



# News

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The Newsletter of the  
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Employees of the Asian  
Development Bank

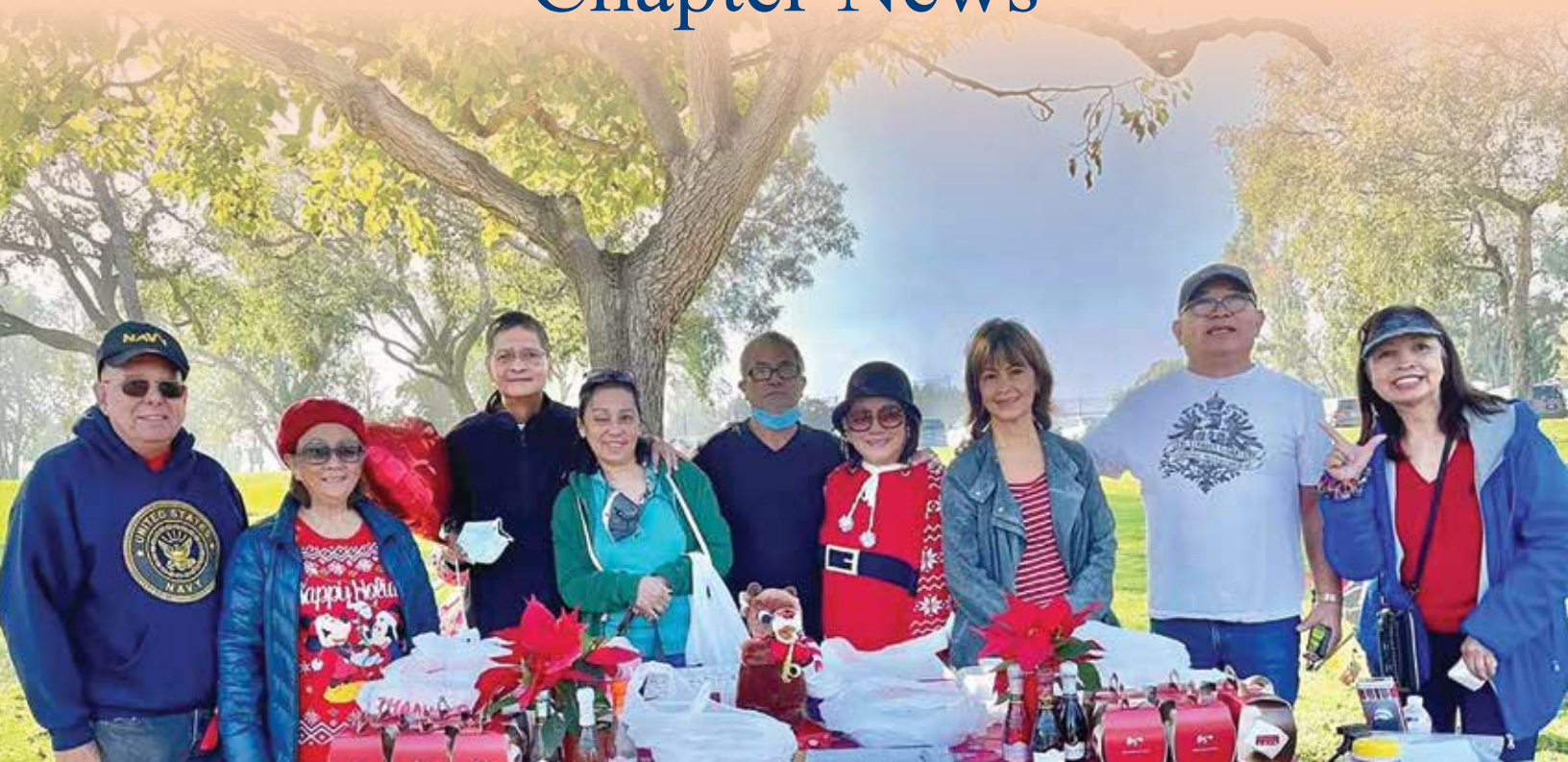
## AFE Updates



## People, Places, and Passages



## Chapter News



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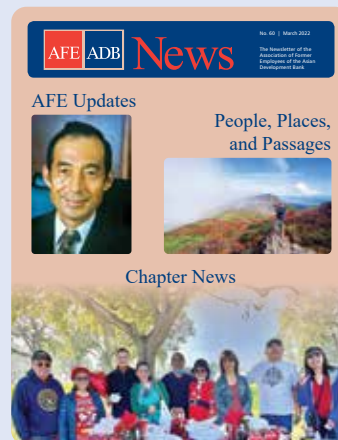
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## Our Cover



Top left: Former ADB and AFE President Masao Fujioka.  
Right: Mike Barrow mountain climbing in Niigata. This image has been flipped to be more consonant with the cover as a whole.  
Below: AFE Southern California chapter celebrates the year end.

## AFE-ADB News

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# AFE–ADB President Masao Fujioka, 1924–2021

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**F**ormer ADB President Masao Fujioka, who was the President of ADB from 1981 to 1989 and of AFE–ADB from 1993 to 2007, passed away on 27 December 2021 at the age of 97.

**Mr. Fujioka's involvement with ADB** started before its creation. In 1966 he was seconded to the United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Far East, which worked on the creation of ADB.

Mr. Fujioka presided over ADB during one of its most expansionary periods, was instrumental in promoting

greater coordination of ADB operations, and increased cofinancing and equity investments to private enterprise. During his term,

- ADB's lending almost doubled, from \$1.7 billion in 1981 to \$3.2 billion in 1988;
- the People's Republic of China joined ADB (1986);
- ADB's first loan to India was approved—a \$100 million lending facility to the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India for on-lending to private sector enterprises;
- the third general capital increase doubled ADB's capital;



- the Asian Development Fund was replenished; and
  - the Japan Special Fund grant facility was created.
- ADB's current President Masahiko Asakawa noted "His accomplishments during a long tenure helped significantly strengthen ADB's presence in the Asia and Pacific Region. We remain grateful to him for his foresight and leadership."

**Mr. Fujioka was AFE-ADB's second president** (a title that was later changed to chairman). He remained supportive of AFE through his chairmanship and beyond. Under his leadership,

- AFE's initial bylaws were approved by members in August 1994;
- ADB approved a pensioners' representative on the Pension Committee;
- AFE chapters became increasingly active in organizing reunions and maintaining contact with one another and ADB;

- ADB began issuing ID cards to facilitate pensioners' access to headquarters;
  - AFE's membership grew to over 2,000;
  - AFE was incorporated in Vanuatu; and
  - ADB granted a subsidy to help AFE function.
- AFE remains grateful for the support and advice he offered through his leadership and throughout his membership.

Mr. Fujioka was a graduate of the University of Tokyo and worked at Japan's Ministry of Finance for more than 30 years. After leaving ADB, among other things, he was President of the Japan Credit Rating Agency, Ltd.

**Messages of condolence** may be sent to his son

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The Saki-Barrell Opening Ceremony at the AFE-ADB Annual Meeting Reception in Yokohama, May 2017; l-r: Mrs. Yuko Chino, Mr. Bong-Suh Lee, Mr. Masao Fujioka, Mr. Hiruhiko Kuroda, Mrs. Mieko Tarumizu, Mr. Hans-Juergen Springer.

# AFE–ADB Updates

## From the President

Alfredo E. Pascual (ADB 1989–2008)



Two years into the pandemic, we in the AFE Executive Committee are still operating virtually. Along with our admin staff, we continue to work from home. Our AFE chapters have also been holding back the resumption of their traditional annual reunions. Several of the chapters, though, held meetings and get-togethers online. Among them are

Australia, Canada, India, and US-California. I was able to participate in some of these virtual events. An exception last year was New Zealand, which had a luncheon meeting.

**Access to ADB HQ.** In mid-March 2020, ADB HQ went into complete lockdown. Since then, ADB has been incrementally transitioning operations from a work from home modality back to the HQ. The process of re-occupying HQ is being carried out in stages, and Stage 1 was preparatory work. Since 9 June 2020, HQ has been on Stage 2, beginning with re-occupancy by essential personnel capped at around 10% of staff per department or office and increasing to 25% since late last year.

With the infection rate coming down and other favorable developments, as of this writing, HQ has entered Stage 3 with further expanded re-occupancy at 50% and gradually increasing as the situation allows. Please be aware that up to Stage 3, no visitors, retirees, former staff, or dependents of staff are permitted access to HQ. Only by Stage 4 will HQ fully reopen.

However, on a case-to-case basis, retirees may be granted entry to HQ to access their safe deposit boxes in the commercial bank offices at HQ. Prior permission from the Security Division of the Corporate Services Department (CSD) is required. Ms. Josephine S. Alcantara (“Jojie”), Senior Commercial Services Officer of CSD, is the person to contact. Jojie can be reached at [jsalcantara@adb.org](mailto:jsalcantara@adb.org) and 0999.999.5336.

**COVID-19 Vaccination.** I am pleased to report that ADB has provided vaccines to retirees based in the Philippines, as well as other groups within the ADB community, such as consultants, contractors, and nondependent household members of staff. Booster shots have also been made available to retirees. The Philippine government has also included foreign residents in its vaccination program.

As I previously said in this column, in January of last year, I wrote ADB President Masa on behalf of our AFE members in the Philippines requesting ADB to include the Philippine-based ADB retirees, including foreign holders of Special Resident Retiree Visas (SRRVs), in the HQ vaccination program. In February 2021, I also sent an AFE letter to Secretary Carlito Galvez, Jr., the Philippine National Task Force against COVID-19 Chief Implementer and Vaccine Czar, requesting that ADB SRRV retirees be included in the government’s vaccination program. I believe that these AFE letters influenced ADB and the Philippine government’s favorable actions.

**Transition of Citibank Services at ADB HQ.** As you are aware, Citibank has decided to sell its consumer banking business in the Philippines and several other countries. Locally, Citibank has chosen UnionBank of the Philippines to be the buyer. There will be no changes in Citibank’s current service offering or level to ADB customers until completion of the sales transaction—expected in the second half of 2022.

This withdrawal will eventually affect all current Citibank clients, including staff, retirees, and non-ADB personnel who use their ADB HQ over-the-counter and online services. In addition, ADB’s contract with Citibank will expire on 22 November 2022. Meanwhile, an ADB team has begun an open competitive sourcing process for using Citibank’s space at ADB HQ, and the selection is expected to take place in the middle of 2022.

Based on our discussions with the representatives of the ADB team, the affected Citibank clients will have the option to select a bank that best suits their personal needs. Among them are:

1. accept the transition to UnionBank;
2. move your accounts to another bank; and/or
3. for countries where Citibank will continue to operate, use Citibank but under their private arrangements, i.e., not governed by an ADB contractual agreement. ■

# From the AFE Vice President

Jill Gale de Villa (ADB 1993–2005)



**Communications.** We in the ExCom continue to try to keep the ExCom and AFE together without actually being together, with some successes and some trials, including connectivity interruptions. E-mail communications work, but the new ADB version of *OneADBToday* is difficult to read in the format that ADB provides to us for dissemination. The *AFE-ADB HQ* Facebook page continues to provide updates, with almost 900 members signed onto the page and about half that regularly accessing posts.

*AFE News* remains our twice-yearly magazine, and we hope to be distributing hardcopies once we can again access the AFE office at ADB. Many thanks to the members who send articles for inclusion in the magazine and to the publications committee members who facilitate and improve the publication by vetting articles submitted prior to their acceptance for inclusion, editing them, and helping to proofread.

**Finance and Records Management.** Nannette Guinto-Amorado, our treasurer, has been working on a new digitized system for accounting and finance. Fred Pascual has been very involved in initiating this project. Nannette and Malou Pasicolan are working through the transition to the new system while preparing the budget and financial statements for 2021.

Members may now pay their dues to our PayPal account. Our PayPal account is [afe-adb@adb.org](mailto:afe-adb@adb.org). For guidance, do see the article on p. 9 by Malou Pasicolan on how to pay by PayPal.

Bobbie Montesa, our ExCom Secretary will continue to manage all AFE's recorded information that becomes AFE's documentary heritage in whatever format. This includes the inventory, review of records keeping practices, reorganization, and digitization of records for easy access, preservation, and control so that we know what

information we have and where to find it, otherwise it's lost data (and finding information is a problem we are currently facing from time to time, with many of our records being inaccessible at HQ).

All our work is supported by Alona Miral (from Laguna) and Malou Pasicolan (from Mandaluyong). ■

## Pension Matters

### Staff Retirement Plan

Alfredo E. Pascual (ADB 1989–2008)

**The ADB Staff Retirement Plan (SRP)** Pension Committee (PC) met on 13 December 2021 via video conference. Fred Pascual and Hans-Juergen Springer are AFE representative and alternate to the PC.

At the meeting, the SRP Investment Committee updated the PC on the performance of the SRP Fund and the **Retiree Medical Plan Fund (RMPF)**, which aims to fund ADB's portion of the medical plan. The two funds end their fiscal year (FY) on 30 September.

The update was good news. At the end of FY2021, the SRP Portfolio valuation was up by \$745 million to \$4.37 billion from \$3.63 billion a year ago. The increase resulted from (1) \$132 million additional contribution transferred from ADB's ordinary capital resources (OCR) to the SRP during the year; (2) \$691 million brought about by the strong recovery of the global markets from the pandemic; and (3) \$78 million net cash outflow to fund pension payments (\$213 million) and other fund expenses (\$6 million), net of ADB and staff pension contribution inflows (\$141 million).

