas Absentee Voting from the embassy's website.

"With his experience as a migrant, Rizal found a door to vast opportunities," narrated Mr. Romero, adding that Rizal dedicated himself to learning and eventually returned to the Philippines with maturity, fully armed to face challenges and defeat the enemy.

"If every Filipino will take rigid adhesion to Rizal's own perspective as a migrant ... perhaps we can be set free from the enemy," he concluded.

Other winners were Mr. Alfonso Delgado, who wrote, in Tagalog, a fictional letter by Rizal addressed to OFWs that landed him in second place. Mr. Vicente Angel Ybiernas and Mr. Inrico Orbe, who tied for third place, identified attributes common between Rizal and migrant Filipinos, such as perseverance and a drive for excellence.

Meanwhile, Category A of the essay-writing contest was open to Korean nationals who were required to write about *The Philippines and the Korean War* in commemoration of the

60th Anniversary of the Korean War this year. The Philippines deployed more than 7,000 soldiers to help in the defense of South Korea from 1950 to 1955.

Mr. Kim Jae-ho, Mr. Lee San-ha and Ms. Kyu Moon-na won first, second and third places, respectively.

Mr. Kim called for greater cooperation between the Philippines and South Korea, recalling the bond that had formed between the two countries over the years. He traced the development of ties from military collaboration in the past to a comprehensive partnership today that included robust trade and people-to-people exchange.

The top winners from both categories will each receive a Medal of Academic Excellence from the Office of the President, a roundtrip ticket to the Philippines and a cash prize, while the runners-up will receive a Certificate of Excellence from the Philippine Embassy in South Korea. The Awarding Ceremony will take place at the Seoul Global Center on 19 June 2010, Jose Rizal's birthday.

The essay-writing contest was conducted in partnership with the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the Resource Persons Group (an association of Filipino professors based in South Korea), the Seoul Global Center, Philippine Airlines and Cebu Pacific.

DFA Statement on the Cheonan

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines expresses its solidarity with the Government of the Republic of Korea over the sinking of the Cheonan on 26 March 2010.

The Philippines strongly condemns acts of provocation that threaten regional security and peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula.

Considering its proximity to the Korean Peninsula, the Philippines fervently hopes for the resolution of this issue through peaceful means, including constructive dialogue. The Philippines hopes that this situation will not deteriorate further to compromise the peace and security of the region. The Philippines calls for adherence to international norms and codes of conduct, and the letter and spirit of UN Security Council Resolutions 1874 and 1718.

The loss of innocent lives in this tragedy is unfathomable. The Philippines conveys once again its most profound sympathies to the bereaved families and friends of the victims of this senseless tragedy.

Reminder of the Philippine Embassy to Filipinos in South Korea Regarding Recent Developments in the Peninsula

The Philippine Embassy in South Korea reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs that, despite recent developments surrounding the sinking of Cheonan on 26 March 2010, the security situation in the country remains stable, peaceful and calm.

The Philippine Embassy further reported that there is absolutely no cause for concern and panic as South Korea is expected to elevate the matter to the United Nations. The general mood in South Korea is one that is cautious but confident in the support of the international community and the resolution of the issue. Economic activities continue as usual while travel in and out of the country is normal.

The Philippine Embassy nevertheless calls on Filipinos in South Korea to remain vigilant and, as with any country they visit, keep themselves abreast of important developments. Filipinos in South Korea can rest assured of the general and relevant mantle of protection guaranteed to them by Philippine law. The rights and welfare of the 46,000-strong Filipino Community in South Korea are priorities of the Philippine Government that the Philippine Embassy is prepared to carry out in any scenario.

The Philippine Embassy reiterates its strong belief that the current dispute will be solved through peaceful and diplomatic means.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS about the Travel Documents and Lost Passports

What is a travel document?

A travel document allows the bearer a one-way trip back to the Philippines. It is only issued in critical instances, usually in life or death situations or in case of a deportation order from the Korea Immigration Office. A travel document is valid for only thirty (30) days from the date of issue.

