



News

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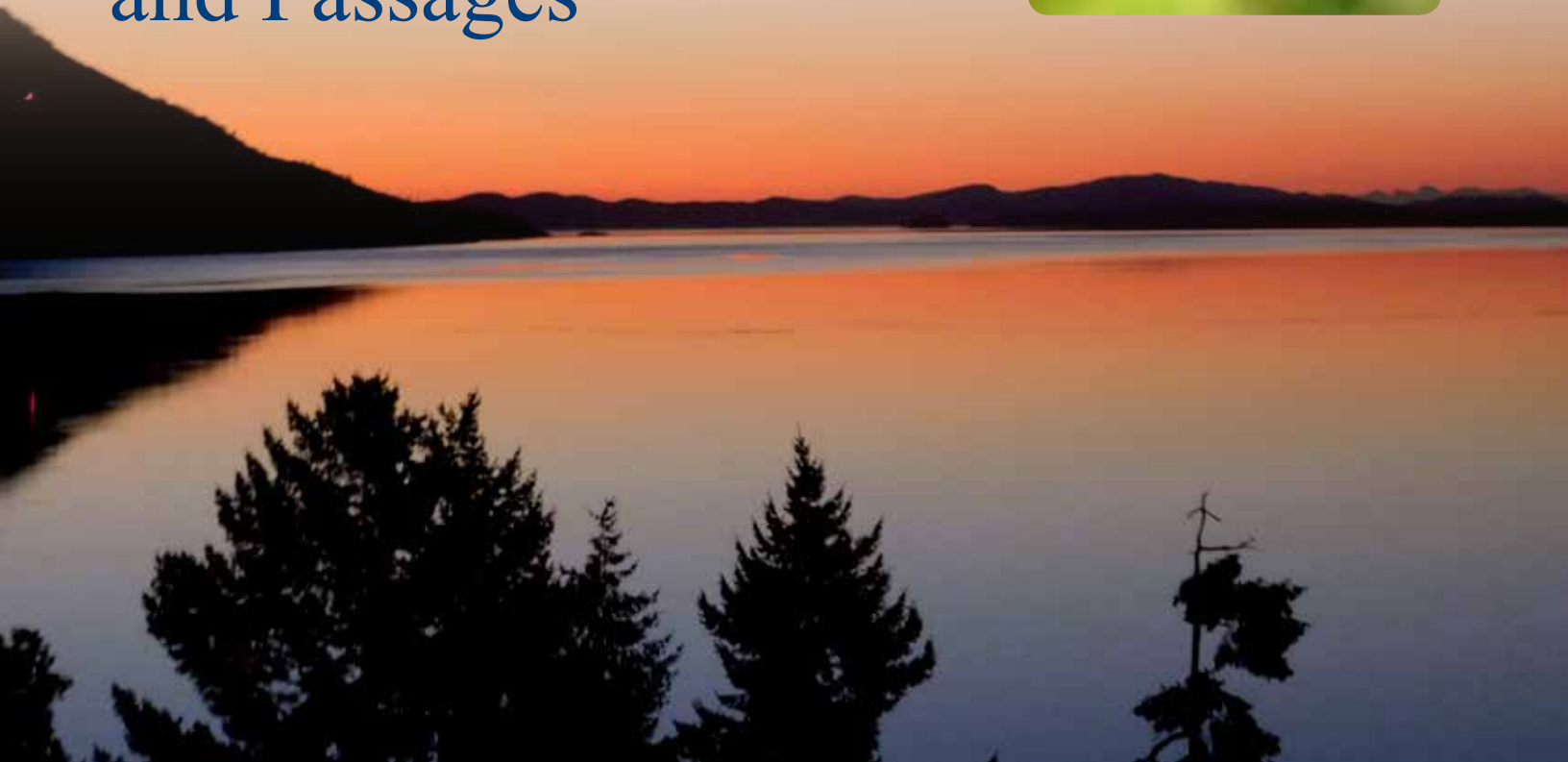


AFE Updates

Chapter News



People, Places,
and Passages



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Our Cover



Top left: Alfredo (Fred) E. Pascual, AFE's new president; right: the common sunbird, photo by Charles Currin; below: sunset in British Columbia, photo by Dick and Leslie Gold.

AFE–ADB News

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AFE–ADB Updates

From the AFE President

Alfredo E. Pascual (ADB 1989–2008)



I took over as AFE President in a virtual turnover ceremony held on the morning of 6 May 2020 via Skype. The members of the Executive Committee participated in the event. While the ceremony was virtual, the position turned over to me is very real. I was fully aware of, and duly accepted, the duties and responsibilities of the job bestowed on me. Let me again affirm the honor I felt for having the opportunity to serve my fellow retirees.

How did I get here? The prodding of my ADB contemporaries led me to take up this leadership challenge. The four of them were my nominators. I'd like to thank them, as well as those who cast their votes in my favor. I'm grateful for their trust and confidence.

I also thank my predecessor, Hans-Juergen Springer, for dedicating 12 years of his life to AFE. We all know he ably steered AFE during a period of significant changes in and around ADB. His accomplishments are well recognized. We will build upon them. I am glad he continues his service to AFE as the representative to the DC Plan Committee and as the alternate to the Pension Committee.

I am just too aware that running AFE is a team effort. While the core is the ExCom, the bigger team includes the chapter coordinators and the working committees. Building my relationship with my teammates will be guided by this quote from Henry Ford: "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success."

I'm now reacquainting myself with a much-changed ADB. My main interest is in the offices and people dealing with matters affecting our AFE members' wellbeing. Given the still ongoing community quarantine, the effort is constrained, but not impossible. I'll persist.

Between ADB and AFE

It has been 12 years since my retirement from ADB in mid-2008 at age 60, the norm then. Except for some initial



Courtesy call on ADB President Masa.

months of leisure travels with my wife, I have not really slowed down. By late 2008, I returned to my Alma Mater, the University of the Philippines, to play an active role as a Board Director at the UP Alumni Association (UPAA). Within a few months, I got elected as President of the Association. I concurrently assumed the ex officio role of Alumni Regent on the Board of UP itself. That was in mid-2009.

By late 2010, the search for the next UP President commenced. My colleagues on the UPAA Board decided to nominate me. The UP Board later declared me as the winner from a field of 11 candidates.

My 6-year term as UP President started in early 2011. It was most productive and satisfying, although quite demanding. UP is a system of eight constituent universities with 17 campuses located across the Philippines, from Baguio to Davao. It had 58,000 students, 3,800 full-time faculty members, and 8,700 support staff.

Based on a strategic plan, my executive team and I successfully implemented several bold reforms, pioneering initiatives, and innovative programs. At the end of my term in early 2017, the UP Board recognized my achievements with a citation "for propelling the country's national university to unprecedented heights in the 21st Century through an outstanding six-year term of strategic initiatives, exemplary performance, and inspired leadership."

After UP, I have been active in corporate governance advocacy as a Fellow of the Institute of Corporate

Directors (ICD). On the ICD Board’s invitation, I served as the Institute’s president and chief executive officer for a two-year term (2018 and 2019). I remain as a trustee on the ICD Board. I continue to promote good governance as an independent director in publicly listed firms (e.g., SM Investments Corporation, Megawide Construction Corporation, Concepcion Industrial Corporation). I also sit on the board of several nonprofits and service organizations and try to inform their corporate governance practices.

My Commitment to AFE

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the world. Yes, but even before that, the world has already been changing rapidly, driven by the ongoing technological revolution. As I see it, **the main challenge to the current AFE leadership is deciding how to adjust to the changing environment** so it can avail of the evolving opportunities, while avoiding the pitfalls. The objective is to enable AFE to perform its functions and deliver its services better, faster, and at lower costs.

More and more, the world is becoming digital. Thus, foremost in my priority list during my 4-year term in AFE is to **develop and implement a digital transformation strategy** that supports our purpose as an organization. True, AFE is already using digital platforms and social media for communication and other activities. But there is much more that can be achieved through, for instance, data analytics to enable personalized service. I recognize the cultural roadblocks that must be overcome. To be successful, therefore, we need to adopt an incremental approach to digitalization.

A digital ecosystem requires a **strengthened governance framework**. Thus, my second priority list is a review of AFE’s governance structure. I don’t want to prejudge the outcome of the study, so I’ll avoid going into more detail. Suffice it to say that the aim is to ensure proper oversight to protect the organization from cyber pitfalls and other risks.

My third priority item is to further enhance our member engagement at both the AFE and chapter levels. One idea I have is to institute competitive awards for the post-retirement accomplishments of our members. Currently, we already recognize many of them through reports published in our AFE News. I believe competition could add more zest to our retirees’ lives as they pursue a volunteer service or build a new career. A digital platform will facilitate this activity.

The preceding priority items are not meant to preempt my time for AFE. These are incremental adjustments or support systems that I wish to pursue so that AFE may more fully achieve its purpose as defined in the AFE Bylaws. ■

From the AFE Vice President and Insurance Matters

Jill Gale de Villa (ADB 1993–2005)



As we all too well know, this is an eventful year. For AFE it marks several milestones, including that the AFE News must go out digitally for now; Hans-Juergen Springer stepped down as President, while Fred Pascual stepped in; and our annual general meeting has had to be a virtual one.

Elections. To the many people who had expressed their confidence in me by nominating me for the presidency and voting for me for that position before I stepped out of the election, I first express my heartfelt thanks for your trust, and second offer my sincere apologies if my stepping out has disappointed.

It happened like this: When I knew Fred had been nominated, I asked for a chat with him. During the chat I felt we were “on the same page” in terms of what we want for AFE and more or less how to get there. He is younger than I (a bit), very experienced both within and beyond ADB, would bring fresh ideas, and we could work together. So I felt it was in the interest of AFE to have us both available and working for the organization—and that this could be accomplished most easily by me stepping out of the contest. I sincerely hope that this action is the best course for AFE, and that the Executive Committee can continue to work well as a team—which, so far, is the case.

We will of course miss Hans, and are happy that he continues to be a resource to the new ExCom as his institutional knowledge is indeed very deep and solid.

Insurance Matters. We thank ADB and Cigna for extending until the end of October our insurance coverage of Covid testing and treatment at 100%. From November, the coverage will likely revert to the normal 75%, with 25% payable by the insured (until the stop-loss is reached). Do remember that the testing is only covered if prescribed by a doctor for symptoms. Note that ONLY the non-rapid PCR test is covered, because the reliability of other tests is questionable.

Please refer to my report in the annual general meeting section. Not much has changed since then. I continue to receive e-mails pertaining to claims denials and contacting

Cigna, and to respond as best I can.

A few items I would like to stress:

- Have the Cigna WellBeing app, which includes TeleHealth. TeleHealth allows you to consult a doctor in a teleconference or a video conference, at no charge. This is now a very important service, as even though we may be able to get an appointment with a doctor, we may not want to risk going to a doctor's office, especially if it is in a hospital.
- The Summary Plan Description is being updated much more frequently now with the evolution of knowledge about Covid-19. You may wish to be updated on what is and is not covered, especially if you might be undergoing treatment of any sort. Covid-19 treatment is a hugely grey area, given how new the disease is, and treatment considered "experimental" or "trial" may not be covered. We are continuing to try to get some clarity on this.
- Stay safe: because it is human nature to be optimistic, to ignore risks from time to time, to think "it won't happen to me," it is extremely important to remind ourselves frequently to wear masks and shields; keep physical distance from others; disinfect surfaces that could be contaminated; and

wash, wash, wash. Sometimes I think I have used more soap in the last 5 months than I had in the rest of my life!

- Also important is self-monitoring of our stress levels, and taking action to reduce stress if we find we have been changing our behavior, actions, and/or reactions. During in-person communication, we read each other's body language, which is a very important part of that communication. Without this, we tend to be more wary, less trusting, more inclined to anger. To offset this, we need to actively build trust in and caring for each other. These are tips came from ADB's 4th Covid briefing.

Publications and Communications. The *AFE News* rolls along, with the Publications Committee reviewing all articles sent for publication, and various members of the committee editing and proofreading. The articles you submit on what you are doing are very much appreciated. Do keep them coming.

Our **AFE Facebook** page (**AFE-ADB HQ**) continues to grow in popularity, with membership nearly at 800. Many thanks for the assistance of administrators Marissa Wenceslao, Marissa del Castillo, and Midi Kawashima. All AFE members and spouses are welcome to join. ■

Hans-Juergen Springer: A Retrospective

David Parker (ADB 1980–2004)

During his 12 years as AFE president, Hans-Juergen Springer had many accomplishments. These included forming and directing an active Executive Committee, and overseeing the office. He attended office regularly, and kept his "finger on the pulse" of both AFE and ADB. Good governance was important to him, as was the running of our annual general meeting (AGM) activities, which he oversaw meticulously. The AGM activities, which largely included the AGM itself, the chapter coordinators' meeting, and an evening cocktail reception, found him involved for months beforehand in extensive discussions and meetings, mainly with the Office of The Secretary.

Hans also represented AFE at several annual meetings of the Association of Retiree Associations of International Organizations (ARAIO), and attended many AFE chapter reunions. AFE members are grateful for the active and important role he played in representing AFE in ADB's Pension Committee meetings. Among his other achievements were the amendments that were made to the AFE Bylaws to adjust them to AFE's changing needs. He also ensured that actions for the election of officers of the Association, as



Hans-Juergen Springer

specified the Bylaws, were taken in good time. And importantly, he developed a good rapport with ADB Board members, Management and staff, AFE members, members of the AFE Executive Committee, the office assistants, and others with whom he communicated.

When Hans took over as AFE Executive Secretary in May 2008, it was clear that he had an instinct for seeing what needed to be done for the Association in the interests of its members. With many members preferring a positive voting system to the negative voting system specified in the Bylaws, he quickly saw the urgent need to put together a committee to review alternative voting systems. The review concluded that a preferential voting system would be the most appropriate. Members supported the review's conclusion, and in January 2009 voted to approve amendments to the Bylaws to incorporate the new system.

The year 2009 saw the beginning of AFE's participation in charitable work in cooperation with ADB's Staff Community Fund (SCF) following the flooding of large parts of Manila by exceptionally high rainfall caused by typhoon Ondoy. Hans participated in visits to several charitable organizations that the SCF supported, and he encouraged members to support a request for donations. At the beginning of 2010, he played a major role in the adoption of the new AFE's new logo, which is simple in design and in harmony with ADB's new logo, and depicts AFE's link with ADB.

Hans was a member of the committee that planned AFE’s exciting 25th anniversary celebrations in Manila from 9 to 11 May 2011—almost immediately after the annual meeting in Ha Noi from 3 to 6 May 2011. In July 2011, a Bylaws Committee he had formed began a thorough review of the AFE Bylaws to achieve updated bylaws appropriate for AFE’s membership structure and organization.

In early 2012, Hans was reelected for another 4 years. Revised AFE Bylaws were approved in April 2013. Among the revisions, the titles of “President,” “Executive Secretary,” and “Deputy Executive Secretary” were changed to “Chairperson,” “President,” and “Vice President,” respectively.

In 2016, Hans was reelected as president for another four years. With him in the lead, AFE successfully lobbied to retain the 3% cost-of-living annual raise for pensions of those hired prior to 2012.

Much of his time in 2018 was spent in work relating to updating the AFE Bylaws to bring them into line with the bylaws of other international organizations. The amended bylaws became effective on 26 February 2019. The amendments included

- definition of qualifications for members to be elected to the Executive Committee;
- a change in the election process, moving to an Election Committee;
- recognition of domestic partners as spouses; and
- title change of the Assistant Treasurer to Secretary.