Overall, the stellar performance of the SRP portfolio was brought about by strong performances across most of the asset classes, particularly US equity, non-US equity, real estate investment trusts (REITs), and commodities.

Although much smaller in size than the SRP Fund, the RMPF also had a similarly strong performance. At the end of FY2021, the valuation of the medical fund increased to \$534 million from \$445 million.

The SRP Investment Committee also gave the PC an update on the implementation of the liability hedging portfolio. As may be recalled, in October 2020, the PC approved the revised SRP Investment Policy, which introduces liability-hedging assets in its strategic asset allocation. The revision was based on a review of the strategic asset allocation carried out by Wilshire Advisors.

Based on the current forward-looking capital markets outlook and ADB's disciplined funding policy, the review concluded with high confidence that the SRP and the RMPF are adequately funded for the next 20 years.

Based on the study, the Investment Committee also recommended actionable improvements for further investment program diversification; investment capital efficiency; and the integration of environment, social, and governance goals, in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which ADB fully supports through the operational priorities of Strategy 2030.

## Defined Contribution Plan

### Hans-Juergen Springer (ADB 1972–2002)



The Defined Contribution Plan (DCP) committee met on 9 December 2021. Hans-Juergen Springer and Jill Gale de Villa attended representing pensioners as primary and alternate committee members, respectively.

The pensioners' members had a bilateral briefing session by Hiroyuki Aoki and Rawnak ul-Islam from

BPMSD's Retirement Benefits and Investment Unit prior to the meeting on 2 December 2021. Pensioners' representatives raised several questions and received clarifications.

On 9 December, committee members were given an overview of the plan year ending 30 September 2021. The DCP had 1,395 participants at the end of the FY. The contributions by DCP participants and ADB totaled \$18 million, of which two-thirds had come from DCP members. Despite a large number of information sessions offered to DCP members by ADB during the year, 24% of DCP members made zero contributions to the DCP. Equity funds performed very well in 2021, while bond funds showed only a modest performance. Three-quarters of DCP members had chosen the Diversified Fund from among 24 funds offered to them, consisting of a well-chosen mixture of bond and equity funds. The survey of DCP members carried out during the year determined that a majority of them preferred a balanced fund of moderate risk, which the Diversified Fund represents.

The DCP is administered by Jersey Trust Company plc, which is a global professional business that managed total assets of about \$180 billion as of end-2020. It administers 275 offshore defined contribution plans and is considered the largest in the international pension plan market.

Based on the DCP members' survey and advice from ADB's consultant Willis Towers Watson as well as Jersey Trust Corporation plc, several changes to the DCP's fund range were made, resulting, among other changes, in increasing the number of funds available to members from 24 to 28. The inclusion of a Philippine Peso-denominated fund is still being explored. ■

## Health Matters

### Jill Gale de Villa

The Group Medical Insurance Plan Consultative Forum (GMCF), comprising representatives from BPMSD, Cigna, Staff Council, and AFE's Barbara Ejercito Palacios and Jill Gale de Villa met on 28 February. Thanks to the Chapter Coordinators and Health Committee Members, retiree-members' concerns were received and considered for inclusion at the GMCF.

**Cigna Presentation.** Slides presented data on

- claims reimbursements, which were higher than in 2021 but still lower than in 2020, likely reflecting continued reluctance to seek medical treatment that might entail exposure to COVID;
- continued growth of the stabilization fund, which helps prevent precipitous premium increases;
- members with COVID as the primary diagnosis, whose numbers rose from 262 for the last 9 months of 2020 to 2,348 for 2021, while reimbursements in PHP rose from over P18 million to nearly P60 million, and per person costs decreased from nearly \$1,400 to just over \$450 in the same periods;
- use of telehealth consultations (video and audio), which rose sharply with the onset of COVID; and
- Medicare use from 7/2020 to 10/2021, which had resulted in savings of about \$6 million to the plan.

(The above data do not include claims submitted in 2022 but applicable to 2021 expenses.)

In terms of meeting its service level agreements, of the 9 agreements listed, Cigna had met 6—(1) turn-around time for claims, (2 and 3) financial accuracy on claims in value terms and in terms of incidence, (4) telephone abandonment rate, (5) member satisfaction per Cigna's survey, and (6) turn-around time for e-mails. Not met were (1) incidence of procedural accuracy, (2) telephone response time, and (3) turn-around time for guarantees of payment.

AFE

- commented that it is urgent for Cigna to improve response time for telephone calls and guarantees of payment, which are essential services—Cigna noted they concur and are working on it;
- noted that while Cigna's survey showed satisfaction was still within the 80% target, it had dropped considerably over the year, from 89% to 85%, a trend that needs to be reversed; and
- asked which services members reported as being insufficiently satisfactory.



**GMIP Review.** BPMSD noted they are unifying the various plans. We will be watching to see how this might affect retirees.

AFE noted that

- for some years we have been asking what would be the cost of adding preventive care for retirees, who feel it is essential, yet BPMSD has not provided a response; and
- the introduction of flexibility in benefits to address wellness while decreasing emphasis on specific coverage inclusions and exclusions would benefit all, such as supporting home care when it is less costly than hospital care that would otherwise be required.

**Health and Wellness Planning for 2022.** Several activities are planned, some of which will be open to retiree participation. A health and wellness policy is being drafted. A week-long hybrid (in-person/digital) health, wellness, safety, and resilience week is planned for September, and other activities will be provided from time to time. Some will be open to retirees, and we will try to keep you updated on these.

**Other Business.** Staff Council and AFE raised several matters. AFE had received input from some chapter coordinators and members. AFE raised matters of general interest to members, including the following needs:

1. for Cigna's claims and settlement statements to be more easily searchable, so members can check the accuracy of settlements and of providers' submissions;
2. for Cigna to develop relationships with more hospitals in areas with many ADB/AFE clients;
3. for Cigna to adapt its processing practices to developing country capabilities;
4. for Cigna staff to always respond respectfully to elderly clients;
5. to cover some Ayurvedic treatments, given the large number of South Asian clients;
6. to facilitate recognizing when the stoploss has been reached so clients do not have to pay more and wait for reimbursements later; and
7. better claims handling to avoid asking for information already submitted and to be able to process data submitted.

Queries that could not be included at the GMCF due to time limits, not being policy matters, and/or not being of general concern were handled outside the meeting.

One item brought up with BPMSD subsequent to the meeting is, given that retirees' premiums are about three times those of staff, and our benefits are vastly less, and that our premiums are based on our usage—not the use of staff—any saving from retirees' use should be reserved for the benefit of retirees. ■

## Three Useful Insurance Examples

We normally hear the bad news first—when claims are denied or guarantees of payment are late, etc. Yet most of us have good experience with our insurance; this is what we expect, so it isn't "news." This box is not meant to be an apology for insurance errors, but it is worth sharing and having take-aways from some of the good experiences.

**1. Guarantee of payment.** A biopsy showed a skin sample to be malignant, and the dermatologist recommended further surgery. The client requested a guarantee of payment ("GOP") for the surgery and submitted a request. She then called Cigna because surgery was scheduled a few days hence, and the agent provided a reference number for her to send further information (the biopsy report and photos) and said he would have it fast-tracked. The GOP arrived within 24 hours.

- Take-away: If you need the GOP urgently, submit the request, follow through with a call, and send the justification for the need.

**2. Proof of cover.** A client needed proof of COVID coverage to travel, and was directed to the Summary Plan Description on the Cigna website, where he found what he needed.

- Take-away: Know your plan—the latest version is on the Cigna website (<https://www.cignahealthbenefits.com/en/plan-members/>).

**3. Rejection of coverage.** A client was denied coverage for surgery his doctor recommended, with the reason "not clinically recommended." The client discussed this with the doctor, who provided additional justification. On the basis of the new information, Cigna then agreed to cover the surgery.

- Take-away: Provide full information at the outset; if additional information is needed, discuss with your doctor and provide it.

That said, do keep us informed of instances where interactions with Cigna have been difficult and/or unduly lengthy. We can only assist in general when we are informed of the issues. ■



# Paying AFE through PayPal

Marilou Pasicolan

*Ed: AFE has established a PayPal account for members who wish to remit dues and other moneys to us. Malou provides the instructions, which have been edited from <https://wise.com/us/blog/how-to-pay-someone-with-paypal>*



You may now remit your dues and other payments through PayPal. Kindly add \$6 per transaction for PayPal's fee and inform us that you have done so by e-mailing [afe-adb@adb.org](mailto:afe-adb@adb.org) and [mpasicolan.contractor@adb.org](mailto:mpasicolan.contractor@adb.org). You may remit in US dollars or Philippine pesos.

## A. Sending Money through Your PayPal Account

You can make a payment to AFE easily using PayPal if you've received a money request or invoice from us. Or you can set up the payment yourself, to AFE's e-mail address ([afe-adb@adb.org](mailto:afe-adb@adb.org)). Here's how.

**Step 1: Start the payment.** If you've been **e-mailed an invoice or money request**, click on the "Pay now" button to get started. Depending on the device you're using, you might then be asked to log into your PayPal account before progressing.

If you need to start the payment yourself, you'll need to log into your PayPal account and then click the "Send and request" button.

**Step 2: Select whether you're making a personal or business payment.** If you're structuring the payment yourself, PayPal will ask you to confirm if you're paying for goods and services, or making a payment to a friend or family member. Remember, the fees and charges could be different for each service, so make sure you pick the right one for your needs.

**Step 3: Enter the details for the recipient:** [afe-adb@adb.org](mailto:afe-adb@adb.org).

**Step 4: Confirm the amount and currency.** For AFE, the currency must be USD or PHP. This is done using the drop-down boxes—just click on either of the two currencies.

**Step 5: Hit confirm, and choose a funding source.** Confirm that the payment has been entered correctly, and choose how you wish to pay. You can usually choose

between a few different funding sources at this stage—using PayPal balance, a linked bank account, or a credit or debit card.

**Step 6: Review the payment and you're done.**

Once you've added your funding source, you're more or less done. Click the button to confirm the payment, and you'll receive an e-mailed receipt showing the payment has been processed.

## B. Send Money through PayPal without an Account

To make a payment through PayPal without opening an account yourself, you'll have to ask AFE to send you an invoice or request. You'll then receive an e-mail with a "Pay now" button embedded in it. This is all you need to make the payment without opening a PayPal account yourself.

**Step 1: Click on "Pay now" in the e-mail you've received.** If you can not find the e-mail, check your spam folder.

**Step 2: Enter your credit or debit card details.**

You'll be given the option to open a PayPal account yourself and pay that way. If you don't want to do that, you just select the credit or debit card option and enter the details for the card you wish to use. Note that payments through PayPal using a credit or debit card are much more expensive than payments made using a PayPal account with balance or a linked bank account.

**Step 3: Confirm the payment.** Review the payment and make sure everything is in order. If it is, then click confirm and the payment will be processed. You'll receive an e-mailed receipt of your payment for your records.

For additional information see <https://www.paypal.com/hk/smarthelp/article/how-do-i-send-a-payment-through-paypal-faq1684>. ■

# 2022 Annual Meetings

**A**DB's Annual Meeting. On 23 February 2022 ADB announced that it will hold its 55th Annual Meeting 2022 in two stages. The first stage is the business session, to be held **virtually on Thursday, 5 May**. The second stage is a full-scale meeting on 5–8 September in Colombo, Sri Lanka.





Reclining Buddha, Polonnaruwa, Gal Vihara Rock. The entire Buddha is 14 meters long, and is one of four Buddhas at the temple. All four were carved from one granite rock in the 12th century. They are considered to be some of the best examples of ancient Sinhalese sculpting and carving arts.

**AFE’s Annual Meeting.** In concurrence with our Bylaws, AFE will hold two of our 36th Annual Meeting activities virtually during the week of 2 May 2022. The relevant section of the Bylaws is Article IV (Meeting of the Association), Section 1 (Annual Meeting):

*An annual meeting of the Association shall be held each year in conjunction with the annual meeting of ADB with support provided by ADB. The purposes of such an annual meeting include presenting operational and financial reports and transacting such other business as presented for the meeting in conformity with the provisions of these Bylaws.*

The two activities to be held in early May are (1) the coordinators meeting, and (2) the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

We will also endeavor to meet in Colombo, in coordination with ADB and our Sri Lanka Chapter. Details will be provided as they become available. ■

## Executive Committee

Stephen P. Groff—Chairman  
 Alfredo E. Pascual—President  
 Jill Gale de Villa—Vice President  
 Nannette Guinto-Amorado—Treasurer  
 Teresa Samson Montesa—Secretary  
 Administrative Staff—Malou Pasicolan and Alona Miral

Join AFE-ADB HQ Facebook page for up-to-date information. This page is for members and spouses/partners only.