How can I apply for a travel document and how fast will it be issued?

In case of an emergency, you can apply for a travel document upon submission of proof of emergency and other necessary documents. If the papers are complete, the Embassy will issue it right away.

I have a ticket to return to the Philippines but my new passport will not be released before I'm supposed to leave. Can I use a travel document?

You have to plan your travel and airline tickets should be purchased after receipt of the renewed passport. However, if you have valid proof of a serious emergency, you can be issued a travel document upon submission of proof aside from the return ticket.

What constitutes valid proof of an emergency?

If you urgently need a travel document because of a serious emergency, such as arrest of an undocumented worker, a critically ill family member or death in the family, then the particulars of the emergency should be communicated directly to the Consulate. In case of deportation, the Embassy coordinates with the Korea Immigration Office for the receipt of the notice and other documents.

In the absence of a travel document, what can the Filipino national use as his identifi-

cation?

In case he is still preparing his documentary requirements for application of a new passport, he can be issued an Embassy ID. The Embassy ID is free and issued to a Filipino national residing in Korea. Any proof of Philippine citizenship such as old Philippine passport, Philippine driver's license, voters ID, or OWWA membership is sufficient.

What are the requirements for applying for a replacement passport for the one I lost?

You must first file a police report under your true name and execute an Affidavit/Sworn Statement stating the circumstances surrounding the loss of the passport. Second, apply for a replacement passport at the Embassy with as many of the documentary requirements as you can gather. While it is a good idea to apply immediately, you will eventually have to produce all of the required documents. In complicated cases, an NBI clearance can be an additional document.

In order for an individual to qualify for a new Philippine passport, the Embassy must determine two things: *the true identity of the individual and that the individual is a citizen of the Republic of the Philippines*. Additional supporting documents may also be required to establish the applicant's identity, Philippine citizenship, and the circumstances surrounding the loss of the passport. For detailed information on requirements and procedures that must be complied with by first-time applicants, please visit the Philippine Embassy's website.

In addition to the documentary requirements, the Embassy has to receive clearance from the DFA in Manila to replace a lost passport. Due to the significant volume of such cases, the mandatory waiting period for the clearance normally takes 15 working days (3 to 4 weeks, not counting Saturdays, Sundays

and legal holidays) plus another six weeks for the issuance of the new passport.

Why are there so many documents required to replace a lost passport?

The Embassy must be able to fully investigate the circumstances surrounding the loss of an applicant's passport. To do this, substantial documentation is needed. Such thoroughness is necessary to protect the integrity of the Philippine passport.

Why does the Consulate require birth certificates that are certified by the National Statistics Office (NSO)? Why can't I use my old one?

The Consulate must clearly establish the identity of the applicant. To do so, it must be confident that the documents submitted are authentic. Only the new NSO-certified birth certificates provide the required level of security. The Embassy is also required by law to ensure that all of the particulars that appear in the passport are the same as those that appear in the birth certificate.

I applied for a replacement for my lost passport and I was asked to submit a National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) clearance. Why was this so?

In some cases, the Consular officer may require an NBI clearance to aid in establishing an applicant's identity. An NBI clearance is usually required in complicated lost passport cases and in situations in which the applicant does not have any form of photo ID.

What happens if I entered South Korea using an assumed name?

Upon surrender of the passport, you will be issued a Travel Document so that you can return to the Philippines.

Renowned Historian Conducts Lecture on Filipino Culture



Dr. Florentino Hornedo (seated, center) poses for a photo with participants of the two-day lecture on Filipino Culture sponsored by the Philippine Embassy at the ASEAN-Korea Center in Gwanghwamun. Majority of the participants are spouses of Korean nationals who will themselves conduct lectures about Filipino culture.

The Philippine Embassy in Seoul successfully conducted a lecture on Filipino culture and identity on 15 and 16 May 2010 at the ASEAN-Korea Center in Gwanghwamun. Renowned expert Dr. Florentino Hornedo, Ph.D. in Literature, History and Political Science, conducted the lecture.