During 2018, Hans also participated in frequent sessions of both the ADB Staff Retirement Plan (SRP) Committee and the Defined Contribution Plan Committee to discuss issues on hand. In April 2019, he participated in a meeting of the SRP Pension Committee. The major item concerned the actuarial valuation of the SRP as of 30 September 2018.

With his term as AFE President coming to an end on 5 May 2020, Hans indicated that he would not stand for election for a further term. It was sad to see the curtain come down after his stellar performance of 12 years in that very important role. Members surely appreciate very much his hard work and devotion to the many responsibilities he had. Well done, Hans! ■

Executive Committee

Bong-Suh Lee—Chairman
 Alfredo E. Pascual—President
 Jill Gale de Villa—Vice President
 Nannette Guinto-Amorado—Treasurer

AFE Office Staff

Marilou Magalued—Bookkeeper
 Manilyn Paña—Administrative Assistant

Standing Committees

Insurance Committee

Jill Gale de Villa—Head	
Francois Ausseil	Barbara Palacios
Ted Breckner	Albertine Santi
Bernard Donge	Anne Sweetser
Julia Holz	Axel Weber
Fred Mesch	Clay Wescott

AFE Committee on Pension

Alfredo E. Pascual—Head	Jill Gale de Villa
Nick Llave	Graham Walter
Hans-Juergen Springer	

Publications Committee

Jill Gale de Villa—Head	David Parker
Steve Banta	Fred Pascual
Gamaliel de Armas, Jr.	Hans-Juergen Springer
Guia Estabillo	Marissa Wenceslao
Nannette Guinto-Amorado	Judy Yñiguez
Julia Holz	Wickie Zveglich
Anna Juico	

Chapter Coordinators

Australia—Paul Turner
 Canada—Bruce Murray
 Ottawa Area—John Rive
 Toronto Area—Nida Rodrigo
 Vancouver Island—Alex Jorgensen
 China, People’s Republic of—Min Tang
 Europe—Günter Hecker
 India—Shiladitya Chatterjee
 Indonesia—Putu Kamayana
 Japan—Kazu Sakai
 Korea, Republic of—Meeja Hamm
 New Zealand—Gordon Fox
 Pakistan—Shahida Jaffrey
 Philippines—Gamaliel de Armas, Jr.
 East Group—Mayette Domingo, Midi Kawashima
 North Group—Sally Baeza, Maria Luisa Baleva,
 Luz Tolarbas
 South Group—Carmen Bontia, Ofelia Sta Ana,
 Baby Girl Cruz, Tek Ablaza
 West Group—Rory Aragon, Nanette Amorado,
 Monina de Guzman
 Singapore—Claire Wee
 Sri Lanka—Athukorala Lakshman
 United States: New York–New Jersey—Lorna del Rosario
 United States: Southern California—Letty Gomez
 United States: Washington, DC—Frederick Roche

Annual General Meeting 2020

Pro Forma Virtual Meeting, Friday, 22 May 2020, by Skype



Ed: Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the 35th AFE Annual General Meeting had to be held as a pro forma virtual meeting. Per the AFE Bylaws requirements, the meeting was held in the same place (ADB) and date as ADB's Annual Meeting, which was also held virtually. Present were AFE Chairman Bong-Suh Lee, President Alfredo E. Pascual, Vice President Jill Gale de Villa, Treasurer Nannette Guinto-Amorado, Former President Hans-Juergen Springer, and office staff Marilou Magalued and Manilyn Paña. Given the limited audience, the officers did not read their reports. The full content of officers' addresses and reports had been sent to members by e-mail and are available on the AFE website, Members Only section. The major update since that meeting is the cancellation of the Incheon meeting in September in view of the unpredictable Covid-19 situation, and a possible rescheduling in 2023.

Chairman Bong-Suh Lee opened the meeting at 2:00pm.

Chairman's Address

Chairman Lee's address is as follows: "As Chairman of AFE-ADB and as a citizen of the Republic of Korea, I

look forward to welcoming many of our AFE members to Incheon. The Republic of Korea is a founding member of the Asian Development Bank, and, exactly 20 years ago, graduated from being a borrowing member and transitioned to becoming a donor. My country is very pleased to host the 53rd annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the 3rd such meeting to be held here. We hosted ADB's 37th Annual Meeting on Jeju Island in 2004 and ADB's 3rd Annual Meeting in Seoul in 1970. This will also mark AFE-ADB's 34th annual meeting, and the second one to be held in the Republic of Korea.

"I welcome you to the AFE activities on 18–21 September, including the meetings and the cocktails in the evening where we enjoy getting together among ourselves and with ADB's new President (and AFE member) Masatsugu Asakawa and other ADB staff members. In the following days you may take the opportunity to attend some of the many activities around the ADB meeting, including seminars, cocktails, and the opening ceremony. In addition I hope you will enjoy spending some time discovering other parts of our country, which has many scenic areas as well as good shopping."

Chairman Bong-Suh Lee (BSL) welcomed all present to the meeting. He congratulated Vice President Jill Gale de Villa (JGV), Treasurer Nannette Guinto-Amorado (NGA), and the Administrative Assistants Marilou Magalued (MM) and Manilyn Paña (MP) for an excellent job done and for assisting the new president, Alfredo E. Pascual (AEP). BSL also noted that it will probably be the last AFE Annual General Meeting he will chair. BSL thanked all including Hans-Juergen Springer (HJS) for doing such a good job for the team and for him as the chairman and hoped that AEP will be a good leader. Then BSL requested HJS to give some remarks, followed by AEP, JGV, NGA, MM, and MP. BSL noted that the president's, vice president's, and treasurer's reports had been circulated and responses were received.

HJS thanked BSL for the kind words, for the advice and friendship he had given him during the 11 years that they have worked together for the benefit of the Association. He also wished AEP success in leading the AFE–ADB team. He noted that AEP's talents and experience can take the association to even greater heights. BSL then asked AEP to provide his remarks.

AEP thanked BSL for welcoming him to the association and HJS for dedicating 12 years as president. AEP sincerely accepted the important role as the new president and thanked the four ADB retirees who nominated him. He is grateful for the trust and will work to earn it. His first task is to be reacquainted with parts of ADB particularly the units that deal with matters affecting/relevant to AFE members. His initial months will entail asking a lot of questions. AEP assured that he is dedicated to the cause of the organization and committed to its purpose and that the key to success is keeping the communication lines open, first, among members of the ExCom and between the ExCom and the chapter coordinators. With better electronic communications, he hopes to be able to facilitate this interaction with them. AEP quoted Henry Ford: "coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success." He hopes that AFE will work together like a machine, like clockwork, so success can be achieved for the association, particularly for the benefit of the members. Lastly, he thanked BSL and noted he is looking forward to serve with him, to serve the association.

BSL also requested JGV and NGA for some words.

JGV noted there are several real pleasures in doing volunteer work with the AFE. One is serving and helping the membership. It is also a great pleasure to work with the ExCom to arrive at what's best for the association by discussing matters and respecting each others' viewpoints. She looked forward to continuing the good ExCom relationship in the future.

NGA joined AFE as treasurer last year. She had been the chapter coordinator of New York–New Jersey, where she worked with HJS and JGV.

JGV thanked BSL for being a very good chairman and noted that he's going to be hard to replace. She looks forward to meeting again in Incheon.

BSL also asked the office staff for some messages.

MM thanked HJS for the 12 years they have worked together, for being very supportive. HJS replied that MM deserved all the support for being the longest serving member of the team for now, being with AFE for 16 years. MM hoped that HJS would stay in touch and is looking forward to working with AEP, knowing that the first months may be hard because of the current situation.

MP noted she is glad to meet all the officers of AFE virtually especially BSL and AEP. She wished HJS good luck to enjoy his full retirement. MP assured the team she will provide as much assistance as she can.

President's Report

(Ed: Report of former President HJS.) I hope that you and your family members are safe and sound, and your health is not affected by Covid-19. All of us have been impacted by the crisis. Let's hope that it can be contained soon to enable everyone to go back to work and earn a living.

ADB's annual meeting will be held in two parts: a one-day meeting in Manila on 22 May and a full-scale meeting later this year in Incheon on 18–21 September. While the first meeting will be restricted to ADB Governors or their representatives, the second will be open for registered participants. Please note that new registrations will be required.

AFE will follow ADB's arrangements. We will hold a virtual annual meeting in Manila on 22 May to obtain the necessary approvals for the annual meeting documents. It will be a meeting of the Manila-based Executive Committee members. The meeting will record the comments of members and their approval of the documents that we circulated. This record will be submitted to members for approval at next year's AGM.

The wider annual meeting on 18–21 September will be open for all registered participants. We will then hold a meeting of members and our annual cocktail reception. Let us hope that a high degree of normalcy will have returned to our world by the time we meet in Incheon in September.

Vice President's Report

Health Insurance

Comprehensive Benefits Review. ADB's ongoing 5-yearly Comprehensive Benefits Review is in its final stage, as the consultant, KornFerry, has submitted its final report and recommendations to ADB. We did not see anything in

that report that would pertain to retirees. The report is now up for Management and Board consideration.

Group Medical Insurance Plan Consultative Forum and Notes. Your representatives at the Forum are Barbara Palacios and myself, with HJS as alternate. The last meeting of the Forum was on 22 April 2020, by Skype. The following are the major points raised during the meetings:

- (1) **Premiums:** BPMSD has likely coordinated with Cigna to modify the premium formula so that premium increases will be more frequent and incremental, rather than via infrequent but large steps. The first of these steps was on 1 April (*Ed: no fooling*), with a 2% across-the-board increase.
- (2) **Precertification requirement in the Philippines:** Since 1 January 2019, Cigna's precertification has been required for hospitalization or any procedure requiring an operating room. To be sure of your coverage, get precertification for any expensive procedure.
- (3) **Cigna's communications:** AFE requested for Cigna to always explain reasons for coverage denials. This is a long-standing issue, and AFE is now requesting that BPMSD include it as part of the performance standards Cigna should meet.
- (4) **Liaison with hospitals in the Philippines and elsewhere:** AFE and SC request more hospitals be brought under the umbrella. However, while Cigna can request liaison with providers, many providers in the Philippines do not accept the connection owing to limitations with their accounting systems and the desire to get payment up front.
- (5) **Enrollment in US Medicare:** This has progressed well.
- (6) **Cigna's Wellbeing app.:** Use of the **Wellbeing app** is increasing. The **Telehealth** portion of the app is very useful when you can't get a doctor's appointment in short order, especially when traveling, etc.

Our Health Insurance Cards include Cigna's contacts.

Insurance Committee. To better serve our members in the face of a growing membership and workload, we need to expand the composition of the AFE Insurance Committee.

- (1) To better serve the breadth of our membership, we are again asking Chapter Coordinators to nominate at least 1 person per chapter to join the committee, to assist in feeding back the chapter area's needs for and issues with the health insurance, to assist their members with queries that may be especially pertinent to the chapter's area of operations, and to disseminate information to them (with assistance from the AFE office with e-mails, as needed).
- (2) To have members responsible for long-term care and life insurance, both of which need more attention, we are looking for volunteers to join us.

Publications and Communications

The *AFE News* continues to be published twice annually. *AFE News #56* was delayed by Covid-19, and was sent electronically and uploaded to the AFE website. Members are always encouraged to send in articles for *AFE News*.

We are taking steps to update the website more regularly as well as the Facebook page, AFE-ADB HQ, with significant assistance from Marissa del Castillo, Midi Kawashima, and Marissa Wenceslao. The AFE-ADB page now has over 730 members. To join this information page, look for AFE-ADB HQ on Facebook, and send a request. The page provides short information pieces on AFE and relevant ADB activities.

We want to be more active on social media, and are looking for assistance from members on this.

Treasurer's Report

Our Association's operations are funded by our own resources and ADB's yearly subsidy. These are accounted for separately. [See the *Members Only* section of the *AFE website for the (1) AFE-ADB Resources: Budget and Actual Utilization in 2019 and Proposed Budget for 2020, (2) Utilization of ADB Subsidy for 2019 and Budget Allocations for 2020, and (3) the auditor's report.*] Malou Magalued has done an excellent job of keeping our books in order.

Audit. Our financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2019 were audited by Navarro Amper & Co., a member of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited. We again received an unqualified opinion, a clean bill of health. No significant issues were raised.

Revenues. In 2019 our gross revenues amounted to \$26,872, an increase of 8% compared with 2018. Revenues consisted of annual association fees, admission fees, voluntary contributions, interest income, foreign exchange gain, and recovery of written off accounts. Our expenses, however, also increased by 7%, amounting to \$22,466 in 2019. Our expenses comprised salaries and wages for the administrative assistant, business travel of other AFE Officers, miscellaneous expenses, cocktail expenses, provision for doubtful accounts, and bank charges. In 2019 there was an excess of revenues amounting to \$4,406, which was a 13% improvement compared with 2018.

ADB Subsidy. For 2019, AFE received a subsidy from ADB amounting to \$27,268, which covered some travel expenses, eligible local expenses of 14 AFE Chapters, the external auditors' fee, and website maintenance. Underutilization of the subsidy resulted because some chapters failed to submit their claims prior to the deadline, despite reminders.

Moving Forward in 2020. For 2020, we are grateful that ADB approved our request for an additional 3% subsidy to cover increasing prices and activities of various chapters. The Covid-19 pandemic will also impact the AFE budget for 2020 and its utilization, but we do not know the extent of this. The AFE Officers will continue to provide *pro bono* services to our Association. NGA looks forward to working with the ExCom under the new leadership.