## Standing Committees

### Insurance Committee

Jill Gale de Villa—Head	Fred Mesch
Francois Ausseil	Barbara Palacios
Ted Breckner	Anne Sweetser
Bernard Donge	Axel Weber
Julia Holz	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
Stephen Banta	Fred Pascual
Gamaliel de Armas, Jr.	Hans-Juergen Springer
Guia Estabillo	Marissa Wenceslao
Nannette Guinto-Amorado	Judy Yñiguez
Julia Holz	Wickie Zveglic
Anna Juico	

## Chapter Coordinators

Australia—Keith Leonard  
 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—Cheolsu Kim  
 New Zealand—Eric Gordon Fox  
 Pakistan—Shahida Jaffrey  
 Philippines—Gamaliel de Armas, Jr.  
     East Group—Marietta Domingo, Luz Tolarbas  
     North Group—Rosalia Baeza, Maria Luisa Baleva, Aileen Francisco, Vic Rivero  
     South Group—Teresita Ablaza, Carmen Bontia, Marynella Cruz, Ofelia Sta. Ana  
     West Group—Sally Mabaquiao  
 Singapore—Claire Wee  
 Sri Lanka—Sarath Lashkman Athukorala  
 United States: New York–New Jersey—Lorna del Rosario  
 United States: Southern California—May Seron-Tigas  
 United States: Washington, DC—Frederick Roche

# Chapter News

## Southern California

### May Seron-Tigas (ADB 1981–1986)



After a long silence due to the coronavirus global pandemic, we, members of the AFE-ADB Southern California Chapter, have agreed to resume our get-together activities even just once a year. So, I reached out to my friends in this part of the world to keep our spirits alive for the 2021 holidays. However, our

numbers have gone down tremendously due to retirement, illnesses, proximity, and the overt effects of COVID-19. Who was I to coordinate in order to rekindle our friendship and camaraderie?

It appears everyone was hiding in their cocoons for safety, for fear of catching the virus that has killed millions since the first quarter of 2020. Ah, there was Pura Gutierrez, Letty Liong-Gomez, Yolanda Laurel, Yolanda Bravo, Ruby Tuazon, William Tamidles, and Filonila Martin, who were at arms' length to reconnect with. Alas, the date and venue were set at such short notice.

Date: Sunday, 5 December 2021

Place: Mile Square Regional Park, a beautiful oasis in the heart of Orange County

Time: 12:30–3:30 pm

A million thanks to Pura Gutierrez, whose unconditional love for our Chapter triggered her to act fast to support me in organizing the event. For the first time, after supporting every chairman in the previous years, I stepped in as Chairman of our 2021 year-end get-together and took the position of new Chapter Coordinator representing Southern California. I was fired up, and sensing my eagerness to make it happen, Pura couldn't say "no" to my request for assistance. She was with me every step of the way to arrange the venue, the food, the goodies and some sweet surprises. We chose a recreation park to enjoy nature and to

maintain social distance. Social distancing, really? To be honest, we were just too excited to see each other again that hugging became inevitable.

Our family members joined us in what we consider the smallest gathering ever in the history of the AFE-ADB SoCal Chapter. Since it was the Christmas Season, we dressed up in multi colors to brighten up our spirits. In attendance, May Seron-Tigas and Moises Tigas, Pura Gutierrez, Dave Sy and James Sy, Yolanda Laurel Houtby and James Houtby, Ruby Tuazon, Yolanda Bravo and Hermie Bravo, William Tamidles, and Letty Liong-Gomez. We were enough to create noise; have fun, laughter, and a little dancing lesson; and share stories to catch up with the lost time. And oh, our fur babies were excited as well.

We parted ways carrying 85 Degrees pastries, bibingka, wine, and a beautiful scarf for the ladies—Pura's surprise for our holidays. Oh, and my dear hubby brought moringa cuttings for everyone to propagate.

The AFE-ADB SoCal Chapter agrees to continue the tradition that we started way back in 2010. In the meantime, we will streamline our get-together to one activity per year, which we will hold in broad daylight. Our next year-end gathering is tentatively scheduled for 4 December 2022, for a Sunday lunch.

In Pura's words, "We do not know when we, ourselves, will step down. We should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel in this life. You can't do much about the length of your life ... but you can do a lot about its depth and width."

I continue to pray that this global pandemic will be over soon and that our members who are sick be healed. My innermost thanks to each one of you for all your support. Mabuhay ang SoCal Chapter! ■



Members and family, l-r: James Houtby, Yolanda Laurel Houtby, Herman Bravo, Yolanda Bravo, Moises Tigas, May Seron-Tigas, Ruby Tuazon, William Tamidles, Pura Gutierrez.



# New York/New Jersey

Lorna del Rosario (ADB 1994–2000)



Author (right) with Margie Baccay at the Planting Fields Arboretum.

**Living the New Normal and Going Hybrid.** As the cliché goes—Life goes on! With everyone having had the full dose of the COVID vaccine plus booster, there was no stopping the Chapter’s Ex-Com and a few chapter members from finding time to rejuvenate from COVID fatigue via short trip adventures and to hold the Chapter Reunion in September 2021.

**Spring.** We took a day trip to **Sands Point Preserve** on the original Guggenheim Estate, which embodies the grandeur and elegance that define the Gold Coast period of the early 20th century along the Long Island Sound; and appreciated the spring bloom in the **Planting Fields Arboretum** in Oyster Bay and the rows of tulips at the **Tulip Festival** in Waterdrinker, Long Island and the line of **Cherry blossom** trees in Branch Brook, New Jersey.



Preserve, l-r: Mila Simolde, Lorna del Rosario, Nena Villena Tañedo, Margie Baccay.

**Summer.** A three-day stay at **Eagle Rock Resort** in Pennsylvania allowed us some hiking, golf, and indoor fun

activities and to try our luck in the slot machines in **Atlantic City**, New Jersey.

**Fall.** A favorite season, so the group drove to **Cold Spring, New York** to enjoy the foliage, a stroll in **the Main Street**, and a side trip to nearby **Croton Dam Reservoir** for its breathtaking scenic water views. We took a trip to **Virginia** where we had fun at the **Busch Gardens**, strolled around **Riverlanding Marina State Park**, **Gray’s Creek**, and **Surry**, and had wine tasting at the **Williamsburg Winery**. We had an amazing visit to **Luray Caverns** in Virginia, where we stood in awe looking at the cavern system adorned with speleothems such as columns, mud flows, stalactites, stalagmites, flowstone, and mirrored pools. And we made a surprise discovery of the beautiful **Unthemyer Gardens**, a public park in Yonkers, New York.



Caverns, l-r: Mila Simolde, Lorna del Rosario, Nena Villena Tañedo.



Unthemyer Gardens: Margie Baccay, Lorna del Rosario, and Chat Cortes.

**Yearender.** For the second consecutive year, the continuing pandemic saga has compelled changes in the way the September chapter reunion was held. Mindful of the health protocols against large group gatherings, yet still wanting to keep that spirit of bonding, the Executive Committee decided to organize a simpler, small group event. Perhaps attuning ourselves to the new normal concepts, we had a **hybrid** event for the first time. We started to meet up for lunch reserved at the outdoor patio of **Dirty Taco and Tequila** and then proceeded to a nearby rented private residence in Long Island, New York for a swimming pool party.

While five colleagues withdrew at the last minute, we still ended up with 15 participants including spouses, slightly higher than the attendance in 2020. Expectedly and regardless of the number, the group had fun with the usual games and prizes, dancing, and of course a good table spread of snacks/drinks/early dinner even after a filling



NY/NJ Annual Reunion, l-r: Florence Rafulowitz, Mila Simolde, Juliet Capati, Al Capati, Lorna and Al del Rosario, Romeo and Margie Baccay, Frank and Delia Berena, Don and Chato O'Buckey, and Ditas Oliveros.

lunch at Dirty Taco. The pool was so inviting, but we were drawn more to just relaxing in the patio chairs and laughing almost to tears from reminiscing about cherished ADB stories and jokes, with each one trying to top the other.

We continue to appreciate the financial support, and our hope remains high that 2022 will be a better year for all of us! ■

## Japan

### Kazu Sakai (ADB 1987–2014)



Year 2021 was another year of COVID-19. We were not able to hold the reunion that was originally planned for 2020.

The year ended with the sad news of President Fujioka's passing. At the AFE–ADB cocktail reception in Yokohama in 2017, Mr. Fujioka had said he was there to bid farewell to us. He would have probably meant that, at his

age it would be difficult to attend ADB's annual meetings in other countries and when the next turn for Japan to host comes, he would not be there anymore. So, I thought those who lived in Japan would still have a chance to see him. In fact, had not there been the COVID-19 crisis, we would have met him at the 2020 reunion. It is sad that the situation did not allow us.

We also lost two other prominent members in 2021—Professor Yuzo Akatsuka and Ambassador Robert “Skipp” Orr.

After leaving ADB in 1988, Akatsuka-sensei (sensei is how we refer with veneration to our teachers and

prominent experts) became a professor at Tokyo University and paved the way for a collaboration program between the university and ADB. Under this program, every year a few PhD candidates spend 6 months at ADB preparing their doctoral dissertations on subjects related to development.

Ambassador Orr, or Skipp as we fondly called him, represented the United States (US) on ADB's Board of Directors from 2011 to 2015. He spent many years in Japan as a businessman and academic, and left footprints in the US-Japan friendship.

Like Skipp, several foreign nationals are members of the Japan Chapter. You read about the biking adventures of Richard Bolt in the last issue of *AFE News*. In this issue, Michael Barrow narrates his travel and life in Niigata. Similarly, there are Japanese members who are residing in other countries. ADB colleagues seem to remain cosmopolitan even in retirement.

I close this short chapter news hoping for the end of the COVID-19 crisis and the realization of the reunion that has remained postponed. ■

## Canada

### Bruce Murray (ADB 1980–2007)



Because of COVID, AFE Canada held no in-person activities during the second half of 2021.

Canadians experienced periodic restrictions throughout that year, depending on the ebbs and flows of COVID. Canada has done well on the COVID vaccination front. As of January

2022, 88% of Canadians aged 5+ had received one COVID shot (nearly all Pfizer or Moderna) and 82% had received 2 shots. Children 5–11 were eligible to receive COVID vaccinations on 27 November 2021, and by mid-December 40% had received one shot. About 35% of Canadians had received boosters, starting with the oldest.

Despite the high vaccination rates, Canada experienced a sharp Omicron surge beginning in December. Most affected people who were fully vaccinated experienced relatively mild symptoms. The risks of severe outcomes were much higher for the unvaccinated, accounting for less than 20% of the eligible population but 77% of COVID-related hospitalizations and 75% of COVID-related deaths.

**Oktoberfest.** On 31 October 2021, Toronto AFE organized a Zoom Oktoberfest. The theme was “SAWA” or “We are tired,” reflecting the general sentiment about COVID's impact. Carmen and Ike Bontia, Nikki Duterte, Lea





Gojo, Precy Lizarondo, Nida Rodrigo Jugo and Tito Jugo, Bernadette Santa Maria, Carmen Perez, and Lindy and Mike Trabulsi attended the event, which was hosted by Adam Trabulsi. All were encouraged to “bring their own baon,” share memories of ADB, and talk about how they were spending COVID lockdowns.

**Christmas Zoom.** Most Canadians are very weary of COVID and long to get back to a normal life. A total of 16 AFEers attended the Canadian AFE Christmas Zoom on 16 December 2021: Kathleen Dietrich (formerly Moktan), Guia Estabillo, Brian Fawcett, Lea Gojo, Sharon Henry, Alex Jorgensen, Farrokh and Rita Kapadia, Claire Lewis, Kimlin Lim, Peter Maertens, Bruce Murray, John and Jeanette Rive, Nida Rodrigo, and Jill de Villa from Manila. The Zoom, hosted by Kathleen, lasted for 2 hours so all participants had a good opportunity to interact, exchange experiences during the second year of COVID, and share fond memories of our time in ADB. Once again Farrokh and Rita Kapadia won the John Cole memorial quiz.

The business portion of the meeting covered: (1) remembrance of the 35 AFEers who passed away in 2021, including three Canadians—Aimee Maertens, wife of Peter Maertens; Allan Barry, former Canadian Executive Director; and Yang Weimin; (2) economic forecasts and COVID

in the Asia and Pacific Region; (3) the COVID situation in the Philippines; (4) ADB operations including the December approval of a \$250 million loan for the Philippines to purchase 40 million additional COVID-19 vaccine doses and a \$175 million loan to finance

three bridges over the Marikina River to help relieve traffic congestion; (5) restrictions on entry to ADB Headquarters, including that AFE Manila staff could not enter Headquarters for most of 2021; (6) the good ADB support for staff during COVID, including arranging to vaccinate staff, dependents, consultants, and contractors; flexible work-from-home policies, proactive information sharing, and ADB’s health and wellness month in September, which featured many webinars; and (7) Canada and ADB. In January 2022 a more detailed report on ADB and AFE developments during the second half of 2021 was e-mailed to all AFE Canada chapter members.

Attendees appreciated the fact Jill de Villa participated via Zoom and briefed the meeting on AFE Manila developments and online work, particularly related to pensions and health insurance issues. The Canadian AFE Chapter appreciated the work and support of the AFE Manila staff during COVID. ■





# Australia

Keith Leonard (ADB 2001–2011)



For a second year in a row, we had to cancel the 2021 annual Australian Chapter Reunion. It was to be held in Adelaide, South Australia in October with Stephen Baker as the host. Since Stephen had gallantly attempted to organise this reunion twice

without success, we decided to pass the baton to the next state in our rotation for 2022, hopefully coming back to Stephen in the future.