Entitled "Today's Native is Yesterday's Visitor: An Overview of Philippine Cultural History," the two-day session was attended by over 150 participants coming from various Filipino communities, spouses organizations and workers associations in Korea. One participant came all the way from Jeju Island.

The lecture was held in line with the continuing effort of the Embassy to promote cultural awareness to Filipinos in Korea and to reintroduce facts and features of Filipino culture and

history that are relevant in training future cultural partners who will themselves conduct cultural workshops in Korea.

The Philippine Embassy regularly conducts lectures about Filipino culture under its cultural program dubbed "Alamat, Awit Atbp." The first session was held in 2008 when Filipino games and songs were taught to Filipino-Korean children. Over the years, the program has expanded to include sessions for trainers' training and for Korean spouses and in-laws of Filipino nationals.

The two-day event was supported by the Philippine National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the ASEAN-Korea Center and the Seoul Global Center.

Approximately 50,000 Filipino nationals currently live in South Korea.

South Korea Passes Dual Citizenship, New Immigration Laws

The Philippine Embassy wishes to remind Filipino nationals in South Korea who have renounced their Philippine citizenship that the South Korean National Assembly revised the nationality act on 21 April 2010 allowing dual citizenship.

Dual citizenship will apply to:

1. Foreigners with "exceptional talent";
2. Foreigners married to South Koreans;
3. Koreans who were adopted overseas when they were minor;
4. Koreans who gained foreign nationality through marriage;
5. Overseas Koreans over 65 years old; and
6. Koreans who gained dual citizenship at birth, if they apply for dual citizenship and take the oath before turning 22 years old.

South Korea has previously allowed only naturalization for foreigners who had lived here for five years or longer and for those married to Korean nationals who had stayed here for over two years.

South Korea will also begin collecting the photos and fingerprints of all foreigners entering South Korea beginning this year. Foreigners aged 17 or older are covered by the new law.

Those not covered by the new law are officials of foreign governments and international organizations as well as others exempted under a presidential decree.

Schedule of Financial Education Seminars

The Philippine Embassy wishes to remind Filipino organizations in South Korea of the following tentative schedules for the continuing Financial Education Campaign:

Financial Education, Business Opportunities and Reintegration Preparedness

June 27 - Mokpo City (Mokpo Catholic Center of the Sacred Heart of Jesus)

August 22—Cheungju City (Human Rights Welfare Organization) and Seoul (Jesus is Lord)

August 29—Busan City (Filipino Migrant Workers Association)

Fundamentals of Finance and Business Management

October 10, 17, 24 and 31—Suwon City (Emmaus Center for Migrants)

The Filipino Community is encouraged to take part in the above seminars and coordinate with the Philippine Embassy for the holding of possible lectures in their areas.

Bayanihan Dancers Showcase Filipino Culture in South Korea

Bayanihan, the National Dance Company of the Philippines, showcased the best of Filipino Culture through a medley of song and dance during the National Day Reception at the Seoul Millennium Hotel to commemorate the 112th Independence Day of the Republic of the Philippines.

Bayanihan takes its name from a Filipino tradition that shows people working together for a common good.

Bayanihan has gained international fame since its establishment, winning major awards and staging performances in six continents.

The Bayanihan dancers also performed during the Industry Dinner hosted by the



Bayanihan dancers perform the Tinikling during the National Day Reception for the 112th Independence Day.

Department of Tourism at the Westin Chosun Hotel on June 4 to thank individuals and organizations that helped enhance the country's tourism industry.

DOT Bags Three Awards in Korea World Travel Fair

A consistent winner in travel fairs, the Philippine Department of Tourism once again swept several awards during the Korea World Travel Fair held at the Convention and Exhibition Center in Seoul from June 3 to 6.

The DOT won Best Tourism Publicity Award, Best Folklore Performance Award, and Best Booth Design Award.

South Korea has been the country's top source of tourists for four years running.