Questions, Comments, and Answers

- (1) **Insurance Committee.** With reference to the request for chapter representatives on the insurance committee, **Japan Chapter Coordinator Kazu Sakai** asked for the terms of reference (TOR) of the committee and the list of present members. JGV noted that the Bylaws states that the Standing Committee on Health, Long-Term Care, and Life Insurance Benefits “will monitor, discuss, and propose communication with ADB on any matters relating to health, long-term care, and life insurance made available or to be made available to former ADB personnel.” She noted the current committee membership is given in the latest *AFE News*, and that a TOR or guidance for chapter representatives will be provided.
- (2) **Daan Boom** suggested **moving the paper files to electronic files.** AEP answered that it’s a direction that AFE would like to pursue—to digitize the records and transform the organization into an electronic-based operation. JGV added that we have made a very small start, with assistance from Teresa Montessa, former head of archives at the IMF. Perhaps Mr. Boom would like to assist because it’s his area of expertise. BSL then noted that AFE can turn to him for consultation.
- (3) **New Zealand Chapter Coordinator Gordon Fox** requested a change in the New Zealand chapter subsidy to give more in alternate years when holding a large reunion and less when holding a smaller event. NGA noted the request is reasonable and doable.
- (4) **Canada Chapter Coordinator Bruce Murray** asked why there was a large increase in the travel budget for 2020 and whether it could be reallocated. NGA noted that AFE submitted the budget in August before the pandemic. The budget allowed for the travel of the new AFE president, who would be going to various chapters. But given the coronavirus pandemic, AFE will work on a mid-year adjustment and hopefully, make some representations to management.
- (5) **Bruce Murray and David Parker** had suggested changes to the reports circulated. JGV noted the reports are final, and cannot be changed now. BSL

- noted that information that the new ADB president is an AFE member was given in the last issue of *AFE News*.
- (6) **Australia Chapter Coordinator Paul Turner** noted that he will be stepping down. BSL asked if Australia chapter had a new coordinator, HJS answered he did not know if they already elected a new one.
- (7) **Christine Infantado** asked **if the Staff Community Fund (SCF) also has to pay for the auditor.** HJS explained that the SCF, unlike AFE, does not have to pay while AFE was charged \$1,800 in 2019 and their fee is subject to increase every year.
- (8) **Europe Chapter Coordinator Günter Hecker** asked about the **impact of Covid on the pension.** **HJS answered there will not be any** impact since ADB, a couple of years ago, came up with a new scheme to lighten the burden on the ADB system. He does not expect changes as a result of the Covid crisis.
- (9) Günter Hecker noted he will be the representative for the Europe Chapter on the health insurance committee until Richard Vokes and Sandro Pio take over as coordinator, when he steps down in September 2021.
- (10) Günter Hecker **requested that AFE ask ADB to carry over the unused subsidy** to next year. NGA answered that AFE hopes that ADB will agree to such a request. HJS said he believes ADB is going to say no because it’s against budgeting principles to carry over the budget from one year to the next. He encouraged NGA to go ahead and try. NGA, together with AEP, will do a mid-term budget review in 2020 to determine actual utilization and will ask for a higher budget in 2021.
- (11) **BSL inquired about the office space situation.** JGV noted that AFE has no idea since **ADB has not communicated further.** BSL asked what he can do and assured that he is always behind the team and hoped that AFE is able to maintain the place the office is currently using. AEP will work on that as well. AEP asked when this attempt to move started, before or after the new ADB president came. HJS answered it started last year. AEP agreed that they have to work on ADB President Masa because it didn’t start during his term. HJS suggested that as soon as possible, the ExCom should pay a courtesy call on him, and all agreed.

As noted by Chairman Lee, **the general membership approved the minutes of the 2019 AGM in Fiji and the 2019 financial statements and audit report, through their responses to the AFE e-mail of 1 May 2020.**

There being no further business, the chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:30 pm. ■

Chapter News

Canada

Bruce Murray (ADB 1980–2007)



The first 6 months of 2020 was a quiet time for Canadian AFEers and no physical get togethers took place because of the Covid-19 pandemic. A planned lunch in Vancouver suggested by Bill Fraser to mutually witness the signing of pension declarations could not be held. However, Nida Rodrigo, the indefatigable leader of the AFE Toronto group, organized Zoom sessions for AFEers in June and July (see pp. 37–38).

May was Canada's Asian Heritage Month, and Nida's video of the Pandango sa Ilaw was selected as part of a video montage for Asian Heritage Month 2020, May 2020! Link to the video is <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkMPEIVNu5w> and Nida is one of the dancers!

Updates sent to all Canadian AFEers in January and June covered, among other things (1) President Masa assuming office; (2) AFE elections and Fred Pascual succeeding Hans Springer as the AFE president after his many years of yeoman service to ADB retirees; (3) the impact of Covid-19 on ADB operations, office closures, staff working from home, and the significant financial support that ADB has provided to help countries manage the health and socioeconomic impacts of the coronavirus; (4) ADB's 2019 operational results; (5) the ADB and AFE annual meetings; (6) health and pension issues; and (7) AFE members who have passed away.

The Covid-19 pandemic was handled reasonably well in Canada and the measures put in place (i.e., business closures and work from home, stay at home, ban on group gatherings, social distancing, mask wearing, frequent hand washing, travel bans) succeeded in flattening the curve. There was political consensus across party lines on how to handle the coronavirus and most people followed the advice provided by health care professionals. And Prime Minister Trudeau and most politicians wore masks and modeled the desired behavior.

The response was generally led by health professionals and the government provided significant financial support for many vulnerable and hard-hit groups and businesses. Our public health system ensured that everyone who needed treatment got it and hospitals were not overrun with Covid patients. After the curve was significantly flattened, the economy began a slow, gradual, phased opening up process in June. The measures were not as effective in Toronto and Montreal as in the rest of Canada. There were, however, some flareups when stage 3 of the opening up was reached and primarily younger people started to party.

The coronavirus exposed weaknesses in Canada's private long-term care homes where many residents died—due in part to cost-cutting measures that (1) had many employees work part time and in multiple homes, thus spreading the infection; and (2) resulted in insufficient government inspections. There were pockets of cases in meat packing plants and among agriculture workers. Many of them are temporary foreign workers living in crowded dormitories, eating communally, and unable to maintain social distancing. Further, they are afraid to say that they are sick as they will not be paid and may be sent home.

Several Canadian AFEers wrote to say how they spent their time during Covid-19.

Richard Bolt—Kyoto, Japan. "After returning from Vancouver to our Kyoto home in January, the Covid pandemic set in along with restrictions on travel and sound advice on minimizing people contact. Walking seemed the best permissible way to enjoy the Kyoto spring and especially the ubiquitous *sakura* (cherry blossoms). To avoid public transport, I walked up to 20 kilometers a day along back streets, riversides, parks, and temple and shrine grounds, clocking a total of 380 kilometers in April alone. With no tourists, the *sakura* season this year was especially serene, though difficult for tourism businesses. Bonsai and do-it-yourself on our *kyo machiya* (townhouse) also fill the day, and local motorbike touring resumed a couple of weeks ago. Because travel to and from Canada continues to be challenging with quarantines or restrictions at both ends, we will remain in Japan this year.

Canada Asian Month logo.





Kyoto in Spring.



Sakura: cherry blossoms.

“Summer plans to climb Kilimanjaro and visit past haunts in East Africa are obviously postponed. We recall our years working in East Africa in the 1980s, when we could only venture out of the country once every 2–3 years and virtually no communications aside from single side-band radios, a wind-up phone, and access to limited services. In comparison, we are very fortunate to be in a country and neighborhood that has handled the Covid-19 pandemic relatively well, kept key services running well, and been supportive when needed. And, of course, keeping in contact with family, former colleagues and friends has been a huge help through these difficult times.”

Charles Coe—Kelowna, British Columbia. “I was fortunate to sell my condo in Victoria before the coronavirus got serious. It was listed on Valentine’s Day, 14 February, and sold on 16 February with closure on 31 March. I moved out in mid-March because I was concerned moving companies were going to close down because of the pandemic. In fact, the one I used closed a week after I

moved. I stayed in a hotel in Kelowna until my new condo was finished and I moved in on 19 April. Kelowna is a beautiful city and I live three blocks from the lake with a 17th floor view. Kelowna is surrounded by provincial parks, pine forests, vineyards, orchards, and mountains.”

Bernadette Dabu-Sta. Maria—Toronto. “I was locked down for over 3 months at my condo. Somehow, this has positive impact on me. I learned a lot with the new technology: online banking, church and Zoom meetings, 15-minute workouts, pilates, zumba, etc. March–June 2020 went like a flash, I didn’t even feel bored staying at home; no time for depression. If at all, the days felt busier than before. My alarm was on every day, and my schedule set: wake up at 6:30am, 7:30am virtual mass, 9:00a.m. virtual workout/fitness class; 11:00am public address by Prime Minister Trudeau; 2:00pm pilates class via Zoom with my family and nieces. And I still accomplished some immigration work as a Regulated Canadian Immigration Consultant despite the slow processing pace.

“I was happy to receive greetings from family and friends via Facebook, Messenger, e-mail, phone. My children and grandchildren surprised me on my birthday by showing up at my condo—it was truly a pleasure to see and hug them after over 8 weeks of isolation. We are now adjusting to the new normal: I am back to a 3 day work-week. My daily routine will change, but I hope to keep up my daily spiritual and fitness activities. We will see what the future holds. Life is what we make it!”

Dick Gold—Cobble Hill, British Columbia. “Leslie and I spent our Covid-19 enjoying the stunning views of nature from our bedroom balcony. Looking at the dawn to the east, all was quiet on the eastern front, saying hello to Eddie the Eagle who perches just 50 meters (m) from our window, and watching sailboats skimming past our balcony. Since retiring,



Kelowna from Charles Coe’s balcony.

Dick and Leslie Gold hiking.



I became an avid hiker and successfully reached the summit of Mount Albert Edward (almost 2,100m) in Strathcona Park. During Covid-19 Leslie and I did some isolated hiking on secluded beaches and she organized a book club that meets every month, appropriately distancing. Leslie is also active on Facebook posting a lot of very useful information on Covid-19 as well as recipes, information on the environment and nature, humor and local news. Her most recent recipe was for a wonderful apéritif called Vin de Pêche. Marinated in fruity red wine, the leaves add a gentle almond flavor, and it's a great summer apéritif served over ice. Fortifying it with some brandy helps it to last longer. Leslie continued to be very active with the Canadian University Women's Club, which raises funding for woman students wanting to continue their education."

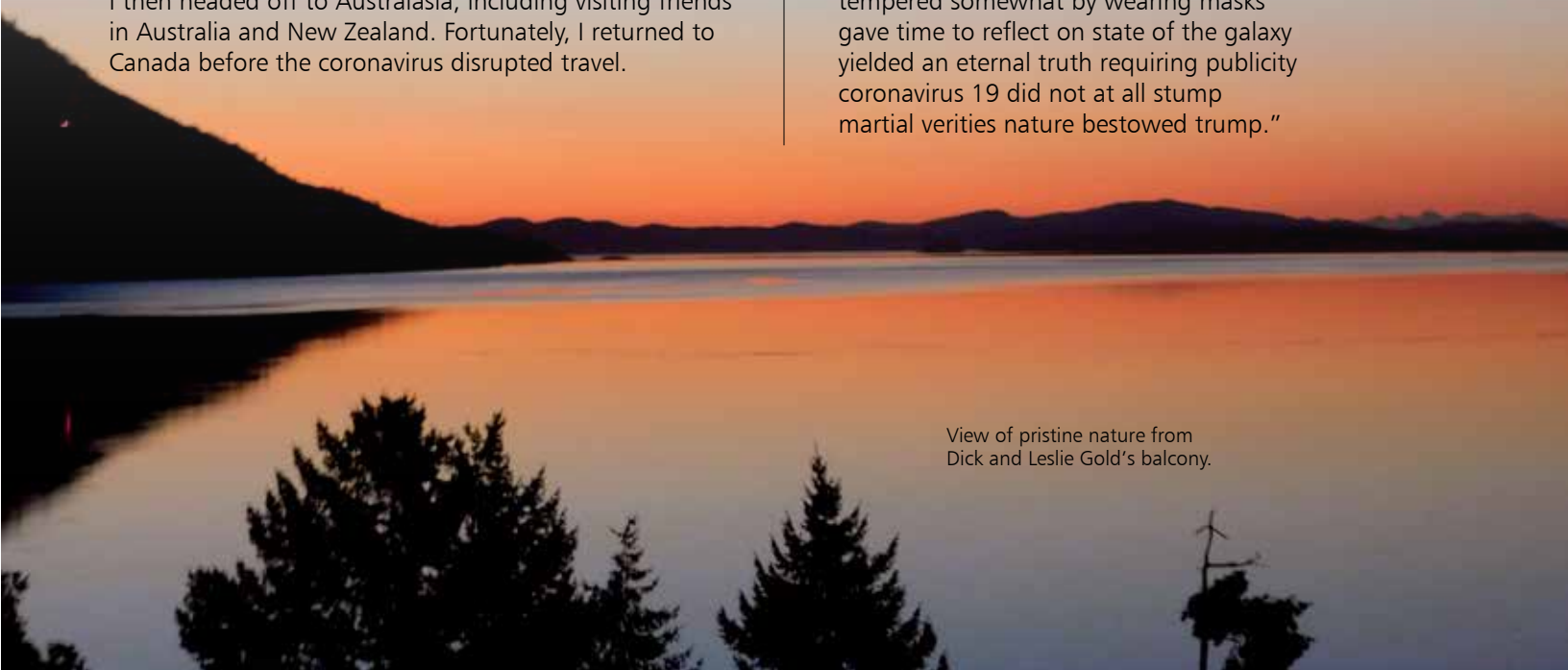
Ed Hourihan—Duncan, British Columbia. "I spent a lot of time travelling during the end of 2019 and in early 2020. I went to see my brother in Mexico in November and to England to visit my sons and grandchildren in December. I then headed off to Australasia, including visiting friends in Australia and New Zealand. Fortunately, I returned to Canada before the coronavirus disrupted travel.

"When it came time to sign the annual ADB pension certification, I had a problem. Because of the pandemic, none of the eligible witnesses were available. I contacted Bruce Murray and proposed that I would sign it while he watched on WhatsApp and e-mail it to him. He would complete and sign the Witness section and return it to me as an attachment, which I would forward to BPMSSD. The only problem was that Bruce did not know how to use WhatsApp. However, with some coaching Emma upgraded his technical skills and my plan worked like a charm. Most importantly, I am still getting my pension."

Mumtaz Iqbal—Toronto. "During Covid-19, I amused myself in descending order of importance by brushing up on *The Partition of Bengal 1905*, cooking, cleaning, and occasionally dabbling in dodgy doggerel, a sample of which follows

Code Red Covid-19 (or Ode to Ovid):
 Covid lockdown. heads down. heady tasks
 tempered somewhat by wearing masks
 gave time to reflect on state of the galaxy
 yielded an eternal truth requiring publicity
 coronavirus 19 did not at all stump
 martial verities nature bestowed trump."

View of pristine nature from Dick and Leslie Gold's balcony.



Alex Jorgensen—Mill Bay, British Columbia. “On Vancouver Island, our daily lives were really not stressed much. I played golf from late March with the usual chaps from my local club, with Covid-19 rules. Laura and Bev Bauche also play once a week. We have weekly lunches and a couple of dinners out most weeks. No one in our local community has had the virus, as far as we know. We also Facetime with the grandkids in Toronto regularly. Our youngest and his wife from Vancouver have come for a visit every couple of months, part of his work for the Federal Government and her furniture store in Steveston (Richmond). So, all in all, Covid-19 has been a soft landing for us. We do support our local charities more than usual and participate in various local fund raising-activities.”

Sandra Lodoen—Ottawa. “I have been fortunate to have some consulting work with ADB since the onset of Covid-19. It has kept me busy. I’ve also spent a lot of time walking with my two dogs and a lot more time watching TV. I had to cancel two planned trips, but have been gradually increasing my “bubble” to include family and selected friends. I’m still wary and staying home as much as possible, wearing a mask when necessary and hoping this all passes soon.”

Kathleen Moktan Dietrich—Medicine Hat, Alberta. “After 22.7 years of missions, followed by almost 5 years of post ADB travel, Darcy and I spent a blissful 2 months at home! It was wonderful: practiced the piano; took a philosophy course and started Indigenous Canada and Photography courses online (ongoing); played video games and board games; worked out; participated in Zoom family game nights; watched opera, live music online, and TV; read; and cleaned and cleaned and cleaned! All in all, very lucky to have had such a blissful chance to regroup. I hope all others in our AFE constituency were so lucky.”