**Planning for October.** Our plan is for a reunion of the whole chapter in October 2022, to be organised by Con Pappas and others in New South Wales. A straw poll at our AGM indicated a preference for the rural town of Dubbo out of the two options presented (the other being the more touristy Byron Bay). Dubbo is a rural town of about 40,000



New South Wales held a reunion brunch in the restaurant of the Long Reef Golf Club on Wednesday 24 November 2021, commencing at 10:30 am, hosted by Viv Vivekanda and Peter Carroll. L-r, back row: Louis Wong, Doug Ferguson, Cristina Ferguson, Vivekananda (Viv), Peter Carroll, Roger Weir, Alex Gordevich, Robert Montgomery; front row: Tshyu Wong, Chân Carroll, Margaret Weir, Lynne Gordevich, Beth Montgomery.

people 300 kilometers northwest of Sydney. Indigenous Australians have inhabited the area for over 40,000 years. John Oxley was the first European to report on the area, in 1818. The Dulhunty brothers from England occupied an 11,000 hectare property known as Dubbo Station in 1828 (thanks to Wikipedia for this information). Access to Dubbo is via road, scenic rail trip, or flying to Dubbo City Regional Airport. The Taronga Western Plains Zoo is home to 4,000 animals of about 350 species. The Wellington Caves and Phosphate Mine is a popular tourist attraction as is the heritage-listed Old Dubbo Gaol, which among other things has Australia's largest collection of hangman's knots! Meanwhile the Western Plains Cultural Centre has a gallery and museum. We also hope to visit the gallery and sculpture gardens of local Bret Mon Garling and, if possible, his foundry with brass sculptures being created. Con tells me that the now traditional events of a golf "tournament" and barefoot bowls will be included in the program. We are certainly looking forward to being able to gather as a chapter again.

**State-wise Events in 2021.** In 2021, in place of an annual Australia-wide get-together, 3 states and territories organized individual events. State borders were closed for much of 2021 and there were extended lockdowns in some states. Queensland held a reunion lunch in October at the Edgewater Restaurant on the Isle of Capri near Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast. Paul Turner and Phil Young were the hosts, and a very good time was had by all. New South Wales held a reunion brunch at the Long Reef Golf Club in November organized by hosts Viv Vivekanda and Peter Carroll. Again, this was enjoyed by all who attended. The Australian Capital Territory held its reunion lunch at the Royal Canberra Golf Club, hosted by Andrew Proctor and Peter Carroll—a happy reunion with



The Queensland Chapter of the AFE-ADB held their reunion lunch on 8 October at Edgewater Dining and Lounge in Via Roma, Isle of Capri, Surfers Paradise, Queensland, with views to the ocean. It was hosted by Paul Turner and Phil Young.



The Australian Capital Territory held a well-attended luncheon at the Royal Canberra Golf Course on Friday 3 December 2021, hosted by Andrew Proctor and Peter Carroll. L-r, back row: Jack Price, John Ling, Wouter Vochteloo, Dereck Rooker-Smith, Peter McCawley, Susanna Price, Peter Hodge, Andrew Proctor; front row: John and Anne Whittle, Ann Proctor, Chân Carroll, Peter Carroll, and Jennifer Hodge.

lots of reminiscing and discussion about ADB days and life in general.

In 2020, the AGM of the Australian Chapter was conducted by e-mail, but in 2021 we got a bit more adventurous. With the help of HQ colleagues, we held an AGM by Zoom on 25 October, with 24 participants. As is traditional, we started the meeting with a minute’s silence for AFE members who had passed away in the year, including one of our own, Joe Rajaratnam.

President Fred Pascual gave participants an excellent briefing followed by a discussion. I reported that the chapter had 121 members on the mailing list—16 in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), 41 in Queensland, 30 in New South Wales (NSW), 19 in Victoria (VIC), 2 in Western Australia (WA), and 10 overseas. It is clear that, like many older Australians, many ADB retirees migrate to the warmer climate of Queensland. Our Deputy Coordinator and Treasurer, Peter Carroll, presented the financial report, and we thank Peter for many years of keeping the chapter solvent.

The following were elected as chapter officers, with former chapter coordinator Paul Turner serving as returning officer.

- Coordinator: incumbent Keith Leonard, re-elected
- Deputy Coordinator: incumbent Peter Carroll, re-elected
- Treasurer: incumbent Peter Carroll, re-elected
- Secretary: incumbent Susan Kerr, re-elected

- Queensland rep: Rita O’Sullivan, elected
- NSW rep: incumbent Con Pappas, re-elected
- VIC rep: incumbent Wendy Duncan, re-elected
- ACT rep: incumbent Andrew Proctor, re-elected
- WA rep: incumbent Stephen Baker, re-elected

The AGM concluded with two excellent presentations by chapter members. The first was by Deborah Stokes, former ADB vice-president who retired in January 2021. Like many of us, Deborah recounted her huge challenge of having to sing and dance at end-of-year events! More seriously, and of great interest, was her report on ADB’s internal response to COVID and the dramatic changes this brought about to the way staff worked. Since leaving ADB, Deborah has become a Board Member of the Australian Chapter of Transparency International.

The second presentation was by Peter McCawley on his new book *ADB in Indonesia*. This is a follow-on from his earlier book on the history of ADB. His new book looks at economic development in Indonesia, the role of the international donor community in the country, and ADB’s role within that community. Copies of the book can be obtained from the author at pmccawley@gmail.com.

**Back to 2022.** While we certainly expect to return to a physical AGM this year at a countrywide reunion, the success of the Zoom meeting may lead us to consider a hybrid meeting in 2022, as an online meeting does allow participation of members who can’t travel to the annual reunion. ■





# People, Places, and Passages

## Message from Former ADB President

Takehiko Nakao (2013–2019)



President and Mrs. Nakao at a Noh theater. Mrs. Nakao in her “kimono debut”—her first time wearing kimono.

Dear Members and Family Members of AFE,

It has been 2 years since I left Manila on 17 January 2020, the day following my resignation as ADB President. At that moment, although I was worried about the departure from the Philippines due to the abrupt eruption of Taal Volcano several days earlier, I did not expect at all, like all others, that the world would be embroiled in a pandemic crisis that has lasted ever since.

I feel very sorry for those suffering and having lost loved ones from this pandemic including those among

AFE. At the same time, I have been encouraged by the serious and important efforts of ADB under the leadership of President Asakawa to help countries to respond to this global health crisis. I appreciate the hard work of staff and support of their families in the difficult situations to themselves.

I, my wife Asako, and our two sons are all well in Tokyo. I work at Mizuho Research and Technologies as Chairman of the Institute. I also teach international finance and Asian development history as visiting professor at the National Graduate Institute of Public Studies (GRIPS) and Graduate School of Public Policies at Tokyo University. I often write articles, upload YouTube video dialogues with scholars, join conferences, and occasionally am a guest on TV news programs. I also enjoy playing tennis and golf in addition to listening to classical and jazz music.

Fortunately, the situation in Japan has been better than in most other countries (about 18,500 deaths and 2.3 million infections as of January 2022). People have not faced lockdowns and never encountered difficulty shopping although restaurants, transport, and tourism as well as doctors, nurses, and other essential workers have had a very difficult time. It is lucky that schools have been kept open, except that college classes have mostly been online. But since the beginning of 2022 the infection has increased dramatically again due to the Omicron variant, which is worrying although death and hospitalization rates are lower than with previous variants.

I hope the global situation will improve soon and that sufficient help will be provided to affected people. I also pray for the early opportunity to meet our AFE friends at ADB annual meetings and other events. Meanwhile, let's stay healthy and remain encouraged.

Best regards, Takehiko Nakao ■



# Nomads in Niigata

Michael Barrow (ADB 2003–2021)



The author and his wife Makoto, near the shore, toasting the completion of their campervan.

We had long been looking forward to retirement, believing the world would be our oyster and we would settle into a lifestyle of global nomads. Then came the coronavirus and, rather than the oyster, we got the pearl. Namely the chance to settle in and really explore northern Japan.

The pandemic was disruptive for all of us, and it messed around with our plans, too. First, it led to a 9-month delay in my eventual retirement date (ADB management asked me to hang around to help deal with the business impacts of the first wave of the pandemic, and then until my replacement was recruited and ready to join). Second, it led to the change of lifestyle plan.

The long-held retirement ideal was to transition into a wonderful life of diving, skiing, cycling, trekking, kayaking, photographing, and exploring the globe. At least for the first few years.

And in a way we have stuck with that plan. Except that the world has been narrowed down for now to my wife's native land of Japan and particularly to her furusato, the snow country of Niigata.

But if one is to be geographically restricted, then this is one great area to be limited to. These first 12 months of retirement have been a ball, and I have become an enormous fan of Niigata and the north.

**Home on Wheels.** A big part of the plan and the pleasure of these last months has been the creation of our new mini-home. We bought a second-hand Toyota Hiace van and hand-crafted (most of the planning and execution due to my wife, Makoto) a campervan with wooden ceilings, super comfortable double bed, retractable table, and basic kitchen.

And we hit the road.

We can fit bicycles inside the van, skis under the bed, trekking gear in between, and much more. And Japan is the absolutely perfect place to explore in this way. We sleep in our van at michi-no-eki roadside stations, which are super safe, have the cleanest toilets I have ever seen anywhere in the world, and have free parking plus shops and restaurants with local specialties; and some even have public baths (or even natural hot springs in places). One I saw last week even has its own ski lift and slope! And these heavenly spots are dotted throughout Japan, not on the highways, but on the regular road network.

We have slept happily in the mountains, by the beach, next to lakes, and among the enormous forests of these northern climes, sampling the famed persimmons, apples, figs, melons, and pears, just to name some of the fruit, often bought direct from the farmers.



Evening toast looking out at the Sea of Japan near Sasagawanagare from inside our campervan.

**Niigata.** Although we have toured, skied, and scuba dived in Hokkaido and the whole of the North of Honshu (plus trips to Okinawa, Ogasawara, and Kyoto), my special affection is for Niigata.

First, the mountains. For close on half the year we ski (last year we slid down Niigata slopes from December to May), and the other half we trek, sleeping in our van or in the stunning, and delicious, ryokan inns.



Mount Kakuda.



Kayaking along the coast of the Japan Sea at Sasagawanagare.



Our traveling home among the rice fields.



The famous "sticky rice ball" fish of Sado Island, which is less than 1 centimeter long.

Second, the rice plains. Below the mountains and all the way to the sea, Niigata is a vast expanse of flat, wind-groomed fields that turn from green to gold to white as the seasons unfold. And of course this means the best rice and saké (and sticky rice desserts and senbei crackers...) in Japan (no arguing please, in Niigata we are very sure of this).

Third, the ocean. The rugged, wind-whipped Sea of Japan that crashes against carved cliffs and broad beaches and creates a little-known diving Mecca.



Snow at the summit of Mount Yahiko.

And that brings me to my fourth favorite, the Island of Sado. Always mysterious and once a place of banishment and forced labor in the famed gold and copper mines, Sado has become a favorite get-away spot. From unspoiled rural lifestyles, to the Kodo drummers playing at home in the village hall, to flame-lit Noh theater played in a local temple, to trekking up and skiing down (yes, Sado has its own ski resort) its mountains, Sado has more than almost any outsider knows of. And that is without mentioning the superb seafood.

But most of all for us it is about the scuba diving. We sometimes come to Sado for a day trip of diving (the ferry takes 2 hours from Niigata City one way) and often stay longer. We have dived when the snow was falling and the sea was 10°C, and we have dived when it is as warm as the Philippine winter seas.

And among all the manner of creatures to be seen, our two favorites are the renowned *kobudai* (Asian sheepshead wrasse), a big and incredibly friendly fish, and the super cute and fingernail-size dangou (sticky rice ball fish, a species of lumpfish). I have been diving for 40 years, and Sado rates highly among our world favorite spots.





Cycling near our new plot of land.

**Settling Down.** Those are but a few of the delights of Niigata. I could have talked about the cute but mystifying local dialects, the incredibly nice people, and the cultural history (look up Ryokan-san), but enough said. If you don't don't know Niigata, you should visit, soon.

I will finally mention that I like it so much that I have persuaded my wife to agree to build our main base here in Niigata. And so, after a long search we have recently bought a plot of land with views across paddy fields and the coastal mountains, just a short drive from Niigata's most famous shrine, Yahiko, where we were married some 15 years ago. The architect has been hired, plans finalized, and the building will start as soon as the snows melt.

Then I will buy a big bike and hopefully join Richard Bolt on one of his biking escapades around this glorious country. ■



Autumn in the mountains.



# Meeting My Father

Albertine Santi (ADB 1970–1997)



**9** June 2021. Sun City, Summerlin, Las Vegas, Nevada. Today is the day! My Jenny is driving and she checks on me every so often. Are you OK, Mom? Are you excited now? Interstate 15 never looked so good—my highway to long-imagined hugs and smiles and tears of joy. Hugs happening really soon. I am meeting my father for the first time.

I am 75. He is 97.

Fast forward to Summerlin and into the arms of my Dad. It felt so good hugging my father, feeling the reassuring pats on my back, hearing him say it's OK, it's OK, you are here now. Everything felt right.

I celebrated many firsts in Vegas. It was the first time Dad made me coffee, toasted and creamed my bagel. It was the first time he was beside me watching me unpack. It was the first time to see his face light up as he opened his presents. It was my first time to sleep on his bed. We both love crossword puzzles, game shows, boxing, and books. It was the first time I gave him a massage and he said "Ah, I'm in hog heaven!"

He taught me how to play poker, when to push, when to stop. He ate little but he loved sweets. He was so happy to see his fridge full of cupcakes sent by my friend from Oklahoma. He was never fat. Dad was the total package of a wonderful, well-read, drop-dead-gorgeous guy.