Bruce and Emma Murray—Vancouver. “We were lucky to “escape” Manila on 15 March, the day that the serious Manila lockdown started and before flights were disrupted. After arrival, we spent most of our time in our condo with occasional trips to the grocery and drug stores wearing masks and watched a lot on Netflix, especially foreign movies and travel documentaries. Bruce spent April/May writing a consultant report for which Emma did the online survey and statistical analysis. Bruce also spent time in virtual meetings for Mercy Ships, a charity that operates the world’s largest civilian hospital ship. Emma spent a lot of time painting. We also had family Zooms with the kids and attended our son’s virtual graduation after completing his masters in human resource management at the University of Toronto. We were concerned about our youngest daughter who is an emergency room nurse, but they had good protocols in place and were never overwhelmed with Covid-19 cases.” ■

Washington DC

Frederick Roche (ADB 1992–2007)



Due to the pandemic, the DC group is unlikely to meet during 2020, so I asked people by e-mail to report on how they have fared since March. Responses came from about 10% of the group. These are summarized below and hopefully reflect what our membership as a whole has experienced.

On the whole, people have remained healthy and made a range of proactive adaptations to the pandemic. Almost all of us engage in regular outdoor activities—hiking, biking, tennis, golf—while trying to practice social distancing. Most of us have kept at least somewhat busy with online work and learning. Some have been engaged by the Black Lives Matter movement and other social causes that respond to America’s deep-seated racial injustices and the social inequities that have been exacerbated by the pandemic and its economic turmoil.



Social distance hiking (so that’s what those poles are for!): Toshi Kobayshi, center, in the dark red shirt).

Although not everyone mentioned it specifically, it is certain that we have all become more avid readers. Many of us have taken up or deepened skills in various hobbies. Some mentioned that voluntary charitable work and caring for others have been meaningful in their lives.



Surprisingly, only one person mentioned that growing longer hair has been an enduring activity during the past 4 months.

Books read or in progress at the Roche household.



Klein family Zoom.

Online communications with apps like Zoom have allowed us to stay in touch and celebrate milestone events with family and friends. Many of us have been able to work productively from home, although the risks of air travel have curtailed work plans in numerous cases. Because high-speed internet is now essentially universal, I estimate that an additional 25–30 million Americans would have lost employment if the pandemic had occurred just 10 years ago.

There have been some silver linings. In response to the pandemic, a number of us have been living with our adult children and/or parents, either in our homes or theirs. Two of my children have been staying with us since mid-March, while our third lives nearby. Emmi and I never dreamed that we would have them all so close to us again, so this has truly been a blessing. All have been working fulltime from home. Our house is now filled with work stations.

Traffic around DC, once some of the most congested in the United States (US), remains light. One result is that our furry friends of the forest—deer and foxes in our area—are venturing more boldly into suburban neighborhoods. They are a comforting sight in the early mornings. Greenhouse gas emissions have declined globally, and maybe we will come out of this recognizing that working from home



does not sacrifice productivity, but enhances work-life balance and mitigates climate change.

The return of the not-so-wild. “We can sell the lawnmower” quips Bernard Donge.

Work systems have adapted creatively. As one example, my daughter’s events planning firm crashed in mid-March, but they switched to organizing Zoom meetings, which have proven popular and cost-effective. Her firm has managed to stay busy, although it is still tenuous.

In early June it appeared that the US was turning a corner in controlling the pandemic. However, the tradeoff between coronavirus risks and the economy has presented a sharp dilemma in which politics now holds too much sway in public policy choices. As of early July, infections were expanding rapidly, particularly in states and communities that chose to reopen quickly.

Fortunately, in the immediate DC area, the reopening has been cautious.

Most people seem to accept the new normal of face masks. However, social distancing is more challenging and rarely practiced with rigor. We all worry about how permanently our lifestyles may have changed and how vulnerable we could become in the future, especially because most ADB retirees are in or close to the high-risk age group. Overall, however, we are very fortunate compared with so many in the US and globally who have already been much more adversely impacted.

We all send our best wishes to friends and colleagues throughout the far-flung ADB world. ■



New hobby (name withheld to protect the guilty).



The Akandas (Nasreen on the left, Albab on the right...in case you didn't recognize them...) celebrate a niece's graduation.

New Zealand: AFE in Blenheim

Elizabeth V. Reyes (Hans-Juergen Springer ADB 1972–2002)



On the Friday evening of the NZ Chapter Reunion, some 25 participants gathered for drinks and nibbles in Chateau Marlborough in Blenheim, South Island. New Zealand, the nature-blessed “Land Down Under,” is always an awesome destination for any kind of reunion. The March 2020 weekend attracted former ADB execs from far-flung New

Zealand towns, and four visitors from other archipelagos—Australia and the Philippines.

It’s a special treat to revisit New Zealand’s southern isle of fiords, glaciers, and albatrosses. And it’s with great zeal indeed that we gather to explore the northeast coast, the Marlborough Sound. The chapter reunion promised to serve up only the finest nibbles of the South Island, in a program concocted by Kiwi coordinators Gordon Fox, Mike Ryan, Ron Hamilton, and Colin Pratt.

Day 1: Meeting. The day started with the 9am Annual General Meeting, a 1-hour window to whiz through the business matters. Gordon Fox reports the following from the meeting:

- (1) It was agreed that Stuart Andrews would continue to liaise with the Australasian Chapter of the World Bank’s 1818 Club.
- (2) The Chapter’s policy of holding a major reunion followed in alternate years by a smaller dinner at a major center will continue in effect. The next major reunion will be in Christchurch in the spring of 2022.
- (3) An informal Ladies’ Support Group has been formed to provide advice and support to spouses and partners when the need arises. Rosemary Fox accepted a request to coordinate this group.

Day 1: Busing, Boating, Nibbling, Dining. We soon boarded our great big bus to head north along the scenic Grove Track, winding through wonderful sound-side scenery for nearly 3 hours. We arrived in Picton, port of entry to the Sound, and dallied in the seaside town till our private tour-boat *Odyssey* arrived. The two-deck touring vessel looped around the windy Sound, while we watched the birds and houses drift by and heard the captain’s narration. But the best part was the eating

aboard the *Odyssey*. First came seafood nibbles (there’s that word again) or Kiwi canapés, prepared by the crew of young ladies, and the wine started flowing. Soon a giant mussel feast was arrayed in buckets and baskets on the back deck! We stood in the wind eating the fat native mussels—it took real hands-on maneuvering—but, wow, they were sweet, scrumptious, and addictive! As the final *tour de force*, the captain pulled out two giant slabs of fresh salmon and roasted them on the back grill over the water. Superb.



Nibbling on mussels on the Marlborough Sound.

The boat ride had to end mid-afternoon to get us back to Blenheim before 6—and we were off again for dinner at the Arbour Restaurant on the outer edge of town. The menu for the evening was colorful and tasty. Arbour’s creative gourmet ensemble included goat curd and ham hocks with beets, organic plums, and red walnuts; loin of lamb with ricotta gnudi, roasted caulis, and pickled raisins; White Wabbit’s dessert (apricot, chamomile, and carrot); and The Nag by Cranky Goat: prunes, black garlic, and walnuts.

Day 2: Heritage, Nibbles, and Tipples. The next day was for playing tourist among varied heritage sites and esoteric collections in museums. Plus, of course, tasting the gourmet nibbles among the vineyards of Marlborough. Beside nibbles, we had *Cab-Sauv*, *Pinot*, *AE* (After the Earthquake of 2011).

Tradition and variety was the flavor of the long touristy day, starting with an open-car train from the old fashioned Beaver Riverside Station. We retirees felt like kids in an open-car ride as we endured the chilly air. First stop was the Heritage Crafts and History Village, where history-minded Kiwis gathered to share their hobbies. There was the traditional metal craft shed, the carpentry house, the antique train car, the old café. Probably the most fun spot



L-r, front: Ann Proctor, Elizabeth Reyes, Sylvie Lebchek, Leith Hamilton, Rosemary Fox, Marion Bond, Carol Clendon, Pat Ryan; back: Colin Pratt, Martin Nicholls, Stu Andrews, Gordon Fox, Andrew Proctor, Gaye Andrews, Christine Smith, Ross Clendon, Helen Tobin, Mike Ryan, Catherine Sharpley, Hans-Juergen Springer, Frank Sharpley, Con Pappas, Ed Hourihan, Anthony Kuek, Ron Hamilton.

was the vintage car center, where we posed with shiny models from the early 20th century and chatted with Blenheim's avid car collectors.

After the foray among vintage cars, we entered the airy world of vintage airplanes at the Omaka Aviation Heritage Center. What an amazing 3D visual experience to walk under the bellies of several fighter planes



Vintage car and AFE president.

caroming down from the high ceiling. Amid dramatic graphics of war in the skies, the airborne dioramas included life-sized fighter pilots manning their guns! These rare vintage fighter-planes comprise the personal collection of Sir Peter Jackson, Kiwi theater mogul who has shown some of these planes in movies. The WWII audio-visual show in the Omaka theater was loudly impressive. Quite a menu of aerial sights and sounds before noontime!

The languid afternoon brought us to the Brancott Estate for a luncheon on the hill, in the winery's splendid dining hall high over the rolling vineyards of Pinots and Cabs. The menu offered mains such as Goat Cheese Salad with Citrus Dressing, Orange Roughy with Sauteed Chorizo, and Silver Fern Roasted Lamb Rump with Baby Vegetables. New Zealand's new chefs have grown sophisticated tastes!

Two more tasty nibbles stops followed: the Makana chocolate factory and choco-boutique, where fanciful confections make great gifts and souvenirs. Then the Wine Station, where AFE wine buffs could purchase local Cabs and Pinots, and sip an afternoon tea or coffee.

The final, formal AFE Reunion Dinner unfolded at the Wither Hills Vineyard. At the private dining area reserved for the AFE group, the chapter officers unfurled their final announcements, blessings, and toasts—with hearty Cabs and Pinots. ■

NY/NJ: Staying Connected!

Lorna del Rosario (ADB 1994–2000)



Covid-19 has brought us unprecedented challenges in all aspects of wellness. At the same time, however, Covid-19 has presented us with new opportunities for a new and better “normal.” Relationships at home and in the workplace have become stronger. Agility, flexibility, adaptability now best describe our mindsets, behavior, and practices.

Flexible work arrangements, webinars, virtual meetings thru Teams, Zoom, Facetime and other mobile applications have become common even to technology-challenged individuals.

Given the pandemic crisis, the traditional annual ballroom reunion of the New York/New Jersey Chapter planned for October 2020 under the chairmanship of Doris Bohun has been cancelled. But the social connections among the members, particularly of the Executive Committee (also known as the ADBARKADS—Margie Baccay, Chat Cortes, Lorna del Rosario, Chato O’Buckley, Florence Rafulowitz, Mila Simolde, Nena Villena Tanedo, and Vivian Villanueva, plus Nannnete Amorado now in Manila) remain strong. I am also actively in touch with a second group of ex-ADB colleagues known as ELITISTAS spread out in different locations: Beng Arceo (Texas), Ging Cuevas (Manila), Vhee Martin (California), Emma Murray (Canada) Mayen Sacasas (California), Ruby Tuazon (California), and Diane Venegas (Maryland). Through scheduled Facetime/Teams/Viber video chats, the ADBARKADS and ELITISTAS are able to check in with each other’s health and safety.



L-r, top: Mila Simolde, Florence Rafulowitz, Chato O’Buckley; bottom: Nena Villena-Tanedo, Nannnete Amorado, Lorna del Rosario.



Florence Rafulowitz the equestrienne.

We have discovered so many ways to maintain the social ties, including celebrating special events/occasions through virtual hang-outs and virtual happy hours; sharing stories of lockdown activities, e.g. home gardening, home improvement projects, getting crafty with newly discovered skills and hobbies like painting, baking, cooking, gaming, sewing, knitting, quilting, and even horseback riding, etc. We share tips on how to keep safe and

healthy like tuning in to Zumba and yoga programs on YouTube. We went down the memory lane by sharing pictures and talking about experiences, shared our favorite Netflix, Prime Video, Hulu, Rakuten Viki, Disney, IMDB movies and music playlists, and shared tons of inspirational and uplifting videos/messages and coping strategies.

With the reopening planned phases under way, we hope to get together in person again and perhaps have a reunion, albeit not as grand as usual, before the year ends. On behalf of the AFE–ADB New York/New Jersey Chapter, I trust and pray that all Chapter members, ex-ADB colleagues, and their families and friends continue to be safe and well. ■

Korea Chapter Lunch

Meeja Hamm (ADB 1993–2006)



For more than 2 decades, members of the Korea Chapter have been having monthly lunch gatherings at a traditional Korean restaurant in Insa-dong, always on the second Thursday of each month. Insa-dong is a must-visit place for tourists in Seoul with streets filled not only with unique traditional artwork and crafts, but also chic cafes and restaurants.

However, for the first time in 20 years, the gathering had to be cancelled for 2 consecutive months in March and April due to Covid-19. As the newly confirmed cases noticeably subsided, the Korea Chapter decided to resume the lunch gathering in May and all members were delighted to see each other again. We had a wonderful gathering on 14 May,



Korea Chapter members making the sign of a littleheart, or "I love you." L-r, front: Chapter Coordinator Meeja Hamm, AFE Chairman Bong-Suh Lee, Chong Serp Chung, Kyun Tai Seol; behind: Cheolsu Kim, Sungsup Ra, Gil-hong Kim, Hun Kim, Myoung Ho Shin, Seung Beom Koh, Soo-Nam Oh, Cheolgee Kim.

a bright sunny spring day, lots to catch up including the outcome of the Korean general election and changing global trends after Covid-19. We also celebrated the unprecedented second-term appointment of Seung Beom Koh as the member of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Monetary Policy Board of Korea while warmly welcoming Hun Kim as the new member of the Korea Chapter. ■

Japan

Kazu Sakai (ADB 1987–2014)



At the beginning of the year, the Japan Chapter was planning to have a gathering of all former ADB persons sometime in the autumn. We have not had such a gathering since we joined the AFE–ADB cocktail reception at ADB’s annual meeting in Yokohama in 2017. The gathering in 2020 was considered timely, as we had former ADB President Takehiko Nakao as a new member of the AFE–ADB Japan Chapter in January. Separately, a group of former staff members who worked under President Kuroda planned a get-together with Mr. and Mrs. Kuroda in June. However, both these gatherings have been postponed because of the new coronavirus infection. Currently, we do not know when we can have these gatherings.

In the meantime, in late June, former President Nakao’s memoir, *How the Asian Economy Has Changed—A Diary of the President of the Asian Development Bank*, was published

by Chuokoron Sha, a major publishing house in Japan. It is amazing that Mr. Nakao started to work on this book of 389 pages only after leaving ADB on 16 January and had it published already on 25 June. Many of us who served President Nakao must remember a small notebook with a black cover that he was always carrying. He regularly jotted down in it key points from meetings and his actions, observations, and thoughts. Apparently, a series of such notebooks that he accumulated through his career

helped him write this memoir.

The book starts with his days as Vice Minister in Japan’s Ministry of Finance, focusing on his interaction with G7 counterpart officials on exchange rate issues. The main sections of the book are of course on ADB, and discuss his thoughts about the development of Asia; key success factors for development; ADB’s roles, history, organization, and strategy; and the roles of the ADB president. These are illustrated with many interesting anecdotes from his visits to member countries, meetings with leaders, and interactions within ADB. The book is currently available in Japanese, but it is being translated into English and is expected to be published by ADB around the beginning of 2021. ■



L-r: Former ADB President Takehiko Nakao, Kazu Sakai, Naoya Jinda (former chief advisor to the president), Masashi Tanabe (former staff), and Tomoyuki Saisu (former chief advisor to the president).



People, Places, and Passages

Wild and Wonderful

Charles Currin (ADB 1988–1991 and 1993–2001)



Thailand's national parks were closed starting 25 March as part of the government's successful strategy to contain the local spread of Covid-19. The wildlife in the parks has thrived as a result of not being disturbed by tourists. Wildlife photographers, however, have had to seek alternatives, of which there are many. All of the photographs

attached to this article were taken during 26 March through 30 June outside the national park.

For the last 3 years, I have lived in Kaeng Krachan District of Thailand, home to the well-known Kaeng Krachan National Park. My stone cottage is located on 1 hectare of sloping, forest-covered mountainside about 25 kilometers from the national park. My garden and the surrounding area of forest and farms are excellent places to observe and photograph wildlife, especially birds. I have so far identified and photographed 119 species of birds and 35 species of reptiles in my garden, including 25 species of snakes. Most of the snakes are harmless but I have seen several monocled cobras, king cobras, and speckled coral snakes near the house.

The surrounding area has several small lakes which are excellent for viewing waterfowl. A nearby abandoned and overgrown golf course also has bountiful birdlife, including hawks, partridges, and weaverbirds.

But best of all are the privately managed wildlife blinds in the government-owned forests adjacent to the national park. This sparsely populated area is inhabited mostly



Great white egret: *Ardea alba*.

by ethnolinguistic Karen people who may not own the land but may use it for agriculture. The Thai government encourages ecotourism projects as well, and several villagers have established wildlife blinds that are used by local and foreign tourists.

My favorite blind is managed by *Loong* (Uncle) Sin, an elderly Karen villager. Uncle Sin seems to know every species of bird and mammal and reptile in the area as well as their breeding, nesting, and eating habits.

His blind is a simple structure comprising a bamboo frame, earthen floor, and nylon camouflage netting with plastic chairs in front of the small peepholes for cameras. It is in front of a small clearing at the edge of a dry creek bed. Uncle Sin has made a small waterhole that he keeps filled with water to attract birds and other animals. He visits the blind daily to toss a few handfuls of cracked corn and ripe fruit, which the animals quickly consume.



Lesser false vampire bat: *Megaderma spasma*.

Uncle Sin's blind is about 25 kilometers—a half hour drive—from my residence. I park the car at his house at the end of a 5-kilometer side road that ends at his village. From there it is a 20-minute walk along a rough trail through the forest to the blind. I visited the blind 47 times in the first 6 months of 2020 and have earned the honor of being Uncle Sin's best customer.

In 47 visits of 3–4 hours duration each, one can observe a lot of wildlife. This year I have seen golden jackals, yellow-throated martens, two species of mongoose, false vampire bats, mouse deer, various species of squirrel, tree shrews, several species of reptiles, and over 50 species of birds. The occasional creature comes directly into the blind, sometimes not entirely welcome. A 1.5-meter clouded monitor lizard recently

strolled into the blind. I struck it on the nose with a stick, and it quickly left. The false vampire bats roost inside the blind. And a 2-meter long king cobra that I photographed drinking at the waterhole slithered directly into the blind under the camouflage netting about 2 meters from where I was sitting. I managed to take a photo of it slithering under a nearby chair as it exited the blind on the opposite side.

Even if one does not see anything of interest during a particular visit, the experience of sitting alone in the forest is worthwhile. One listens to the utter silence punctuated by the rustling of leaves in the wind, the chattering of squirrels, the frequent birdsong and the occasional scurrying of mysterious small creatures in the dry leaves next to the blind. The pandemic seems far away. ■



Hoopoe *Upupa: epops*.



Blue-winged pitta: *Pitta moluccensis*.



Crested goshawk: *Accipiter trivirgatus*.



Olive-backed sunbird: *Cinnyris ornatus*.



Yellow-throated marten: *Martes flavigula*.



Blue-crested lizard: *Calotes mystaceus*.



Golden jackal: *Canis aureus*.



Crimson sunbird: *Aethopyga seheriae*.



Racket-tailed treepie: *Cypsiirina temia*.



Clouded monitor lizard (juvenile): *Varanus bengalensis*.



Golden tree snake (eating a gecko): *Chrysopelea ornata*.



Short-tailed macaque: *Macaca nemestrina*.

Support for the Poor in the Time of Corona

Günter Hecker (ADB 1979–2002)



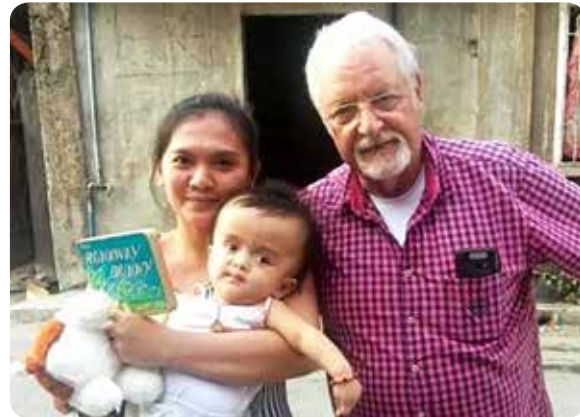
After retirement from ADB in 2002, I took over the helm of a German NGO—Help for Children in Need, Heidelberg, that was helping poor children in Manila who suffered from hydrocephalus.

Hydrocephalus (or “water on the brain”) develops when the fluid that is continuously produced in our brain,

needed so we can move the head without concussion, is not drained properly. Each day we produce over half a liter of brain fluid. Normally this fluid is absorbed in our blood circulation, but if there is an obstacle in the flow, the amount of fluid in the brain will continue to increase, causing pressure and brain damage. Children with hydrocephalus can develop spasms, may go blind, and could die. In developing countries, the main causes of hydrocephalus are poor treatment of meningitis, brain hemorrhage due to low birth weight, or giving birth in poor hygienic circumstances. Hydrocephalus can be treated by draining the accumulated fluid in the brain. Usually this is done through a rather simple operation by placing a valve (shunt) in the head that drains the fluid beneath the skin to the diaphragm.



Typical patient.



Patient visit.

To help afflicted children, a group of philanthropists in Heidelberg routinely solicit funds through flyers, presentations after church masses, in sport club meetings, and initiatives in family celebrations (no presents/flowers: donations to our NGO instead). A number of our members are also affiliated with the Knights of Rizal and have, therefore, strong sympathy for anything related to the poor in the Philippines. This is the legacy Dr. Jose Rizal left behind from his stay in Heidelberg.

In Manila we work with several NGOs, now mainly with the Hydrocephalus Foundation of the Philippines (HFP; <https://www.facebook.com/hfpi2010/>). HFP has a pool of volunteer doctors who operate cost-free at their hospitals whenever they can secure a window for operations. The needed shunts and medicines and pre- and post-operational support, however, have to be provided externally. Based on experience the cost is about P12,000 per patient. On that basis, since 2004 we have been able to “rescue” about 250 children or about 15 per year, which is about 10% of the estimated incidence of hydrocephalus in Metro Manila. Unfortunately there is no specific national program in the Philippines to tackle this sickness.

HFP provides us with a social profile of the affected families, to ensure that the supported patients are indigent, and with pre- and post-operation pictures of the patients as well as their addresses. During my annual visits to Manila, I usually spend about 3–4 days visiting up to five randomly selected patients to verify the proper use of our donations and to find ways to make our help more effective. Post-operative care, which includes appropriate nutrition, wound care, and physiotherapy is crucial for a sustained healing process. That requires the parents to visit HFP at least twice a month for several months to collect nutrition packages and undergo a physiotherapy program. This very often is not done simply for lack of



Corona delivery.

funds for transport and the parents' inability to leave their accommodation unattended, which is normally in the squatter areas of Manila.

Before Covid, either the father or the mother was at least able to find irregular jobs in the informal sector on a day-to-day basis to carry the family through to some extent. With Covid restrictions, this completely broke down and our patient

families, who are already disadvantaged, are now suffering from a severe lack of health care and food and they are strictly restricted to their homes.

We have, therefore, provided two rounds of financial support via courier systems such as Padala to enable our patient families to shoulder the extra expenses for the nutrition and medical supplies urgently needed for their patient children. We request them to confirm receipt of funds and a picture of the item purchased and the invoices. We received back all the documentation without any failure. How long we can sustain this is now the question. Our sources for donations, with the multitude of other campaigns to help in the Corona crisis throughout the world, are understandably under stress.

Another problem we are facing is that since March, we can not schedule new operations due to the mandated corona-related capacity reserves at our partner hospitals. It is heartbreaking to realize that some children will be left with irreparable brain damage due to delayed treatment. We do pray that we will overcome this pandemic soonest.

If you want to know more about our initiative with hydrocephalus, please refer to www.hfknh.de. ■

**For information
on membership contact**
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Empowering Others from Retirement

John Kuiper (ADB 1991–2004)



Author at Borobudur in 2020 with three Javanese girls who wanted to practice their English.

All of us have had to adapt recently to life in the strange and dangerous new world dominated by the coronavirus pandemic. What can we do to cope with the restrictions until a vaccine is developed? We each have to work out our own solution on how to adapt. I would like to share with you some of my own responses, and perspectives on this dangerous new world in which we are now living.

Personally, I feel grateful and lucky that I live in a nice apartment in Vancouver, Canada, and if I have to be locked down and stay home most of the time, this is much nicer here than what many people have to endure, especially those living in crowded Asian cities. I have been spending a lot of time in the last 2 months editing my digital photos, of which I have more than 100,000, most of them still only partly edited; or reading books; or watching DVDs, TV, or Netflix. I also have more than 10,000 old Kodak photo slides (remember those?) that I would like to review, and make digital scans of the best ones to add to my digital photo library, where they can be edited and are more accessible. There is more than enough to keep me occupied at home for several years, although I hope that confinement at home will not last that long.

We need to be patient and learn to adapt to a different lifestyle for a year or so, and focus on activities and hobbies that we can do and enjoy at home. If you feel the travel urge, you will have to settle for the vicarious enjoyment of looking at some interesting travel photos or videos instead!

The problems we face at home are still relatively minor compared with the problems most people in low-income

countries face now. Most low-income countries have minimal or no social safety nets, and coping with mandatory confinement measures is very difficult for more than a month or two. Home confinement is relatively easy for the rich upper classes in those countries, who have money saved and other resources, who dominate the national government and make the rules, and who have the computer skills and equipment and internet access to work from home in many cases. But it is much more difficult for the middle and low-income groups, who usually have limited savings, often no more than the equivalent of a few weeks of normal income. And in most low-income countries like the Philippines there is no unemployment insurance system and no public social safety net of support when workers become unemployed. Confinement for more than a month or two becomes an enormous hardship for the poor in such countries.

I would like to describe some examples of how we can help those less fortunate people through personal small-scale charities such as I have been doing in several ways since retiring from ADB.

A Home and Pension for an Elderly Beggar. Since 2002, before I retired, I have been supporting Elma, a crippled woman whom I met at a street corner in Manila, hobbling around on crutches with only one leg and begging there. I decided to help her and discovered she had three young children and no source of support or income other than the few pesos she collected from begging, so I have been sending her a regular monthly allowance since then, as well as enough money to buy a small house and some land back home in Mindanao, to escape from the slum shack where she lived in Manila. This work required visiting Elma periodically in Manila, persuading Metrobank to set up a bank account for her, and then later visiting her and her family several times in Mindanao.

Scholarships. In 2010 I started to support some university students who had excellent grades, had ambition, and showed great promise.

Angel had graduated at the top of her class in high school, a class of 340 students; she had been elected class president already before graduation; and she was the valedictorian speaker at graduation. She wanted to become a medical doctor, but that requires many years of study and is expensive, and her parents could not afford that. I paid for all her tuition costs and books while she studied psychology at the University of San Carlos (USC) in Cebu, a private university and the best in southern Philippines. Then she enrolled in the Cebu Institute of Medicine for her medical studies. I paid for all her expenses there, and she finally graduated with her medical degree in 2018, and passed the national medical licensing



Angel's graduation photo, 2018.

board exam to qualify as a doctor.

Now Angel is working as a resident physician, specializing in internal medicine, in a big hospital in Cebu where she is one of the front-line doctors dealing with coronavirus infections and other medical problems. It is hard work, with 84 hours a week of duty required at the hospital, including many overnight shifts. It has also become very stressful since the coronavirus

epidemic started, but Angel is determined to do her best to help all the sick in need.

Another student from Cebu whom I supported starting in 2010 is **Maribeth**, whose dream was to become a civil engineer. But that was completely unaffordable for her very poor family. It is an unfortunate reality that in the Philippines a university education is much too expensive for most students and their families, especially when room and board costs for out-of-town students are also required, as they were for both Angel and Maribeth. Adequate scholarships or student loans are not available even for the brightest and most promising students. Maribeth graduated from high school in third place overall in her class of 340 students (she was a classmate of Angel), and so I agreed to pay for all her expenses to study civil engineering at USC. She graduated in 2015 and then passed the national licensing exam for civil engineers in 2016 on her first writing. Only one quarter of the freshman class that started civil engineering at USC managed to accomplish that.

Maribeth has been working in construction management since 2016, mostly for new office buildings and apartments. One of the projects she worked on for 2 years was the construction by the government of new housing for displaced families from the Visayas whose homes were destroyed by Super Typhoon Yolanda (aka Haiyan) in 2013. ADB helped to finance much of that reconstruction work. Now Maribeth is working on the construction management of a large new hospital building in Cebu.

In 2013 I also decided to add Maribeth's sister, **Phoebe**, to the roster of very talented scholars from poor families that deserved support for university, after Phoebe graduated first in her class from a special high school in Cebu for very bright students. All these accomplishments were verified, by the way, with documentation and letters from high school authorities, and progress in university was also verified with university documents and grade statements.

Phoebe graduated from USC with a degree in Industrial engineering in 2018, and she is now working at a factory



Annual meeting with the Cebu scholars, 2012. Front, l-r: Angel, Magdalene (mother of Maribeth and Phoebe), Maribeth, and John; back, from left: Francis (mentor to Maribeth and Angel) and his wife, and Phoebe.

in Cebu that manufactures motorcycles, analyzing industrial production processes and efficiency.

To stay in closer touch with all these scholars and better understand their progress and the challenges they faced, I visited Cebu once a year from 2010 until 2017 for an “annual general meeting,” which their parents also attended (see photo).

Schoolroom. In April 2015 a severe earthquake struck Nepal, causing widespread damage: 8,800 people were killed, 22,000 were seriously injured, hundreds of thousands of people were left homeless, and thousands of buildings were destroyed. I was very concerned, in part because I had lived and worked in Nepal for 3 years from 1982 until 1985 and could well imagine the desperate plight of many people there, especially in remote mountainous areas. I gave a few thousand dollars in 2015 to various international charities that had earthquake relief projects in Nepal.

These included **Room-to-Read**, an American charity active in supporting improved school education and the construction of new school buildings. After learning more about their programs in Nepal and how much better their school buildings were, since none had collapsed in the earthquake compared with the large proportion of the government-built school buildings that had collapsed, I gave Room-to-Read money in 2016 to pay for one classroom in a new school building that they planned to build in Nuwakot to replace a collapsed one there. This new school building was completed the next year, and I decided to visit Nepal again in November 2017 to take a look at it, and to examine the earthquake damage in Kathmandu and to reconnect with a few old acquaintances. I also met the Room-to-Read country director and staff in Kathmandu, who explained the various other programs they were supporting, including development of books and teaching

materials, teacher training, construction of new school buildings, etc. I was very impressed with their programs, and the metrics that they had to show the superior results of their programs and methods. So I have continued to support Room-to-Read with annual donations. They are active in many low-income countries in Asia and Africa.