**Manila, 1945.** He was a soldier, much younger than Mom. Mom was a very lovely Filipina dentist. Theirs was not a story of carry-your-books to school. It was carry-your-dental-equipment to the clinic and back. Soldiers go home when the war is over, or when they get sick. He had malaria. He had to leave. Age, malaria, and circumstances did not sit well together, so please

do not get too excited. He went home.

Years passed. I don't know how long. Dad never knew there was me until someone told him "Do you know you left a kid in Manila?" And so the search began.

## Fast Forward, 2021.

We are now in the age of dot coms.

*23 and Me*, the Ancestry site, happened. Perhaps the heavens connived. Perhaps it was time to meet. Two of Dad's grandchildren were surfing the net, hoping to find someone with the same DNA. My Jenny asked "Do you by any chance have a relative by the name of Albert Weiner?"

The girl on the other end replied:

"Yes, that's my Poppop!"—their term of endearment for grandpa. And that was when the OMG moment happened. Everything went crazy since then.

We spent months of saying hellos and I love yous. I flew to the US and was in and out of Vegas from June to August 2021. Those were the happiest times of my life. There was so much love and joy around us. Finally, Family!

I got a complete package—I had Dad, 2 brothers, 2 sisters-in-law, 2 nieces each from them, and cousins too. My children were overjoyed.

We were happy for some time exchanging messages, visiting Vegas, Austin, and Dallas, enjoying Zoom chats, saying I love you quite often, until Dad's health deteriorated in December. He lost a lot of weight but he was still fighting. He said perhaps he was given that long life to find us. He was proud of us. We were blessed to have him.

I felt he was leaving. I recorded a "Hello, Dad" message and said "Goodnight." Not goodbye. I don't know if he played it.

We lost him on the 11th of January, 2022.

Dad had served in the Army Air Corps in WWII from 1942 to 1945 as a radio operator and aerial gunner, flying in B-24 Liberator bombers in the South Pacific. He had a long and successful career in the steel industry in Los Angeles and was Vice President of Kaiser Steel Tubing prior to his retirement in 1989.

Farewell my father, my soldier. ■



## Back to the Park

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



The Kaeng Krachan National Park has reopened after being closed for COVID-19 for several months. One's temperature is taken at the entrance and one is supposed to wear a mask while inside the park. (I was scolded by a ranger for neglecting to wear my mask while walking along a trail in the rainforest!) Many nearby resorts and restaurants remain closed, however, and

there are many COVID-19 checkpoints on the main roads leading to Kaeng Krachan. There are few Thai tourists and virtually no foreign visitors. As a result, the park is practically deserted much of the time, and wildlife is more easily seen.

With great pleasure, therefore, I have resumed my frequent visits to the park. Most of the photographs here were taken after the park reopened. The picture of the juvenile king cobra, however, was taken near my house a few kilometers from the park. I have also seen my first leopard and Asian black bear, but the photos are not included due to quality issues.

The rangers at the park have taken advantage of the closure to make a number of improvements. My favorite is the new "vanilla nature trail," which parallels a stream for about 2 kilometers through the rain forest. It is named for the profusion of wild vanilla orchids that bloom on tree branches nearby. The entrance to the trail is marked by a sign that has been destroyed three times by wild elephants, which apparently do not approve of it. ■



Asian barred owlet (*Glaucidium cuculoides*). A fairly common resident of deep forests, this little owlet is diurnal, unlike most owls, making it much easier to observe.



Orange-headed thrush (*Zosterops citrina*). Shy and crepuscular, this species is seldom seen while it is resident in Thailand only during the winter.



Emerald dove (*Chalcophaps indica*). This beautiful dove is often seen in small groups hunting for seeds on the forest floor.





Rustic butterfly (*Cupha erymanthis*).  
This species is frequently seen in primary rain forest, especially in clearings near streams.



Orange-banded pine moth (*Milionia basalis*).  
This brightly colored moth is diurnal and is easily seen because of its brilliant colors. It lives around the forest edge.



Grey-bordered yellow looper (*Celerena signata*).  
This is a diurnal moth found in forest clearings and along roadsides.

Black-naped monarch (*Hypothymis azurea*).  
A very common little bird, it lives in  
deciduous forests and often travels in small  
brilliantly colored flocks.



Hainan blue flycatcher (*Cyornis glaucicomans*). A winter visitor to Thailand. It is found in lightly and heavily forested areas.



Triangle keelback (*Xenochrophis trianguligera*). This fairly common partially aquatic snake was basking on a log near a stream in primary rain forest.



Water monitor lizard (*Varanus salvator*). This species is extremely common throughout Thailand. It is an excellent swimmer and tends to live near fresh water.



Juvenile king cobra (*Ophiophagus Hannah*). Thailand's largest venomous snake is found in forested and inhabited areas. It can reach 5 meters long. This juvenile was discovered on my front lawn.



Horned tree lizard (*Acanthosaura armata*). This species lives mostly in primary rainforests. It is often seen perched on a tree trunk.

# A Twitch in Time

Christian Perez (ADB 1980–2006)



**Rare Sighting.** On Saturday 22 January, a bird photographer posted on Facebook a picture of a bird I had never seen in the Philippines: a black drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*. The most surprising part of the post was that the picture was taken in a vacant grassy area in Las Piñas, about 20 minutes’ drive from where I live. As an avid birder I immediately felt the urge to “twitch.”

Twitching is a British term used to mean the pursuit of a previously located rare bird. Essentially it is used when a birder drops all current activities to go to the site as soon as possible and see the rare bird before it moves on. In my past 12 years as a birdwatcher, I have twitched quite a few rarities in the Philippines. I went on an overnight trip to Laoag, Ilocos Norte to see a rare slaty-backed gull in 2013, and flew to GenSan in Mindanao to watch a pair of spotted kestrel in 2016, the first record of that species in the country.

This time it was just 20 minutes away, so on Sunday January 23 at 6 am before coffee and breakfast I drove to Las Piñas and met a few other twitchers in a grassy area near a mall called Vista Global South. We waited patiently for the bird to show, and walked in the whole area that includes some wetland overgrown with reeds (a surprising sight just behind the SM Sucat Mall). At around 8:30 am I had to leave without having seen the bird because of another commitment and an empty stomach. When home I received messages from my fellow birders that the bird was seen around 9 am. I had “dipped” (another British term, used when a twitcher fails to spot the target bird).

**The Black Drongo.** Before I continue the story, a few words about the species. The black drongo is a small passerine (about half of all birds are passerines). It is all black with a long, deeply forked tail. Male and female

are alike. It is a resident of tropical southern Asia including southwest Iran, India, and southern People’s Republic of China, with minor migratory movements north and south of that range.

There are also local resident

populations in Java and Taipei, China. It is a “vagrant” in Japan and the Philippines (a vagrant is a bird seen away from its normal migration route for reasons not always well understood). This was the seventh time it was reported in the Philippines since it was first recorded in 2001. A very rare bird indeed in the country and a prize for any birder. I had seen the species in Taipei, China a few years ago, but never in the Philippines.

**Success.** The next morning, Monday 24 January, I went back to the site, this time a bit later and with a full stomach, and met another group of about 10 birders there. One of them had seen and photographed the bird at 8 am, so I knew it was still around. We waited patiently again and at around 10 am one of us signaled the others that the bird was there, perched on a small acacia tree in the middle of the grass about 70 meters away. We grabbed our binoculars and watched with excitement. Birders know that the first sight of a new species remains vividly imprinted in their memory forever. We took a few safety shots (pictures taken quickly from a distance to make sure the sighting is documented), then started to walk slowly together to get closer views, until we were too close for the bird’s comfort and it flew further away to a bamboo clump.

By 10:30 am we all left the site with a big smile on our faces, a smile that would linger for the rest of the day. ■



Black drongo, a rare sighting in the Philippines: Las Piñas, morning of 24 January 2022. Photograph by Christian Perez.



Black drongo, Mangaon, Raigad, Maharashtra, India. Photograph by Shantanu Kuveskar, background cropped. Use permitted under Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license. This may not be the same subspecies as that photographed by the author.



# Jederitz

Hans-Juergen Springer (ADB 1972–2002)



Fieldwork Team, l-r: the author, Guenther Hecker, Peter Christian Darjes, Joachim Kirchhoff.

**J**ederitz—a tiny speck on the flatlands of rural northeastern Germany. Nearest train station: 13 kilometers away. Nearest airport: Berlin, 133 kilometers away. Population: 140. No grocer, no bank branch, not even a pub, but a red-brick church built in 1874. Why on earth would four well-travelled AFE members get together at this forlorn place on a chilly, gloomy weekend in November?

## “Fieldwork”—Visiting the Gentleman Farmer.

Well, because one of them, Joachim Kirchhoff, became a gentleman farmer in Jederitz on 40 hectares of agriculture, pasture, and forestland after his career as a professional forester. The land and the red brick house were in family hands until the East German government turned it over “to the people” in 1945. Come German unification in 1990, the land was given back to the Kirchhoff family. Joachim decided that he had seen enough of the world and withdrew to Jederitz to manage the property. He modernized the family home dating back to 1876. Now, in 2021, the home also includes three B&B units.



Plaque on the Kirchhoff family home.

That’s where we got together—Peter Christian Darjes, Guenter Hecker, Hans-Juergen Springer and the gentleman farmer Joachim. After initial the hulloos, hugs, how did you get through the pandemic, and how many COVID-19 shots have you had, this occasion needed, for sure, social lubrication, and there was plenty of it as Joachim keeps a keg of beer in the basement of his house, stored at an even temperature in summer and winter.

Next day, on a frosty morning that required clearing the car windshield of the ice that had built up during the night, I went to the bakery in the nearby town of Havelberg to buy freshly baked delicious German bread rolls, while Joachim went out to feed his free-range chickens and collect some eggs for an omelet for breakfast.



Kirchhoff sheep herd.



Kirchhoff angus cattle.

**The Farm.** It so happened that the sky was clearing up when we went out on a tour of the farmlands. First we went to see the sheep, two dozen of them, just across from the Kirchhoff home. We urbanites asked what is being done with the wool once the sheep are shorn. It is apparently not worth selling such small volume of wool. “But if you are interested, I can give you some wool, it’s in the warehouse.” The visitors politely declined. Next we went off to see the angus livestock on their pasture; all of them looked quite satisfied, not minding the curious visitors from far-away places or their own eventual fate.





Oaks in the winter.

Then the forester had to show us, of course, his forests. German forests have in recent years generally suffered from warm winters that allowed the bark beetle to kill off the spruce that is very common in German commercial forests. But even some of the mature oak trees that Joachim showed us are dying, possibly due to the effects

of climate change. Another piece of forestland, right next to a large fishpond, was, surprisingly, fenced in, unlike the other forestlands. Why? The beavers, the cute beavers love to gnaw at the trees, especially the younger trees, to build their woody homes. With no predator around, this lovely animal can be a real pest in certain forested areas.

As we found out, Joachim doesn't only keep livestock, he also keeps inanimate stock, if one wants to call it that. His most precious item of this kind of stock is a 1937 Adler, a brand that disappeared from the market in 1957. It is still in good running condition and is taken for an outing on summer days.



1937 Adler.

**More Sustenance.** Having completed the field visit, just like in the old days, the team was hungry and went for a light lunch at a Vietnamese food stall where everyone enjoyed a bowl of *pho ga*—chicken and rice noodle soup. With fieldwork done and a filled stomach, it was then time for a siesta.

Dinner was prepared by three competent chefs from Heidelberg, Jederitz, and Manila. And it was a surprise that so many cooks didn't spoil the broth: a Thai chicken curry and a Korean rice bowl dish. Delicious as it was, it was complemented with more beer from Joachim's basement stock. All that was needed to make it a perfect evening was a few glasses of German schnapps—Prost! As brief as this get-together was, it was a suitable occasion and location to renew old friendships, talk about the days in ADB, gossip about other friends and tattle about the bosses we had, just as future ADB retiree generations will do about the four ex-ADBans who met at Jederitz in November 2021. ■



Prost!

# My Life after ADB

Dimiyati Nangju (ADB 1978–2001)



The author and Siti Nur Aisyiyah at ADB's and AFE's 2018 Annual Meetings.

**R**eading for Retirement. A few years before I was due to retire from ADB, I was already busy planning what to do afterward. I was very concerned that I might live a long time after retiring—at that time, the average ADB retiree was estimated to live to about 80 years. Thus, if I did

not plan my retirement life carefully, I would have a long and boring life ahead.

I decided to read a few books on retirement planning. Unfortunately, they were written by Americans, and some of the recommendations were not relevant to people retiring in a less developed country. So I asked a few former ADB colleagues about their experiences. In addition, I joined ADB's retiree seminar. It was very fruitful because it discussed all aspects of retirement planning, including investing.

My three choices were:

- continue working full time elsewhere;
- enjoy life and travel, work pro bono with charity organizations, and/or have a quiet life at home; or
- work part time and travel to different parts of Indonesia and the world with my wife.

I chose option 3 because I could afford it, especially with the extra income.

**Life after ADB.** For the past 20 years, I have lived exactly as I planned before I retired from ADB, working part time as an international consultant for 3–10 months per year and traveling with my wife, and sometimes my children and grandchildren, in Indonesia or the world by plane or cruise ship. As a result, I am having a happy and busy life during retirement that has helped me to live long and well.