Covid Relief. The Covid-19 virus pandemic is the most recent disaster to strike. Government responses in most countries have included substantial support for health care, drug research, and economic relief for people and businesses seriously affected, at least in the richer countries. But in low-income countries the government budgets are much smaller, public health services are more limited, and the ability to provide emergency economic aid to those affected by confinement measures is very low. I searched about for an international aid agency that would address all these problems in low-income countries, but perhaps that was expecting too much.

I finally settled on the International Red Cross/Red Crescent. They have a special Covid-19 Global Appeal Fund that enables them to move across the world to support Covid-19 preparedness, response, and recovery activities. They have operations in most Asian countries, and their funds are distributed based on the most urgent needs. I signed up in April to make a monthly donation, and intend to continue that for as long as the Covid-19 pandemic remains a serious problem, even if that is many years.

Ways and Means at Many Levels. These examples show that it is not difficult to discover and even design small charity projects. I have felt the most satisfaction from smaller projects where it is possible to meet and interact with the beneficiaries, but that does require frequent travel for field work and many return visits to review progress and make sure things stay on track. In this age of the coronavirus and all the associated international travel restrictions, that approach is no longer feasible. But there are many larger established international charities that also provide important assistance in low-income countries. The International Committee of the Red Cross/Red Crescent is one of those. There are some independent websites that evaluate international charities, such as Charity Navigator, which examines those based in the United States (see <http://www.charitynavigator.org>). One important test of the reputation and trustworthiness of any large organized charity is that it should qualify as a recognized charity for income tax purposes in the countries where it raises funds and operates. In conclusion, even though we retirees no longer work on large international loan projects financed by ADB, we can still help those less fortunate than ourselves by making contributions to other important charities that are commensurate with our personal resources. ■

Linda Tsao Yang

Linda Tsao Yang (ADB 1993–1999)

Ed: On 31 May 2020, Princeton University awarded five honorary degrees—Doctor of Humane Letters—one of them to Linda Tsao Yang as “a leader in financial oversight and international development.” When I e-mailed Linda that we would like to post this great news on the AFE Facebook page, she opined that after 21 years, nobody would remember her. She was wrong—that post got lots of likes (126) and comments (40). Text here is from <https://www.princeton.edu/news/2020/05/31/princeton-awards-five-honorary-degrees>



Linda Tsao Yang is a former United States (US) ambassador and executive director to the Board of the Asian Development Bank in Manila. “Appointed by President Clinton and confirmed by the Senate in 1993, she was the first woman and the first minority to represent the United States on the board of a multilateral financial institution. Upon her

retirement in 1999, Yang received a Distinguished Service Award from the US Department of the Treasury and was cited for her work in spearheading new policies on governance and transparency and in defining the bank’s participation in the international response to the Asian economic crisis.

“Yang is chair emerita of the Asian Corporate Governance Association based in Hong Kong, which she chaired from 2001 to 2014. The ACGA is a nonprofit, member-supported organization chartered under the laws of Hong Kong to conduct research, education, and advocacy to improve corporate governance practices in Asian capital markets. Yang was an independent non-executive director on the board of the Bank of China (Hong Kong) from 2003 to 2010. Earlier in her career, she served as California’s Savings and Loan Commissioner and was appointed to the Board of Administration of the California Public Employees’ Retirement System. Yang is a member of The Committee of 100 in New York, a nonprofit, national organization of Chinese Americans

dedicated to promoting constructive, mutually beneficial relations between the United States and China and full participation of Chinese Americans in all aspects of life in the United States. She serves on the Trusteeship for Betterment of Women of Los Angeles/International Women’s Forum, and is a member of the International Council of the Bretton Woods Committee in Washington, D.C., the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, and an advisory board member of the Center on Asia Pacific Policy, RAND Corporation, in Santa Monica, California. She is a trustee emerita of the Asia Foundation in San Francisco. Yang graduated from St. John’s University Shanghai and earned an M. Phil. from Columbia Business School.

“Witnessing injustice at an early age left a mark on her, fueling a lifelong dedication to breaking down barriers and allowing others through. Her choice to study economics in college in 1940s Shanghai was a step along this path, as was her subsequent decision to travel alone to the United States for a graduate degree. Guided by her mother’s lessons in perseverance and self-reliance, she earned a position in the world of finance, despite the many obstacles she faced as a woman and an immigrant. Embracing “no excuses” as her motto, she shattered glass ceiling after glass ceiling in the ensuing years, establishing a remarkable career in financial oversight and international development. With her passion for equal opportunity, this economist, corporate leader, and diplomat has widened the path for all who would follow in her footsteps.” ■

Coronavirus Tennis

Ed Haugh (ADB 1980–2006)

Many professional sporting events have been cancelled. And we are advised not to engage in activities in which we come into close contact with others. But one sport that is really good for these tumultuous times is tennis. Yesterday, strictly observing government guidelines promulgated by our president, we assembled a group of eight “guys” to play tennis. I, being public health minded, had suggested a list of new rules to adopt to protect ourselves from catching the coronavirus. This is because our group consists mainly of members who are in that demographic such that they will be toast if they come down with coronavirus.

One rule I suggested is that we only use new balls. This is really hard for our members because nobody really wants to be the one to open a new can of balls that costs \$2.15 at Walmart. I did volunteer to open one can. On the other court, I overheard someone saying he had a can of balls



that was used only once. “When?” I couldn’t help muttering to myself. But I am not the court police, so I let it slide.

One thing about tennis is that we guys tend to be pretty funny: we often make jokes about balls, for example. That hilarity is one aspect of tennis that I really enjoy and I am going to miss if

our club closes down. Which reminds me, one silver lining in an otherwise dark cloud is that it’s easier to book a court nowadays.

So one rule I suggested is that we all use hand sanitizer before playing. Tennis players do have trouble with specific rules. For example, one of the tennis rules is that you are not allowed step on the baseline with your foot when serving. We tennis players call that a foot fault. We have one guy who is half way to the net before he releases his serve. Another guy walks around a lot like a volleyball server, which is also against the rules. We are very tolerant of these rule breakers because we don’t have that many players still eligible to join our group. And also their serves usually are pretty crummy anyway.

But still one guy was “like” “nah, I don’t need hand sanitizer because I wash my hands a lot.” Needless to say, I insisted he use the sanitizer, citing our “social compact.” Later on he let on that he had just gotten over a “mild” case of flu, which he called “Type A” (I am not making this up). It’s hard to warm up your tennis when you are feeling apoplectic.

[Ed: As we know, Americans are generally either Democrats or Republicans; otherwise they are independents and don’t get a capital letter.] Speaking of hand sanitizer, several of our guys are Republicans. Generally Republicans think that the new thing about frequent hand washing is a left wing conspiracy. In fact, some Republicans think that the whole coronavirus thing is a progressive hoax, though it is gradually dawning on them that the coronavirus is actually a bioweapon. One thing about Republican naysayers is that when they do accept the inevitable, they immediately want to get tested. When you remind them that they actually can’t get tested they are “like” “where is the private sector in all this?” But generally we tennis players try to avoid politics.

Our tennis club has a lot of nice courts—clay courts, hard courts, and indoor courts. We even have platform tennis, which is an odd game imported from “up North.” Our guys always use the clay courts, which are nice and soft and are thought to extend the lifespan of a tennis player. Looking at our demographic I would say that this is not necessarily an evidence-based theory. We have a small snack bar where one can get a hot dog and chips, which is my favorite lunch. However, the snack bar is open only in summer and I have this sinking feeling that it’s not going to open this summer. (Somehow the lyrics from an old Joni Mitchell song, “you don’t know what you’ve got till it’s gone” keep rattling around in my head these days). We also have a big pool, which is completely useless because in summer there are so many kids in the pool that one is concerned about the quality of the water. Still it’s a really nice club and considered one of the best tennis facilities in the Southeast.

So yesterday there was one thing at our club that kind of jarred me. We have a little shop where one can get a can of balls, Diet Coke, some crackers, and t-shirts. They also have some demo racquets, which I tend to borrow when I forget to bring my tennis bag to the tennis game. So yesterday, in the doorway to the shop, blocking the entry, was a chair with a sign on it that said “DON’T COME IN HERE.” I’m thinking to ask “What is going on? Is this the bubonic plague or something?” But then I let it go.

And so yesterday, in spite of everything, we eight guys had a lovely game under beautiful blue Carolina skies. We made the usual jokes, hit our usual shots, and nobody got angry or mad. At the end of the game we didn’t do our usual fist bump, instead clinking our racquets together while maintaining our social distance. We were really grateful to have a few hours of respite from our social isolation and were very glad to see each other, Republicans and Democrats alike.

Addendum: After writing this I got an email from our club. While the clubhouse, tennis shop and indoor courts will be closed; the outdoor courts will remain open, at least for the time being. Best news I’ve heard in awhile. ■



A Fireburnt Country

David Parker (ADB 1980–2004)



This is a poem I wrote in early 2020 about the huge bushfires in Australia that badly affected so many people. I subsequently felt I should add something about the next disaster to hit the country.

It all started when Doug Ferguson, was wondering whether the poet Dorothea Mackellar (1885–1968) had experienced such serious bushfires when she wrote

her poem “My Country.” Most schoolchildren in Australia know her famous verse “I love a sunburnt country” The thought then occurred to me to prepare a verse about the bushfires and show it to Doug. I jokingly suggested that if Dorothea Mackellar were here today, maybe she could tack on something like it at the end of her poem. And so, my poem started, and grew.

*It's now a fire-burnt country,
Affected by the drought,
As quickly-moving bushfires
That burnt day in, day out
Took hold of trees and grasses
And anything in sight.
With loss of lives and houses,
They burnt with all their might.*

*And while the fires were burning,
Thick smoke blocked out the sky,
The drought was well upon us,
With rivers running dry.
When winds were blowing strongly,
The flames were quickly fanned.
And in the heat, brave firemen
Were quick to lend a hand.*

*The wildlife suffered badly;
Thick smoke now filled the air,
The heat was quite oppressive;
The fires were everywhere.
At last arrived a cyclone
That brought much heavy rain
Across this fire-burnt country.
Now we could smile again!*

*Australians could be happy,
But some had lost so much—
Their cherished land and houses
And all in sight and touch.
Then just as all were thinking
Of moving on in life,
There came a new disaster
That has become so rife.*

*A new and deadly virus
Was born beyond our shores.
With awful flu-like symptoms,
It spread without a pause,
Affecting countless people
In countries far and wide.
And worries set in quickly,
Concerns were hard to hide.*

*Quite soon it reached Australia,
And spread without delay.
New rules we now must follow,
So that it will not stay,
Like “work from home” and “homeschool”
And “social distancing”.
It's now an indoor lifestyle,
To us a brand-new thing.*

*So sad it is, moreover,
For all whose jobs have gone.
As sales of goods fell sharply,
Much business can't go on.
The airlines quickly suffered
And tourism suffered too,
As sales dropped off completely.
It all was something new.*

*And panic set in quickly,
Creating huge demands
On stocks of food so precious,
And cleansers for our hands,
As well as toilet paper,
Which all were keen to get!
The shops and supermarkets
These days will not forget!*

*And so, debate continues
On what we should do next
To stop this wild pandemic
As most remain perplexed.
And many too are watching
What leaders plan to do
To help our struggling people
And pull Australia through. ■*

A Self-Taught Painter

Emma Legaspi Murray (ADB 1991–2001)



Thinking about life after retirement poses many challenges. The first months of travelling, going for walks, having long relaxing lunches and coffees with close friends are very pleasant. But after a while, you say to yourself “There must be more to life than this!” Gradually, there is a longing to be working on something that gives meaning to life and gives a sense of being productive and being challenged.

I started working at age 19 teaching math in university and then worked as Statistician/Economist at the Economics Research Department of the Central Bank of the Philippines where work took up so much of my life. After 14 years with the Central Bank, I was hired by ADB where I had to work also long hours. This, combined with raising a family did not allow me to pursue any nonwork related interests.

Although I stopped working earlier than my husband Bruce, I did volunteer work, which kept me busy. We moved back to Canada in 2009. Life in Canada was a slower pace and we have been blessed that we could travel. Visiting galleries in Europe and Canada stirred up my passion for drawing and painting that I had abandoned so many years ago. Most people say that being able to paint or draw is an inherent talent, one that a person is born with. A good friend and an excellent artist, Didit van der Linden, told me I’m a “self-taught artist.” That made me think that whoever expresses themselves passionately through pencils, brushes, and the blending of colors could create an art work. Whether the results appeal to people depends on how they interact with the paintings. Beauty is truly in the eye of the beholder.

I was about 9–10 years of age when I felt the interest in drawing human figures. One of my classmates then who belonged to a family of jeepney illustrators in Manila influenced me to do some drawings for school. But this interest never took off on a higher ground because I lacked resources and opportunities. With my interest in painting rekindled a couple of years ago, I attended two short-term basic art courses in the community center in



First painting, Bruce.



Ava.

Richmond, B.C. where we live. We are lucky to have access to such subsidized courses by professional painters. I also found many free videos on the internet that cover all aspects of painting.

Portrait painting interested me the most because of its challenges and so I started with it. My first guinea pig was my husband Bruce, and the painting now hangs in our condo. The good news is that people immediately recognize that it is Bruce. I moved on to paint our grandsons,

daughters, nieces, nephews, and friends including Didit van der Linden.

I also love doing other subjects such as flowers, butterflies, urban and rural scapes, the Vancouver skyline and scenery, and still life. This year I have also begun to experiment with water colors. I have found painting to be a relaxing and fulfilling hobby. It was a very pleasant way to while away the hours especially during our Covid-19 confinement. ■



Vancouver skyline.



Wild flowers.



Yellow Lillies.



Mae.



The barn.



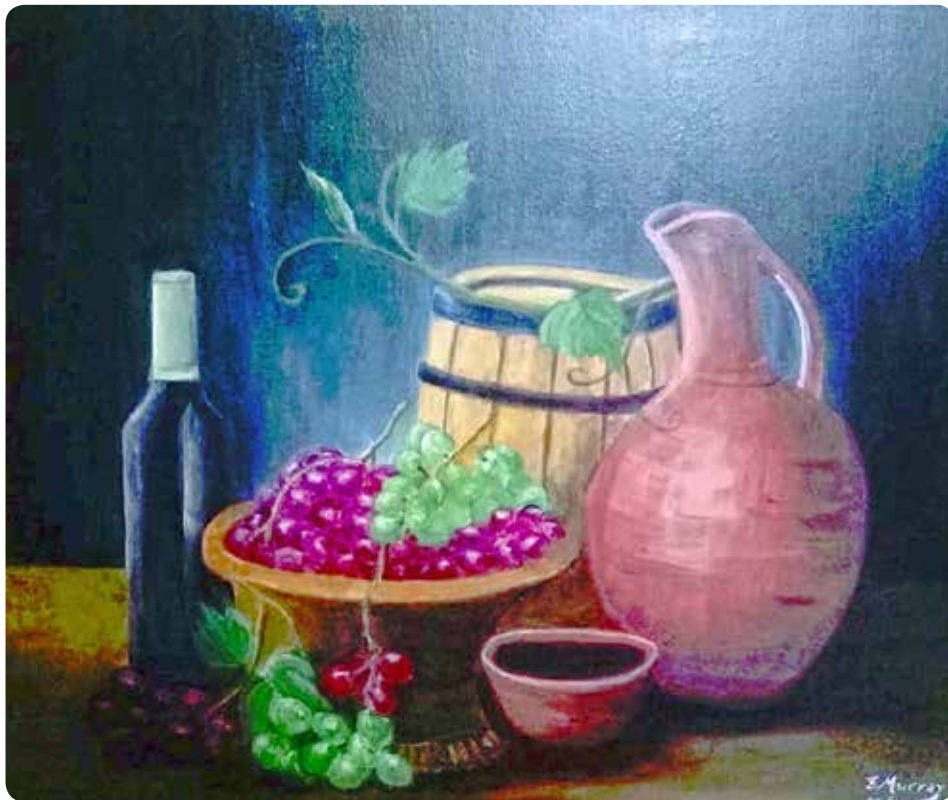
My favorite things.