**Part-time Consulting.** Because of my 30-years' experience as an agronomist in many countries in Africa and Asia, my expertise was sought after by national and international consulting firms. Soon after my retirement, I joined PPA Consultant, one of the largest consulting firms

in Indonesia, as chairman of its International Division, and later as its vice president on a part-time basis, because the company asked me to help strengthen their international activities in Southeast Asia so that they could diversify their sources of income. At that time, nearly all the consulting firms in Indonesia focused their efforts on getting contracts directly from the Indonesian Government or indirectly as a partner to international consulting firms working in Indonesia. Few Indonesian consulting firms diversified their portfolios to obtain consulting contracts overseas, because they lacked Indonesian experts with international exposure and experience competing with well-established international firms. However, this has started to change in the last decade.

Other challenges I found included intense competition to get consulting contracts among the national firms and the low quality of many national experts. Because the number of national consulting firms in Indonesia rose rapidly from only about 100 in 1979 to more than 6,900 firms in 2009, the competition among them was extremely high and did not always result in good practices. As a result, some were banned by international organizations.

One problem I faced was that many of the Indonesian experts could not write their reports very well, even in their own language. Thus, as a team leader supervising about 10–20 national experts, I had to make considerable effort putting together high quality technical, progress, and final reports. So, in the end, the reports had to be done with the assistance of a few consultants whom I could trust. The problems came partly from insufficient training in university and partly from former high ranking government officials who had no experience writing good reports themselves, as this was handled by their subordinates.

However, I have also met and worked with high caliber national experts who maintain high ethical standards. The good quality national experts are generally graduates from reputable universities in Indonesia or abroad.

In 2007, I decided to work as a free-lance consultant. To work as a free-lance consultant, I had to prove that I could perform well by producing good quality reports or outputs. It helped that I was known personally by several national and international consulting firms, could write good reports quickly in English, was in good health, and was adaptable. On the last point, although I was mainly trained as an agronomist or agricultural development expert, I have been a trainer, an institutional development specialist, a procurement specialist, a team leader, and even a project director. This was possible partly because I had some training in these aspects at ADB before I retired, and I learned from other consultants how to carry out these assignments.



**Traveling as a Hobby.** With my part-time consulting, I was able to travel with my wife Nora for 2 months each year, during May–October. Travel was our hobby, and we traveled for several purposes:

- We visited our children and grandchildren, who live in Kentucky and Texas in the US. While there, with them we visited other parts of America. In some years, we invited our children and grandchildren to visit us in Jakarta.



Dimi and Nora Nangju with their children and grandchildren, 2016.

- We attended ADB Annual Meetings in early May each year, except during COVID-19 years, to learn something new from ADB seminars, see old friends, and get to know the host countries' culture and tradition.
- We enjoyed cruises to the Caribbean islands, Mediterranean countries, Alaska, New Zealand, and Baltic Sea countries. We got good entertainment both on the ship and in ports.
- We visited different parts of Indonesia—there are many places in Sumatra, Java, Kalimantan, Sulawesi, Bali, Nusa Tenggara Barat, Maluku, and Papua that are very beautiful and interesting from the point of view of scenery, culture, and tradition.

**Transitions.** Unfortunately, my wife Nora passed away in May 2017 following a difficult and long surgery. We had been married for 47 years. After she passed away, I felt very lonely in my seven-bedroom house because my children and grandchildren were not there. So not long after Nora died, I decided to get married to a smart, witty, and interesting woman—Siti Nur Aisyiah. With her beside me, I continue to work part time as an international consultant and travel to different parts of Indonesia and the world. Although there is a large age difference between us, we have been living happily together, since

we are compatible and have the same interests and hobbies. We have been vaccinated and, when the pandemic is well controlled, we hope to continue our travels in Indonesia and the world. ■



Dimi and Siti in traditional formal North Sumatra attire.

## Recovering Lives

### Erlinda Vilchez Trabulsi (ADB 1969–1974)



*Ed: Although this narrative doesn't explicitly say it, perhaps out of shyness, Lindy and Mike Trabulsi have been central to bringing Mike's sister and family from a devastated Damascus followed by 4 years as refugees in Lebanon to thriving in Canada. Here is Lindy's heartwarming update on her earlier story.*

Five years ago, I wrote an article for *AFE News #48* regarding my husband's family emigrating from Syria in December 2015 through a sponsorship of the Canadian government. The family of six, consisted then of Ikram, Mike's sister; her husband, Abu Ayman; their son, Anwar; his wife, Alaa; and their two boys, Nour El Din, 8, and Ezza Din, 6. None knew how to speak English.

Fast forward: 6 years later, the family has increased to eight with the addition of two more boys, Jad and Karam, now 4 and 3, respectively.

**Adaptations.** Before the pandemic, Nour and Ezza Din attended a school that is walking distance from their home. Both boys now speak excellent English and translate Arabic language with their teachers and other students. They act as interpreters for me when I speak to their grandparents, who unfortunately, did not pick up English, learning just a few words in greetings. Anwar and Alaa went to English-as-a-second-language school and are now able to carry conversations in English.



A family meal: with COVID winding down, I hope to join these more often.

The family has adapted to the Canadian way of living, enduring the winter and enjoying the summer. Anwar takes his parents to medical appointments. Ikram was fitted with an artificial leg and uses a scooter around the house and a wheelchair when going out. Alaa got a driver's license and she and Anwar take turns picking the younger boys up from daycare school. With the pandemic lockdown, Nour and Ezza Din attend online learning.

**Fun and Furniture.** Anwar bought a van for the family and takes them sightseeing. He also uses his van to pick up and deliver furniture from and to his clients. A few months after arrival, Anwar started an upholstery business—the family's trade in Damascus before it was bombed and they lost their home and furniture factory. At first, Anwar worked in the garage but he could not continue because of Canada's harsh winter. Adam, my son, who owned a four-unit gym facility in a commercial plaza, offered a space for Anwar to work in, free of charge. The workspace has front-door access with plenty of parking for customers.

Through word-of-mouth, Anwar is now running a very good upholstery business. He has garnered a lot of customers and has never run out of work.



Sectional sofa Anwar made for Mike and my new condo.

He works tirelessly and hired an assistant. Together they upholster and refinish furniture. They also make new furniture from scratch—Anwar custom-made a modern podium modular sectional lounge for Mike and my new condo. Anwar has established business relationships with fabric, foam, springs, webbing, and wood suppliers, and collaborates with various distributors of materials he uses in the business.

**Better Living.** The family has lived in the upper floor of a house for the past 6 years. And this is where the feel-good story gets even better. They now live the Canadian dream of owning their own home. They have purchased a lovely, all-brick two-level family house. In August 2021 they moved into the four-bedroom house with a two-car garage, separate living and dining rooms, a walk-out to a deck, and a private and spacious yard. Since the family loves to cook, they are enjoying cooking a roomy kitchen. Anwar makes delicious Middle Eastern desserts such as *baklava*, *kunafeh*, *basbousa*, *maamool*, and rice pudding. Abu Ayman makes the best *falafel*. I am always excited to have meals with them because of the wide array of food they make. The dining table will be laden with chicken, fish, *taboulleh*, *fatoush*, olives, scallions, cucumbers, and various dips, and no meal is complete without pita bread. The house is within a 4-minute drive of our condo.

The goal of living the Canadian dream has always been in Anwar's mind. With his skills and determination to provide a better life for his family, he pursued the freedom to make the right decisions in the way they want to live and in their beliefs. The family observes the annual Ramadan: a month of prayers, fasting, and meditation. They have remained religious, going to the mosques and living a simple life. The four children have Canadian citizenship status while the older folks are waiting to be sworn in as Canadian citizens. ■



# Celebrating Filipino Culture in Vancouver

Emma Murray (ADB 1991–2003)



L-r: Jun and Fremma Espejo, Emma Murray, and Tess Zamora at the University of the Philippines Alumni Association of British Columbia Filipino Cultural Event, August, 2021.

From 1990 onward, there has been a steady flow of Filipinos immigrating to Canada, with about 10,000 to 20,000 coming in every year. Over 900,000 people living in Canada are of Filipino heritage, including some Canadian AFEers. The two largest clusters of Filipinos are in Toronto (over 250,000) and Vancouver (over 100,000).

Filipino culture is celebrated in Canada, which has designated June as Filipino Heritage. There are many Filipino cultural events featuring singing and dancing, and many Filipino restaurants and some Filipino food trucks.

In August 2021, Vancouver AFEers participated in the University of the Philippines (UP) Alumni Association of British Columbia's seventh annual Filipino Cultural Event, which was held in a COVID-appropriate manner.

Tess Zamora and I were in the UP Alumni Association of British Columbia choir that sang the national anthems of Canada and the Philippines and traditional Filipino songs *Kundiman*, *Bayan Ko*, and *Ako Ay Pilipino*. Fremma Esquejo and her husband Jun, also UP graduates, sang and danced in a presentation of traditional Filipino love serenades (*harana*).

Other notable numbers included a balagtasan *Kung Paano Dapal Magmahal*, a poetic exchange of arguments between a man and a woman about how to love a person, and an Ivadoi (Ibaloi) aboriginal chant.

Shishir Inocalla demonstrated arnis, the traditional Filipino martial art. In addition to being an accomplished martial artist who worked with Bruce Lee, he is an actor.

His movie credits include playing Michelangelo in *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles 3* in both the movie and TV series.

The UP Alumni Association of British Columbia sponsors five scholars attending the UP, all of whom happen to be girls this year.

The same choir with AFEers sang at the December Filipino Christmas Celebration sponsored by the Vancouver Philippine Consulate. The event featured Filipino products and food and was organized following COVID protocols. ■

## 36 Years On

Richard Gold (ADB 1980–1985)



Richard standing on our Gold's balcony overlooking the Salish Sea and the Gulf Islands.

In 1985, my family (my wife Leslie and my children Stephenie and John) and I sadly made our way to the Manila airport, departing the Philippines after 5 very happy and rewarding years. We were making our way back to Ottawa, our home base for the next 10 years. I was appointed Director of ASEAN and Southeast Asian programs for the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)

and was pleased to maintain my connection to the region. Four years later I was asked to decentralize this program to Singapore, and my family and I moved again to the region.

**Singapore Interlude: 1989–1992.** The 3 years in Singapore sped by quickly. I was charged with creating a new center aimed at expanding Canadian relations with the ASEAN countries and with serving as the Canadian representative on Asia-Pacific Economic Community (APEC) committees. My duties took me back to the Philippines from time to time, and on one occasion I brought my daughter with me and we met up with our old neighbors and ADB colleagues, Richard Eyre and the late Peter Pattison. We brought our daughters to a lunch at what was then the new ADB Headquarters.

**Home, then London: 1995–2002.** Soon it was time for us to return to Ottawa for 3 years. Then the Canadian government selected me for a Senior Director's position at the Commonwealth based in London, United Kingdom. We were off again for another posting—this one lasting 8 years—my last fulltime position.

My work included serving as a diplomat accredited to the Court of St. James. At the Commonwealth, I was

in charge of export and industrial development as well as governance and institution building. Our overall mandate was to provide technical support and institution building to the 50 Commonwealth developing countries and engage in political consensus building and election monitoring. The Commonwealth Secretariat's programs are run out of the historic Marlborough House, built in the early 1700s for John Churchill as a reward for defeating the French at the battle of Blenheim.

As Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of the Commonwealth, Leslie and I were often invited to events at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. The queen came to our offices in Marlborough House every second Monday in March, which is Commonwealth Day. My family also participated in representing the Commonwealth on other occasions.



Leslie Gold being introduced to Queen Elizabeth in Marlboro House.

Like ADB when I joined in 1980, the Commonwealth Secretariat did not have regional offices. So I spent about a third to half of my time travelling from Fiji to the Caribbean and points in between. A lot of my programs were focused on the Commonwealth countries in Africa but were diverse enough to include the Mediterranean countries of Cypress and Malta. I also started an advisory program for the Commonwealth ambassadors to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in Geneva and represented the Commonwealth at WTO meetings in Doha and the infamous meeting in Seattle, where rioting



Richard Gold, election monitoring team, Fiji.

protesters prevented delegates from reaching the building in which the meeting was to be held.

Further afield, I led the Commonwealth monitoring team for the 2001 elections in Fiji and the 2002 elections in Zimbabwe. This involved organizing the inspection of numerous election polls and voting booths.

**A Special Moment.** In 1998, the British Foreign and Commonwealth office asked me to join a strategy session on Foreign Affairs issues at the Cumberland Lodge on the Windsor Castle grounds. I had settled in nicely into the early 19th Century hunting lodge, enjoying the company of some old acquaintances. During the Saturday evening dinner, a very friendly vicar invited me to an early morning service the next day at the Queen Mother's chapel, some 400 meters away through a wooded trail.

The service was eloquent—my dinner companion didn't disappoint. There were no more than 30 of us attending. A floor-to-ceiling tapestry hung over a few pews at the front, providing privacy to any royals attending the service.

After the service I lingered to admire the stained glass and interior of the small and historic chapel. Alone, I decided to exit through what I considered to be the back door. As I went through the doorway into the sunlit Windsor Castle grounds I came (almost) face-to-face with the queen, who was chatting with my friend the vicar. I instantly realized my *faux pas* but was too far out of the chapel to make a quick retreat. No need, the queen, dressed in an attractive yellow suit with navy highlights, smiled at me and asked the vicar to call me over.

I had met the queen in reception lines, but this was the first time one-on-one as the vicar made his exit. The 5-meter walk to the queen stretched before me. As my legs turned to rubber, I focused on not tripping and falling. Do I call her Ma'am or Her Majesty? As I came within talking distance I instinctively gave a perfunctory bow, and then a very friendly and welcoming voice asked how I was doing and was I comfortable at the Lodge? Our ensuing conversation developed a comfortable rhythm of the queen asking and me responding. She was interested in my work at the Commonwealth and my project in Geneva to assist the Commonwealth Ambassadors to the WTO. Knowing I was Canadian, she asked a few questions related to current issues in Canada. The queen was both pleasant and exceptionally well briefed.

In all, our conversation couldn't have lasted more than 5 minutes. At an appropriate moment she nodded and I nodded back. She glanced over my shoulder and gave an imperceptible nod to her chauffeur who quickly arrived with her vehicle of choice: a Daimler. As he approached, the queen held out her hand, palm upwards; the chauffeur dropped the keys into her hand; and she slid into the





2 eagles 50' from the Gold's balcony.

driver's seat. Just as she took off for Windsor Castle, she turned and gave me a smile and nod. I felt light as a feather on my walk back to the Lodge.

**Home Again, Home Again.**

In 2002 Leslie and I settled in Arbutus Ridge on the southeast coast of Vancouver

Island—perhaps the only location in Canada that has an officially Mediterranean climate. We also have a range of wildlife just off our balcony, including a pair of eagles that have been hanging about over the years. We enjoy spectacular sunrises practically every morning. During our semiretirement I have remained somewhat active, with lots of hiking and limited mountain climbing.

For 10 years I engaged in part-time consulting with clients as diverse as Global Affairs Canada, the United Nations, the World Bank, and the International Trade Centre in Geneva. This involved trips—mainly to Africa and eastern Europe.

I have been very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to work in challenging and exciting environments. And to have a family that happily accompanied me along the way. One Christmas, my daughter gave me a gift that would effortlessly allow me to publish a collection of my life stories. For one year, I replied to a question that she would ask me each week. The answers became a book for my family.

Leslie and I are well settled now in our home by the sea. When reminiscing on our life of travel and adventure we agree that our 5 years in the Philippines were some of the happiest. ■



Sunrise from the Golds' house.

## Living by Design

### Cynthia Encinas-Concordia (ADB 1988–1999)

*Ed: Cynthia has journeyed from ADB to World Bank, where she was promoted from administrative staff to the international level, to fulfillment as a life coach.*



In October 2019, I made a decision to retire from the World Bank. I wanted to help my sister to take care of our mom. However, due to COVID, I didn't get the chance to travel and spend time with them. But COVID made me realize that there was something missing in my life that would make me happy and

fulfilled. That was when I discovered my WHY and became a life coach.

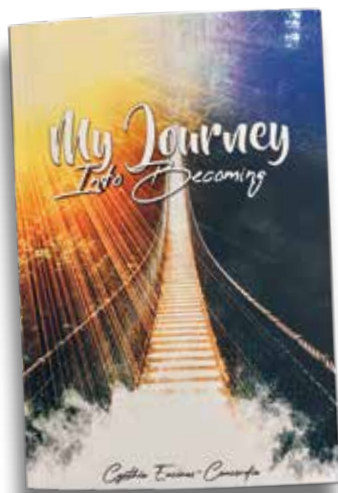
In September 2020, after I got certified as a coach, I didn't know how to proceed. Fear and limiting beliefs just overpowered me. What were my fears? That I didn't have the sales and marketing skills, I was too old for social media, I didn't trust strangers online, I lacked money to invest in a coach, and I feared failure. But then, after deciding to get a business coach, I achieved the results I had thought were not possible. My website (<https://www.dreamtorise.info/>) shares a program on how to discover, develop, and harness your dreams.

Seeing that the results of my coaching can make a difference made me expand my mission. I am using my skills as a life coach to voluntarily mentor abused and bullied children in Fairfax County, Virginia, and as a volunteer Rotarian at the Rotary Club Pasay EDSA in the Philippines, whose mission is to help alleviate poverty.

How many lives do we live? As far as we know, we have only one life to live. The question is, "Are we already living the life we absolutely want to live?" We can actually choose which path to take. But living fully and victoriously doesn't happen by default. It happens by design.

With me fulfilling my purpose through coaching, I am now leaving my footprints so the young generation may be inspired and continue what we're doing: to make an impact in this world. For me, this is real happiness.

To spread the happiness, I recorded my story in a book. It was time to make a decision to go for it. Dream big,



focus, and make it happen. The main reason I wrote *My Journey into Becoming*, is to be that light for others who may also spread their light for those who need it. In the book, I have laid out a pathway for people who wish to live a life they love. It is up to us to make a choice: be a worrier or a warrior. The book shares my journey of how I was able to transform myself from being traumatized into manifesting my life dream. I hope that it can also help others do the same. At the end,

we can say: "Life Is Great"!

The book is available through Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/Journey-Into-Becoming-Cynthia-Encinas-Concordia/dp/B09PP7XNLH> ■

## Ballet Is Not for Muslim Girls

Mariam S. Pal (ADB 1996–2002)



**A Memoir Born in Manila.** Desperately in need of more creativity in my life, I started to write in Manila.

When a small advertisement in the *Daily Enquirer* caught my eye, I enrolled in a creative writing course at the Ayala Museum. Incredibly, I missed only one class because of mission travel. The instructor

was Wendell Capilli from the University of the Philippines; he was terrific. I learned a fundamental lesson about writing from him, which was to get my ideas onto the page and revise later rather than try to craft every sentence to perfection. This advice has stayed with me.

Wendell stressed the importance of writing about what you knew best, suggesting that childhood was a good source of inspiration. One essay theme he asked the class to write about was "secrets." I wrote about my Y2K project sorting my personal letters. I explained how I came across a long-forgotten letter from my grandfather. His letter was

in response to one I had sent him when I was 10 years old, pleading with him to convince my parents to allow me to take ballet classes. About two dozen drafts later, it had evolved into *Ballet Is Not for Muslim Girls* and became the title of my memoir.

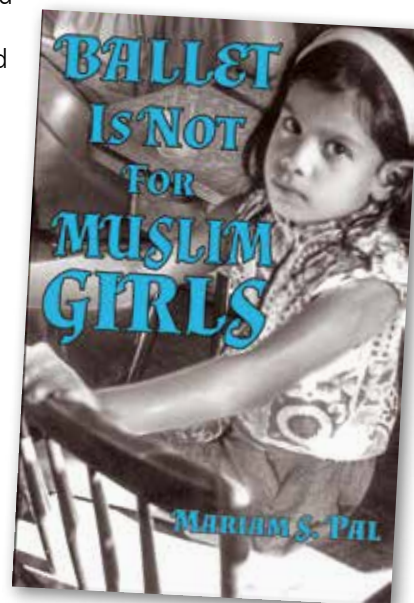
Soon I was writing all the time. I took two more courses at the Ayala Museum. When 9/11 grounded me in Manila, I took a 12-week course, *Memoir Writing I*, online through the New York-based Gotham Writers' Workshop. One of the pieces that I workshopped, *The Boyfriend Club*, appears in my book.

Returning to Canada in 2002, law school left me with no time to write. My second career, as a member of Canada's largest administrative tribunal, the Immigration and Refugee Board, kept me extremely busy. When I started working part time I was finally able to devote time to my writing. I took several courses, started a writing group, and worked with two professional editors to come up with a final manuscript. I pitched my book idea to 30 Canadian publishers in the summer of 2020; by the end of the year I had a contract.

There is one last connection to Manila. My book will be published on April 1, 2022. April 1 was also the anniversary day of my appointment to the Asian Development Bank! And that's no April Fools' Day joke.

***Ballet is not for Muslim Girls.*** The book is a memoir of my childhood in Victoria, British Columbia. I grew up in a very unique household. My mother was Polish–Canadian and my father was Pakistani. I grew up eating everything from borscht to biryani. My parents moved to Victoria in 1961 when only two types of cheese were available: cottage cheese and cheddar.

Back in the 1960s and 70s, before Canadian immigration was opened up to non-Europeans, multicultural families such as my own were rare. *Ballet Is Not for Muslim Girls* is about my journey to become Canadian in an environment where my name was constantly mangled and I struggled to conform until I didn't have to because I was finally comfortable with my identity. I clashed with my father over everything from ballet





lessons to boyfriends to sleepovers to contact lenses. Family vacations in Pakistan were instrumental in shaping the worldview that led me into a career in international development.

*A description of Ballet Is Not for Muslim Girls notes it is a sympathetic and loving memoir of a unique family. An interesting feature of the book is that each chapter begins with a family photograph, inviting the reader to further connect with me.*

*Ballet Is Not for Muslim Girls will be released on 1 April 2022. For readers in Canada it can be purchased at a variety of independent bookstores across the country and online from either Indigo chapters (<https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/ballet-is-not-for-muslim/9781990086205-item.1?ikwid=mariam+pal&ikwsec=Home&ikwidx=0#algoliaQueryId=49068a858f52a04b40991c286215b9a2>) or Amazon.ca. An audiobook and a Kindle E-version will also be available through Amazon's international website.*

**Writing On.** Right now I'm completing my second book. It's also a memoir and it's about working in international development. The working title is *Eating Pineapple Upside Down Cake in Monrovia*. As the title suggests, the book covers much more than the 7 years I spent at ADB. I've written about some of my adventures in Africa and Asia, like visiting the war-torn West African country of Liberia, where pineapple upside down cake was the national desert, or some of the personalities such as the colleague who told me that poor people are stupid on our way to a poverty conference. Then there was the time I fainted in the immigration line at Rome airport or the acrobatics involved with paying my Visa bill when I lived in West Africa. There's also a chapter about luggage, one about travel and health, and another called The Toilet Papers, which addresses a subject everyone thinks about but nobody wants to talk about.

An essay that will be included in this book was published four years ago. Click on the following link below to read a sneak preview: <http://www.south85journal.com/issues/spring-summer-2018/non-fiction/behind-the-walls/> ■

**Check Yourself** in the AFE Directory, Members Only section, on the AFE website (<http://afe-adb.org>). Contact info wrong? E-mail the correct contact info to [afe-adb@adb.org](mailto:afe-adb@adb.org)

## Life-Saving Leaf-Floating

Cheolghee Michael Kim (1995–2014)



The author teaching the Leaf Float technique that he codeveloped.

**A** Korean middle-school student, playing on the beach, was swept away in a flash to 800 meters off the coast on 3 August 2017. The lifeguards could not get to him from the seashore because of rough waves over 2 meters high. A high-speed Marine Police boat was urgently mobilized. As soon as the boat arrived at the boy, three rescuers jumped into the sea and quickly rescued him. Thanks to his knowledge of the "Leaf-Float" anti-drowning technique, he had sustained himself for over 30 minutes in rough seas and was rescued. This is one of the world's rarest rescue cases where a nonswimmer survived wind-swollen waves for such a long time.

After early retirement from ADB due to the onset of Parkinson's disease, I codeveloped this anti-drowning method that allows even nonswimmers to float on water for a long time and breathe without having to swim, after learning the unique breathing method and posture. I also established the Safe Swim Association of Korea

Leaf Float posture.



Leaf Float uses Archimedes' Buoyancy and the Law of the Lever to keep your body afloat.



Leaf Float Technique requires no swimming skills or life jacket to stay afloat in the sea.



The author and others teaching the Leaf Float technique in Mindoro.

(SSAK) in late 2016 to distribute the anti-drowning method widely. In early 2016 Korean volunteers and I visited Mindoro Island twice to test the effectiveness of the new method and made a huge success.

The Leaf-Float is very easy and quick to learn for all ages. By maintaining about 70% of your breath in your lungs, you may secure sufficient buoyancy to keep your face above the water. Then, stretching your arms above your head and folding the legs will help to lift your knees to the surface of the water. The key is finding the balance between your upper and low body, and keeping your lungs in the middle is essential.

Various Korean rescue agencies and schools have adopted the leaf-floating method as an official survival swimming technique, recognizing its effectiveness. In addition, SSAK is aiming to distribute the Leaf-Float around the world as the United States patent is expected by 2022. Another aim is to organize a Philippine branch of SSAK, which could teach the technique in the Philippines. ■

*Ed: Please see also AFE News #50.*



# Project Management in Sri Lanka

Amarasena Gamaathige (ADB 2002–2010)

*Ed: The following information is from the back cover of the author's book.*

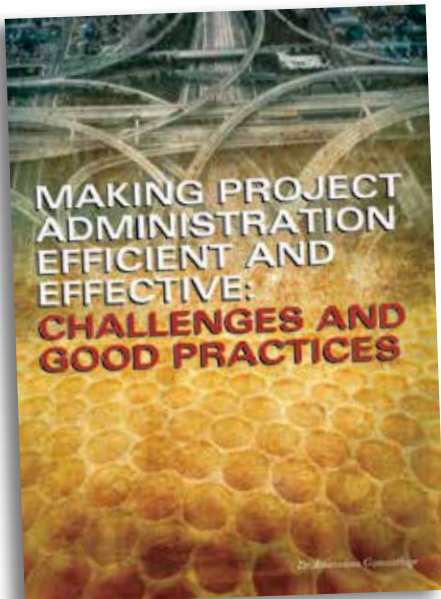


**M**aking Project Administration Efficient and Effective: Challenges and Good Practices is a culmination of Dr. Amarasena Gamaathige's project administration experience with ADB and the Government of Sri Lanka. He was a Senior Social Sector/Resettlement Officer at the ADB Sri Lanka Resident

Mission for 8 years. After retiring, he continued to consult for ADB and the Government of Sri Lanka on external monitoring and social impact assessment studies for project completion reports.