Wild flowers.



Jill.



Grapes and wine.

ADB Connect— Lockdown Goodness

Nida Rodrigo (ADB 1976–1996)

Ed. Nida Rodrigo, the indefatigable Toronto area coordinator, has very actively kept herself and others connected, including 2 global Zooms.



During these unprecedented times, I have seen more than 3,000 hours of physical and emotional upheavals on the news all over the world.

In January I flew to Los Angeles to see my family while *en route* to Manila to attend my once-in-a-lifetime 50th High School Reunion, which I spearheaded arranging for over 10 years. Unfortunately, I had to cancel the trip to Manila for safety reasons and missed the event.

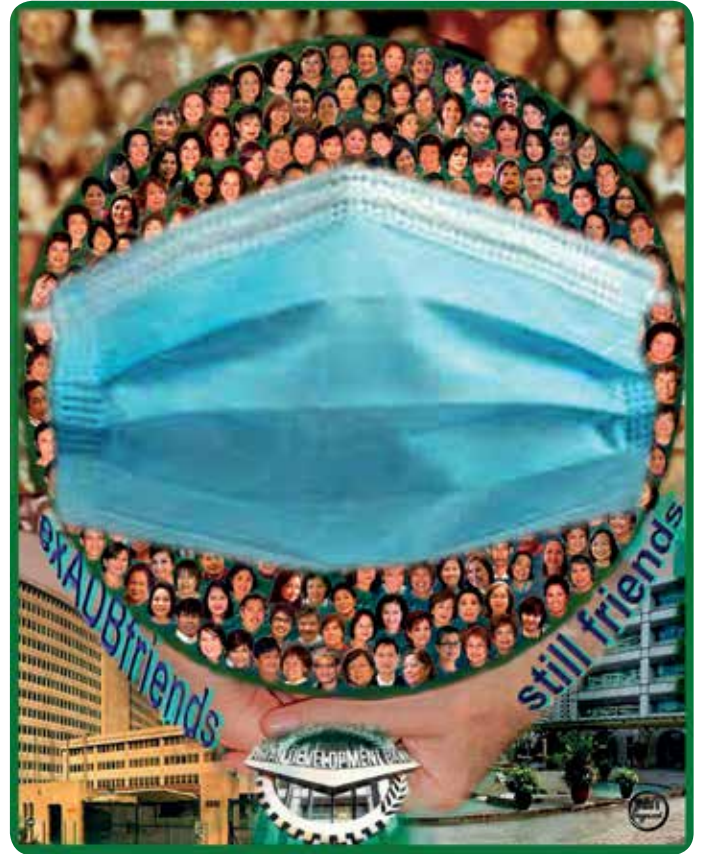
Returning to Toronto, I chose tranquility to keep me sane from the cancelled trip. I entertained myself making masks and arts and crafts, baked a lot of bread, gardened, watched all the Lea Salonga concerts on YouTube, and held never-ending video calls with family and friends worldwide.

Zoom1. The AFE–ADB Toronto potlucks are also on hold and I pondered about a “social distance party” not only in Toronto but also with friends around the world to check how everybody is doing and coping; hence, the **ADB Connect**—an AFE Toronto initiative—was born. ADB Connect’s initial Zoomcast was on June 25 as an experimental touch base/social call on a scheduled 30-minute chat that lasted for over an hour with seven beautiful women in Toronto, Manila, and Florida.

It was a warm and pleasant maiden video call at 8:00–9:00 pm (Eastern Standard Time) and 8:00–9:00 am



The JuneZOOMers.



The ex-ADBfriends, COVID style.

June 26 (Manila time) courtesy of Zoom. Zoom knew 30 minutes was not enough to talk about Covid, how ADB is a hero, health, politics, and whatnots!

What more can one ask for: seeing **childhood friends** across the oceans virtually after over 30 years or so! Yes, in our senior years, our 20s and 30s are the **new “childhood years.”**

Lita Gamboa of Parañaque was the very first to log in— in her excitement, she logged in 24 hours early. Herman, her hubby, also said hello to the group. Lita and I went a long way in ADB—the Slimnastics Club, the Chorale, the Homemakers, the Dance Guild, the Learning Centre, etc. Oh I still remember the bright-colored and beautiful array of coleus/mayana plants that lined her window ledge in the Secretary’s Office.

Angie Esmao Lyman of Florida came in second. I was very glad to see her again although we communicate on social media. My last vivid rendezvous with her was in the 1980s when 5–6 of us crammed into a taxi meant for four passengers. We were going to Manila International Airport to send Nora Arciaga off to Melbourne! We screamed at every deep pothole/*lubak*, to the delight of the cabbie.

Guia Estabillo of Toronto signed in next, she had also signed in earlier at 7:18 pm. She is like a long-lost sister.

Lorna (Rona) Esguerra of Parañaque came in next with her *puto* (rice cake) and *dinuguan* (pork and blood stew)—the invite called for “bring your own *baon*” (bag). And her *puto* recipe came from the ADB Homemakers Club (e-mail if you want the *makasaysayang* [historical] recipe.)

Carmen Perez of Alabang, another Torontonian and historian-cum-artist signed in next. Covid is preventing Meng from enjoying a few months in “The Six” (Toronto got this nickname because it was formed from six cities that amalgamated in 1998: Toronto, Scarborough, North York, York, East York, and Etobicoke.)

Ellen Batistil of Las Piñas followed. She had a little technical difficulty (no audio or video) in the beginning but did not give up. And Bobot, her husband, chided her for not putting makeup on. Ellen and I worked together in the Agriculture Department that became AED/AWD, then whatchamacallit etc, etc, etc.

Zoom2. July. Due to the clamor for a repeat performance, the second ADB Connect came to fruition on 16 July, 8 pm Toronto time, and included new AFE President Fred Pascual and his wife Menchu, VP Jill de

Villa, Canada Coordinator Bruce Murray and wife Emma, Ottawa Area Coordinator John Rive, Rosie Luistro who presented the exADBfriends groupsite that is celebrating its 13th anniversary, and many members of both AFE and exADBfriends groups.

It was an opportunity for the ZOOMers to welcome and meet Fred, who kindly gave remarks highlighting some of his plans for the association (see From the President, p. 3–4), which include featuring post-retirement activities, instituting an awards program to recognize outstanding achievements, and exhibiting members’ art work. His last vision was promoted by the Zoomcall’s agenda for the night, featuring lockdown activities of talented former staff.

- Green Thumbs Up Gardeners are May Seron of Southern California, Dr. and Mrs. Rodney Tucay of Allied Medical Services (AMS), and Guia Estabillo and Paz Ravadilla of Toronto;
- Beyond Pandesal Bakers/Cooks includes Frank Berena of New Jersey, Ruben Elizaga of Manila, Ethel Luzario of Arizona, and Cora Solomon of Virginia; and
- Balikmusic such as piano practice—Leah Flores revisited her piano pieces after many years, while her husband Ernie, formerly of ADB’s computer services, was over 20 km away lending me a hand. ■

The 2nd (July) Zoom: L-r, bottom: Precy Lizarondo (US), Ruby Tuazon (Phi), Zeny Santos, Lilia Orzal (Phi), Angie Lyman (US), John Rive (Can), the masked man, May Seron (US), Lhor Santillan (Phi), Galaxy=Meds Hain (Phi); 2nd row: Marissa Lara (Tha), Randz Aguirre-Marquez (Phi), Guia Estabillo (Can), Ellen Batistil (Phi), Malu Silverman (US), Katie Blanco (Phi), Rosie Luistro (Phi), Meng Perez (Phi); 3rd row: Fe de Leon (Phi), Menchu and Fred Pascual (Phi), Y-Chie Primo (US), Jill de Villa (Phi), Carmen Bontia (Phi), Jun Transporte (Can); Top: Marissa del Castillo (Phi), Nida Rodrigo (Can), Lita Gamboa (Phi), Emma and Bruce Murray (Can), Manny Aquino, Cynthia Bernardo (US). (Can = Canada, Phi = Philippines, Tha = Thailand, US = United States.)



Viet Nam During Covid

Belen Villaflor (ADB 1980–2007)



It was not without trepidation that our group of six flew to Ho Chi Minh City on 23 February 2020.

A month before our trip, Viet Nam reported its first two confirmed cases of Covid-19 and the People’s Republic of China (PRC) had just initiated the bold move of placing

the entire city of Wuhan under quarantine, an alarming signal of the severity of the spread of the infection. With our impending trip, we closely watched Viet Nam’s response to the outbreak in Wuhan, given its shared border with the PRC.

By the middle of February, Viet Nam had confirmed its 16th Covid-19 case. I seriously considered altering my travel plan, but changed my mind after receiving a reassuring e-mail from the Vietnamese tour operator stressing that the country was safe and the government had taken swift preventive measures to curb the spread of the virus, ensuring that tourists would be well protected from it.

With much of our concerns pacified, though still harboring slight trepidation, we continued with our travel plan to visit Hue, La Vang, Danang, and Ha Noi, aware that traversing a wide swath of the country would pose a greater risk of catching the virus.

We arrived in Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) International Airport on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. As the Covid-19 threat was spreading worldwide by then, I was surprised to see a big crowd of travelers in the immigration hall. With all counters fully manned, it still took our group over an hour to clear immigration, and as we stepped out to meet our tour guide, I observed that a majority of the travelers were not wearing face masks and no visible temperature checks were in place, indicating the absence of Covid-19 infection in HCMC. This bolstered my confidence in Viet Nam’s handling of the Covid-19 breakout. Sans the jitters, we then embarked on a “Covid-no-fear” adventure around Viet Nam, as Joy Chen, one of my travel companions, aptly described our trip.

We spent the little time we had in bustling HCMC exploring its historical buildings and interesting landmarks. Despite the Covid-19 threat, the tourist sites were so crowded that we have few souvenir pictures without photo bombers to show for the visit!



Hue landmark Truong Tien Bridge on the Perfume River.

In contrast, Hue, the ancient imperial capital and seat of the Nguyen Dynasty, was serene and captivating, devoid of large crowds.

Hue’s past glory is still evident in the impressive structure of the Imperial Citadel that surrounds the Imperial City, the Royal Palace, Royal Gardens, and wide pavilions. Even the crumbling brick walls have an enchanting character of their own. We marveled at the magnificence and opulence of several imperial tombs, pagodas, and temples, all UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

One highlight of our trip was the pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of La Vang, a Marian apparition site

in Quang Tri province.

We learned that Vietnamese Catholics, hiding from cruel persecution in the jungle of La Vang, were suffering from hunger and sickness when the Virgin Mary reportedly appeared in 1798 to comfort them. She asked



Shrine of Our Lady of La Vang.

them to make a strong tea out of certain leaves to drink as medicine to cure their illness and promised that prayers said on the spot would be heard and answered.

Since then the Lady of La Vang has served as a source of comfort and the Shrine is a pilgrimage destination. The ruins of the old colonial church still kept its sacred splendor while a new church is being built nearby following Vietnamese architecture.

I felt so blessed to have made the pilgrimage at this time. It was certainly unexpected to sense the holy presence of the Virgin Mary in a place like Viet Nam.

Taking a break from historical sites, we traveled west of Danang to Ba Na Hills, 1,500 meters above sea level, famous for its picturesque views and the world's longest nonstop single track cable car. The cable car ride was long but spectacular, affording a sweeping vista of the lush forest, waterfalls, and surrounding Danang. As the forest view receded, it was fascinating to see the French Village creeping atop the mountain.

The scenic replica of a French Village was a joy to explore, especially with the relatively sparse crowd that braved the Covid-19 threat. The beautiful castle, church, fountains, buildings, landscaped gardens, all provided splendid backdrops for our photos.

We crossed the Golden Bridge, a footbridge that is held aloft by two giant hands, for more majestic views of the surrounding area and to take amazing photos.

We continued with our travel and observed that the Covid-19 threat was more noticeable on our plane ride from Danang to Ha Noi as everyone was wearing a face

The author at the Golden Bridge.



mask. Confident that the number of Covid-19 cases had remained stable, I was more concerned how the souvenir photos of our destinations in North Vietnam would turn out with our face masks on. A silly thought indeed. There were few visitors in tourist areas and wearing a face mask was not strictly enforced.

We enjoyed the fabulous sites of Ha Noi, Ninh Binh, Duong Lam, and Ha Long Bay without much thought of the spread of the infectious virus in the area.

The Covid-19 threat made our trip surprisingly more comfortable, with some perks thrown in.

With very few tourists venturing out, we had the boat all to ourselves in our Ha Long Bay cruise. Hotel occupancy was low around the country, so we got some room upgrades in our prepaid accommodations. We had quick service in restaurants, and shop attendants were very attentive and gave hefty discounts.

Overall, our week-long Viet Nam experience was most pleasant and made more memorable by the threat of Covid-19. ■



Ha Long Bay cruise. L-r: Doctors. Ray and Heidi Perez, Belen Villaflor, Myrna Pacubas, Joy and Samuel Chen.

At 93, Nanay Recovers

Guia Estabillo (ADB 1969–1982, 1983–1990)

In April my Mom (Nanay), Dolores Vitan, contracted Covid-19 a day before her 93rd birthday. She got better but in early May she tested positive again, although she was asymptomatic. As expected, Nanay lost her appetite and her blood sugar was very low so I had to bring in “tasty” (read greasy, salty) Filipino food and encourage her to eat. Fortunately, I could “visit” (e.g., window visit or Skype visit while parked at her care home) any day. To protect the residents, in-person visits were not allowed. People hung signs to their loved ones on the fence. The lack of personal visits and hugs was one of the most difficult things that I experienced.

Fortunately, Nanay has recovered. Starting in mid-July, visits were allowed in the garden following appropriate social distancing rules. I am still sitting on the fence on this. I’d love to see her if it’s totally safe. I long to take her to church and out for a Filipino lunch and for family members to join us every now and then. But right now, I am not sure. I need to have a test not older than 2 weeks if I visit Mom in person, but if I go to clinics for testing, some people there might be really sick.

There were many stories in the Canadian press about neglect and high death rates in long-term care homes, but Nanay got very good care at the Eatonville Care Centre. I saw firsthand the support that Eatonville and its frontliners received from the general public and residents’ families: they left food (lunch) for the frontliners, tied white ribbons around the trees and shrubs, and displayed posters with uplifting messages.

AFE stalwart, Nida Rodrigo and her hubby, Tito, wanted to do something for the frontliners. Tito saw me on a brief TV clip by a CP24 reporter who caught me during one of my visits to Nanay. Nida and Tito, with funds from Foresters Financial, Tito’s former employer, bought pizzas for the frontliners one day. Nida bought enough pizza to feed frontliners on four floors, and Nida made sure that the nurse who went out of her way to give me updates on my Mom got some pizza. I was so proud to be friends with Nida—the frontliners were very pleased.

When my Mom got better, we were able to communicate via Skype, although I was not available all the time for her video calls because of gardening and tennis.

2020 was my second year as lead gardener—a nice name for lead weed puller—in my church gardens. How did I get the job? A Spanish saying sums it up: “*En la tierra de los ciegos, el tuerto es el rey*” or, “In the land of the blind,



Guia Estabillo and fellow gardener viewing the fruits of their labor.

the one-eyed is the king.” They found their one-eyed know-it-all in me. A gardener’s work, 90% of which is weeding, is never done and can be physically grueling. Because of the lockdown, this year we were only allowed to start work in early June. A crazy competition between gardeners and weeds took off like nobody’s business. By mid-July we were exhausted but the weeds were safely stashed away in five large garbage cans, half of them my share after logging 60 hours of labor. Hopefully, the mulch will be of some help.

Truth be told, gardening was a welcome break from my home-style fitness regimen, a substitute for going to the gym. I don’t know when the gyms will be allowed to open; I am even more uncertain if I’ll go back to the gym. I was able to adapt my gym workouts to home workouts, following a program of mobility stretches and weight training in alternate days, and half an hour of cardio 5 days a week. What used to take me less than 2 hours now took me all morning.

Fortunately, the tennis courts were allowed to open by mid-June. For 2 hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the “Women’s Friendlies” were allowed to play only singles. Two weeks later doubles were allowed. I was glad to meet women of my generation whose enthusiasm and joy for tennis matched mine. Every one of them, even some octogenarians, brings something special to play. It would not be easy to beat them in doubles—but in singles, I can outrun them! It’s for tennis that I stayed fit and endured the boring reps and sets for fitness and mobility.

The lockdown also provided opportunity for unique experience with family: monthly Zoom meetings, a granddaughter’s voice recital on Zoom, another granddaughter’s high school graduation on YouTube, and several birthdays on FaceTime. My daughter took my Mom virtually to her vegetable garden and to her sewing activity via Skype. I cherish that day when my daughter-in-law suggested that we buy take-out food and eat it in the park in social distancing fashion. We were missing our coffee meetings. ■

Empty by Design

Graham Walter (ADB 1981–2005)

Ed: Here is a film we can look forward to, when it is released for the general public.



E*mpy by Design* is a film about the struggle of identity that is experienced when living and growing up in multiple places surrounded by different cultures, and what it means to call a place home. Set in Manila, the film follows two young Filipinos (Ramos and Chau)

who have each returned to the Philippines after years abroad. Their paths cross and become intertwined as each searches for feeling and identity in the city they once called home. As each encounters loneliness and detachment in a place once familiar to them both, they seek out connection and friendship in one another, searching for someone they can relate to. The film beautifully unwraps the most simple desires and emotions that we all face when trying to find community, one experienced by many ADB staff and their families who have moved to Manila.

Empty by Design is Andrea A. Walter's first feature film as a writer and director. The film stars Rhian Ramos, Osric Chau, Chris Pang, and Dante Basco. The film premiered at the Los Angeles Asian Film Festival in May 2019 as the Closing Night film to a sold-out house of over 700 people and has been selected and sold out at a number of Asian and international film festivals, including the centerpiece film in multiple cities such as Austin and Vancouver. *Empty by Design* also won Best International Feature Film at the SOHO International Film Festival in New York.



L-r: Osric Chau, Andrea Walter, and Chris Pang at the *Empty by Design's* World Premiere, at the Los Angeles Asian Film Festival.

Because of the film, Andrea (my daughter) has been named 2020 Nevada Woman Filmmaker of the Year. Andrea was born and raised in the Philippines. Release of the film has, like everything else, been held up by Covid-19, but we are currently hoping for the end of the year. ■

New Members

AFE–ADB extends a warm welcome to the following new members of the Association (country of residence is indicated in parentheses):

February 2020

Alam, Munawar (India)
Buentjen, Claudia (Austria)
Cruz, Ruby Peria (Philippines)
Dacumos, Rajilyn Nabua (Philippines)
Idris (Indonesia)
Jones, Randall Edwin (Australia)
Maloles, Madeleine Villasen (Philippines)
Mercer-Blackman, Valerie Anne (United States)
Qian, Ying (United States)
Vargas, Josephine Bantigue (Philippines)

March 2020

Bennett, Sarah (United Kingdom)
Han, Jung-Kyoon (Korea, Republic of)
Hanabusa, Mayumi (Japan)
Malik, Deepak (India)
Ponzi, Daniele (Philippines)
Popov, Sergei (Philippines)
Yao, Xianbin (China, Republic of)

May 2020

Jenny, Hubert (Thailand)
Nacienceno, Rosanna (Philippines)
Travino, Ma. Karol Anne De Santos (Philippines)
Zhuang, Juzhong (China, Republic of)

June 2020

Alano, Elena Ansay (Philippines)
Buensuceso, Bernadette (Philippines)
Nacpil, Edgardo (Philippines)
Ojira, Makoto (Japan)
Salter, Charles David (Canada)
Sidgwick, Eric (Thailand)
Yoneoka, Susumu (Japan)

July 2020

Fukunaga, Kazuki (Japan)
Jacob, Trinidad (Philippines)
Ong, Hock-Chye (Malaysia)
Ricerra, Carmen (Philippines)

Senior Appointments at ADB

AFE-ADB congratulates the following staff members on their new appointments.

- Helen Hall**—Assistant Controller, Trust Fund and Administrative Expense Division, Controller's Department (CTL), assumed office on 1 July 2020.
- Thomas Michael Clark**—General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel (OGC), assumed office on 1 July 2020.
- Raphael Bellan-Payrault**—Assistant Treasurer, Investments Division, Treasury Department (TD), effective upon assumption of office.
- Irum Ahsan**—Advisor, Office of the Compliance Review Panel (OCRP), assumed office on 8 June 2020.
- Xinning Jia**—Deputy Director General, Strategy, Policy and Partnerships Department (SPD) concurrently Director, Operations Planning and Coordination Division, SPD, assumed office on 15 May 2020.
- Kenichi Yokoyama**—Director General, South Asia Department (SARD) concurrently Country Director, India Resident Mission (INRM), SARD, assumed office on 18 May 2020.
- Emma Veve**—Deputy Director General, Pacific Department (PARD), assumed office on 6 May 2020.
- Andrew Jeffries**—Country Director, Viet Nam Resident Mission (VRM), Southeast Asia Department (SERD), effective upon assumption of office.
- Christel Adamou**—Director, Office of Professional Conduct (OPC), assumed office on 4 May 2020.
- Sonomi Tanaka**—Country Director, Lao Resident Mission (LRM), SERD, effective upon assumption of office.
- Yasmin Siddiqi**—Director, Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), assumed office on 31 March 2020.
- Takeo Konishi**—Country Director, INRM, SARD, effective upon assumption of office.
- Andreas Ernst Rimkus**—Director, Credit Division 1, Office of Risk Management (ORM), assumed office on 18 March 2020.
- Ma. Carmela Locsin**—Special Senior Advisor to the President, Office of the President (OPR), assumed office on 3 March 2020.
- Karen Lane**—Director, Knowledge Support Division, Department of Communications (DOC), assumed office on 9 March 2020.
- Leah Gutierrez**—Director General, PARD, assumed office on 2 March 2020.

Keiju Mitsuhashi—Deputy Country Director, VRM, SERD, assumed office on 2 March 2020.

Chen Chen—Country Director, Sri Lanka Resident Mission (SLRM), SARD, assumed office on 17 February 2020.

Makoto Kubota—Advisor (Data Management), Office of the Director General, Information Technology Department (ITD), assumed office on 17 February 2020.

James Patrick Lynch—Director General, East Asia Department (EARD), assumed office on 3 February 2020.

Elaine Swee Khian Tan—Advisor and Head of Statistics and Data Innovation Unit, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, assumed office on 3 February 2020.

Lisa Dorothy Kelaart-Courtney—Director, Prevention and Compliance Division, Office of Anticorruption and Integrity (OAI), effective upon assumption of office.

Nargiza Talipova—Advisor and Head of Project Management Unit for Sovereign Operations IT Project, SPD, effective upon assumption of office.

Joonho Hwang—Director, Energy Division, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), effective upon assumption of office.

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For additional information, guarantee of payment, and precertification, go to <https://www.cignahealthbenefits.com/en/plan-members> log in, go to "Contacts"

Obituaries

With deep regret and sorrow we announce the death of the following AFE members. Our heartfelt and sincere condolences to their families.

- Liria Palafox-Price**, former Project Economist, passed away on 21 July 2020 at the age of 94. Condolences may be sent to her niece Veneranda R. Dumlao at dumsky11@yahoo.com.
- M. M. Soerakoesoemah**, former Chief, passed away on 29 June 2020 at the age of 88. Condolences may be sent to his son Rony Soerakoesoemah at rony.soera@gmail.com.
- Gene Lindsey**, former Chief, passed away on 29 May 2020 at the age of 83. Condolences may be sent to his wife Helen Lindsey at hglindsey@gmail.com.
- Donald Sherk**, former Alternate Director, passed away on 27 April 2020 at the age of 84. Condolences may be sent to his wife Kathy Koch at kekccmd@gmail.com.
- Joaquin Gochoco**, former Chief, passed away on 19 April 2020 at the age of 90. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Ma. Victoria G. Perez at aviegperez@gmail.com and niece Maria Socorro Gochoco-Bautista at msgbautista@gmail.com.
- Eleuterio M. Bautista Jr.**, former Senior Technical Assistant, passed away on 25 March 2020 at the age of 80. Condolences may be sent to his wife Erlinda Bautista at 32 Via Trevizo St., Portofino South Almanza Dos, Las Piñas City, Philippines, mobile number +63 915 897 1068.
- Michio Nakahara**, former Project Manager, passed away on 9 February 2020 at the age of 93. Condolences may be sent to his son Masao Nakahara at dbmnak45_3hryo@yahoo.co.jp.
- David Craxton**, former Executive Director, passed away on 15 March 2020 at the age of 91. Condolences may be sent to his wife Ann Elizabeth Craxton at lizcraxton@btinternet.com, telephone number: +44 208 741 3974.
- Emma Banaria**, former Economics Officer, passed away on 23 March 2020 at the age of 65. Condolences may be sent to her daughter Maria Angela Pilar Banaria at mbanaria@adb.org, mobile number: +63 917 318 8897.
- Daniel H. Erickson**, former Counsel, passed away on 17 February 2020 at the age of 95. Condolences may be sent to his wife Dorothy Davie Erickson at 709 Riverview Court Sterling VA 20164-1366 United States of America.
- Kunio Takase**, former Director, who passed away on 29 December 2019 at the age of 93. Condolences may be sent to his son Yuichi Takase at takase@k.u-tokyo.ac.jp.
- Ricardo "Dodo" Ledesma**, husband of the late Esperanza Loyola Ledesma, passed away on 19 February 2020.

AFE-ADB News is published twice annually under the auspices of the AFE Publications Committee. The views expressed in the articles are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of AFE-ADB, its officers, or its Publications Committee; or of ADB or its Board of Governors. AFE-ADB does not guarantee the accuracy of information or data presented or accept any responsibility for any consequences of their use.

The policies of the Publications Committee concerning the *AFE-ADB News* include the following:

- (1) Articles and images may be accepted for inclusion if, in the opinion of the AFE-ADB Publications Committee, they are germane to AFE-ADB activities and membership; are of interest to a significant portion of the membership; and do not contain material that promotes a political or religious stance or is potentially inflammatory or offensive to the readership.
- (2) Articles that are accepted will be edited for language, content, and length that the Publications Committee deems appropriate for the readership. Images must be of print quality (at least 280 kb or 600 dpi is preferred).
- (3) Any photograph that was not taken by the sender should be sent with the photographer's permission for AFE-ADB to publish it. Please identify all people shown in photographs so we can include adequate captions.
- (4) Authors and photographers will be acknowledged and retain ownership of any material submitted for publication.

No articles or images may be reproduced in any form without the permission of the publisher, author(s), and/or photographer(s), as appropriate.

Articles for publication may be sent in MS Word as e-mail attachments to afe-adb@adb.org. Articles will preferably be 250–750 words. Please send images in a separate file. Comments that will help improve *AFE-ADB News* are most welcome.

Acknowledgements

Josephine C. Jacinto, AFE-ADB's able former assistant, provided invaluable help, including typesetting and layout. Steve Banta, Guia Estabillo, Julia Holz, David Parker, and Jill Gale de Villa edited. They and Malou Magalued and Manilyn Paña proofread. AFE sincerely appreciates ADB's Department of External Relations and the Printing Unit for assistance with finalizing the magazine.

Announcements

ADB's Annual Meetings

The ADB activities planned for Incheon, Republic of Korea in September 2020 will be held virtually. ADB's 54th Annual Meeting is scheduled for 2–5 May 2021 in Tbilisi, Georgia in 2021, and the 55th will be in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2022.

Chapter Events

Most AFE chapter activities have been on hold or have movable dates due to the pandemic, with coordinators and members alike taking a wait-and-see stance.

Australia: Plans are for an October 2020 Reunion in Adelaide, to be firmed up in early August. Contact Paul Turner at paulturner53@hotmail.com for more details.

Canada: Contact Bruce Murray bmurray.xadb@gmail.com for updates.

Europe: The reunion planned for September 2020 in Belfast, Northern Ireland, to be hosted by Ray and Brenda Cahoon, has been postponed to September 2021. Contact Günter Hecker at ghecker1@t-online.de for details.

India: The Reunion Tour to Punjab and the Himachal Hills is postponed to 2021, and the Annual Meeting of the Chapter is postponed from 10 October 2020 to 5 December 2020. Contact Shiladitya Chatterjee at shilochatterjee@gmail.com for details.

Indonesia: A reunion may be held in December. Contact Putu Kamayana at putu_kamayana@yahoo.com for details.

New Zealand: A dinner is planned in Auckland in March 2021 and a 3-day reunion in Christchurch in 2022. Contact Gordon Fox gordon.fox@xtra.co.nz for details.

New York-New Jersey Chapter is planning a simple get-together before the year ends. Contact Lorna del Rosario at delrosariol@un.org for details.

Sri Lanka Chapter plans to have one group together every six months. Contact Sarath Lakshman Athukorala at slathukorala@gmail.com for more details.

Washington, D.C. hopes to have 1–2 socially distanced group bike rides. Contact Fred Roche at frederick_roche@hotmail.com for details.

AFE–ADB News No. 58 (March 2021)

Please send, by January 2021, articles, photos, updates, or comments for publication in our next newsletter. For guidance, please refer to the inside back cover of this newsletter.

Annual Association Dues

Members who have not yet settled their annual dues are requested to do so.

Keep Your Address Updated with AFE–ADB

Please keep us informed about any change in your address, telephone numbers, and e-mail address. We don't want to lose touch with you. Also, if you know of any member whose address and other contact details are not listed in the directory, or are incomplete or wrong, please inform us.

AFE–ADB

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