His book brings together administration experience with seven projects funded by ADB, the Government of Sri Lanka, and others with a total cost of about \$1.12 billion. The book discusses the challenges and practices of the (1) Southern Transport Development Project, (2)

National Highways Sector Project, (3) Science and Technology Personnel Development Project, (4) Skills Development Project, (5) Technical Education Development Project, (6) Aquatic Resource Quality Improvement Project, and (7) Emergency Support to Address Outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)—a grant project.



The key question the book addresses is whether the processes of project planning and implementation were effective and efficient compared with proposed policy changes, specific targets, milestones, costs and benefits, and adherence with accountability requirements provided in safeguard policies and loan conditions that authorize the project managers, administrators, and monitors to carry out their activities as planned. The book argues that project management practices have not always resulted in the expected project objectives, implementation time frames, results, and proactive handling of problems.

The 367-page book is available at Sarasavi Bookshops in Sri Lanka for SLRs800 (\$4). Gamaathige is working on a second book on the aid effectiveness and performance of state-owned institutions in Sri Lanka (2000–2020). ■

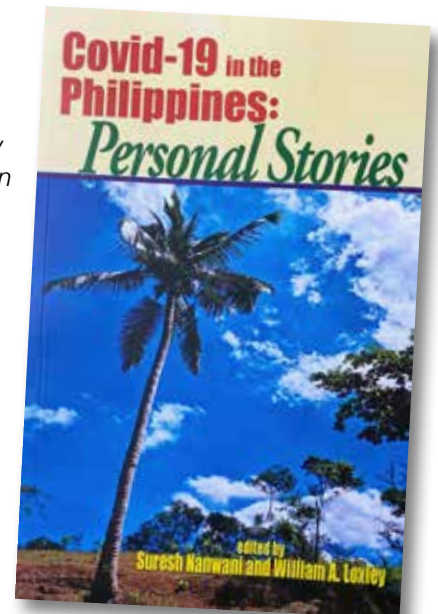
## Remember 2020

Suresh Nanwani (ADB 1988–2016) and William Loxley (ADB 1994–2005)

**T**wo former ADB staff, Suresh Nanwani and William Loxley, edited a collection of 41 stories by residents in the Philippines. The stories recount experiences faced during the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The book, **COVID-19 in the Philippines: Personal Stories**, is available in English and Filipino. As noted on the book's back cover, it serves as a chronicle for future generations to understand what happened during difficult times.

*The editors hope readers will find the stories engaging reads as they portray a glimpse of our rich diversity and shared humanity. Perhaps after reading, book lovers may wish to recount their own story to others. All-in-all, the book sends one message—humanity will survive the pandemic.*

*The book can be found on Kindle at the following link:* <https://www.amazon.com/Covid-19-Philippines-Personal-Suresh-Nanwani-ebook/dp/B094SHQRWN> ■



## Chasing Dreams

Jahed Rahman (ADB 1980–1999)



Jahed Rahman has published his fifth book, *Chasing Dreams*. The story is based around the lives of a Pakistani family and is premised on life as a bundle of frustrations and aspirations. His first four books

(*Bends and Shades*, *House of Twenty-Two Buffalos*, *Indu*, and *Passion and Pathos*) were published by Xlibris. *Chasing Dreams* was published by Stratton Press. All have e-book versions. They are available from the publishers and from Amazon (jahed rahman books) as well as through Google. ■



For information  
on membership contact  
[afe-adb@adb.org](mailto:afe-adb@adb.org)

## New Members

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

### July 2021

Panis, Socorro (Philippines)  
Sarile, Al Albert (Philippines)  
Vo, Dien (Viet Nam)

### August 2021

Anastacio, Catherine (Canada)  
Hauck, Lauren (United States)  
Minc, Marcelo (United States)  
Sawada, Yasuki (Japan)  
Teruhisa, Oi (Japan)

### September 2021

Aman-Wooster, Syarifah (Indonesia)  
Sato, Kazushi (Japan)  
Sugimoto, Takayuki (Japan)

### October 2021

Reksoatmodjo, Linarti (Indonesia)

### November 2021

Guild, Robert (United States)  
Hamid, Shirin (Singapore)

### December 2021

Chan, Kim (Australia)  
Ito, Toru (Japan)  
Pascual, Jannette (Philippines)

### January 2022

Balbosa, Joven (Philippines)  
Chang, Min (United States)  
Felipe, Jesus (Philippines)  
Gautrot, Christophe (Europe)  
Nida, Ouk (Cambodia)  
Ozoa, Katherine Miriam (United States)  
Panganiban, Maria Corazon (Philippines)  
Sy, Reah Valerie (Philippines)  
Yraita, Dulcinea Joy (Philippines)  
Zheng, Liping (People's Republic of China)

### February 2022

Cristobal, Susan (Philippines)  
Lu, Xuede (People's Republic of China)  
Morris, Christopher Ian (Europe)



# Senior Appointments at ADB

**A**FE-ADB congratulates the following staff members on their new appointments.

**Asad Aleem**—Deputy Country Director, Pakistan Resident Mission (PRM), Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), effective upon assumption of office.

**Balabhaskara Reddy Bathula**—Advisor, Office of the Director General (SPOD), Strategy, Policy and Partnerships Department (SPD), assumed office on 15 February 2022.

**Chia-Hsin Hu**—Deputy Director General, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD), effective upon assumption of office.

**F. Cleo Kawawaki**—Head, Office of Public-Private Partnership (OPPP) concurrently Senior Advisor, CWRD, assumed office on 14 January 2022.

**Yan Jiang**—Senior Advisor, Office of the President (OPR), assumed office on 14 January 2022.

**Xinning Jia**—Deputy Director General, Budget, People and Management Systems Department (BPMSD), assumed office on 14 January 2022; concurrently, Deputy Director General, SPD, until the new Deputy Director General assumes office.

**Lyaziza Sabyrova**—Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division, CWRD, assumed office on 11 January 2022.

**Sungsup Ra**—Chief Sector Officer, Office of the Cluster Head, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC), assumed office on 27 December 2021.

**Anouj Mehta**—Country Director, Thailand Resident Mission (TRM), Southeast Asia Department (SERD), assumed office on 16 December 2021.

**Albert Francis Park**—Chief Economist and Director General, ERCD, assumed office on 15 December 2021.

**Emmanuel Jimenez**—Director General, Independent Evaluation Department (IED), assumed office on 1 December 2021.

**Patricia Noelle O'Brien**—Chief of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Thematic Group Concurrently Director, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management Division, SDCC, assumed office on 1 December 2021.

**Harumi Kodama**—Assistant Secretary, Office of The Secretary (OSEC), assumed office on 11 October 2021; concurrently, Representative, Japanese Representative Office (JRO), until the new Representative assumes office.

**Edimon Ginting**—Country Director, Bangladesh Resident Mission (BRM), South Asia Department (SARD), assumed office on 5 October 2021.

**Douglas Perkins**—Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel (OGC), assumed office on 1 October 2021.

**Asif Cheema**—Director, Urban and Social Sectors Division, East Asia Department (EARD), effective 27 September 2021.

**Sona Shrestha**—Deputy Director General, IED, assumed office on 15 September 2021.

**Masayuki Tachiiri**—Director, Strategy, Policy and Business Process Division, SPD, assumed office on 9 September 2021.

**Jiro Tominaga**—Director, Indonesia Resident Mission (IRM), SERD, assumed office on 1 September 2021.

**Albert Francis Park**—Chief Economist and Director General, ERCD, effective 15 December 2021.

**Shamit Chakravarti**—Director, Bhutan Resident Mission (BHRM), SARD, assumed office on 6 September 2021.

**Safdar Parvez**—Advisor, EARD, effective 23 August 2021.

**Jiangbo Ning**—Deputy Country Director, BRM, assumed office on 25 August 2021.

## Obituaries

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

**V.S. Rao**, former Manager, passed away on 13 February 2022 at the age of 93. Condolences may be sent to his wife Parimala Rao at [mrlette@gmail.com](mailto:mrlette@gmail.com).

**Reynaldo Pacheco**, Chief Information Officer, passed away on 11 February 2022 at the age of 89. Condolences may be sent to his wife Priscila Pacheco at [priscila.pacheco516@gmail.com](mailto:priscila.pacheco516@gmail.com).

**Charito Suarez**, former Assistant Operation Coordinator, passed away on 28 January 2022 at the age of 64. Condolences may be sent to her daughter Joana Claudette Suarez Belleza at [claudettesbelleza@gmail.com](mailto:claudettesbelleza@gmail.com).

**Akhtar Hamid**, former Senior Counsel, passed away on 25 January 2022 at the age of 77. Condolences may be sent to his son Danish Hamid at [danishhamid@hotmail.com](mailto:danishhamid@hotmail.com).

**Richard Gardner**, former Assistant Secretary, passed away on 19 January 2022 at the age of 94. Condolences may be sent to his niece Sarah Deasey at [sdeasey@bigpond.net.au](mailto:sdeasey@bigpond.net.au).

**Francois Lisack**, former Unit Head, passed away on 18 January 2022 at the age of 79. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Valerie Lisack at [vlisack@adb.org](mailto:vlisack@adb.org).

**Arthur McIntosh**, former Principal Water Supply Specialist, passed away on 12 January 2022 at the age of 78. Condolences may be sent to his wife Pauline McIntosh at [plmcintosh@hotmail.com](mailto:plmcintosh@hotmail.com).

**Masao Fujioka**, President of ADB from 1981 to 1989 and President of AFE–ADB from 1993 to 2007, passed away on 27 December 2021 at the age of 97. Condolences may be sent to his son Sumio Fujioka at [djomis0713@gmail.com](mailto:djomis0713@gmail.com).

**Weimin Yang**, former Director, passed away on 24 November 2021 at the age of 81. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Rona Yang at [ronayang@gmail.com](mailto:ronayang@gmail.com)

**Genaro A. Moco**, former Senior Computer System Analyst, passed away on 22 November 2021 at the age of 76. Condolences may be sent to his wife Zenaida Moco at [zgmoco@yahoo.com](mailto:zgmoco@yahoo.com)

**Gerhard Kahl**, former Senior Program Officer, passed away on 22 October 2021 at the age of 88. Condolences may be sent to his son Alex Kahl at [kahl@kahl.net](mailto:kahl@kahl.net).

**Dita Felipa Medina**, former Clerk, passed away on 17 October 2021 at the age of 88. Condolences may be sent her daughter Neriza Medina-Delfino at [neriza.delfino@dlsu.edu.ph](mailto:neriza.delfino@dlsu.edu.ph).

**Krishna Bandyopadhyay**, wife of Debabrata Bandyopadhyay, passed away on 17 October 2021. Condolences may be sent to her daughter Lalita Bandyopadhyay at [Lalita.b@gmail.com](mailto:Lalita.b@gmail.com).

**Beinvenido Briones**, former Control Officer, passed away on 17 October 2021 at the age of 74. Condolences may be sent to his wife Zenaida Briones at [zennie\\_yg@yahoo.com](mailto:zennie_yg@yahoo.com).

**Prateep Kumar Lahiri**, former Executive Director of ADB and President of the AFE–ADB India Chapter, passed away on 9 October 2021 at the age of 84. Condolences may be sent to his wife Ratna Lahiri at [ratna@lahiri.com](mailto:ratna@lahiri.com)

**Javier Gomez**, former Manager, passed away on 5 October 2021 at the age of 87. Condolences may be sent to his wife Lydia Gomez at [lydiamgomez455@yahoo.com.ph](mailto:lydiamgomez455@yahoo.com.ph).

**Allan Joseph Barry**, former Executive Director, passed away on 4 October 2021 at the age of 83. Condolences may be sent to his wife Anna Shkuropat at [ashkuropat@mail.ru](mailto:ashkuropat@mail.ru).

**Inngyou Choi**, former Senior Compensation and Benefit Specialist, passed away on 25 September 2021 at the age of 65. Condolences may be sent to his son Jake Choi at [jakemartinchoi@gmail.com](mailto:jakemartinchoi@gmail.com)

**Marietta Hernandez**, former Senior Administrative Assistant, passed away on 12 September 2021 at the age of 62. Condolences may be sent to her son Joshua Hernandez at [joshualeo.h@gmail.com](mailto:joshualeo.h@gmail.com).

**Indra Rani Jerath**, wife of Ravindra Kumar Jerath, passed away on 24 May 2021. Condolences may be sent to her daughter Arati Ajoy Maya Sanjoy at [irjerath@gmail.com](mailto:irjerath@gmail.com). ■

**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.

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- (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.

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Articles for publication may be sent in MS Word as e-mail attachments to [afe-adb@adb.org](mailto: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 and Jill Gale de Villa edited. They, Guia Estabillo, Julia Holz, David Parker, Malou Pasicolan, and Alona Miral proofread. AFE sincerely appreciates ADB's Department of External Relations and the Printing Unit for assistance with finalizing the magazine.



# Announcements

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## ADB's Annual Meetings

**2022 Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors.** The Asian Development Bank (ADB), in consultation with the Government of Sri Lanka, has decided to conduct its **55th Annual Meeting** of the Board of Governors in two stages.

1. a virtual, reduced-scale meeting of the Board of Governors on 5 May 2022. This will enable the Board of Governors to consider ADB's financial statements and net income allocation in line with ADB institutional requirements; and
2. the meeting will then be adjourned and reconvene on 5–8 September 2022 for a second stage that will comprise a full-scale annual meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

**AFE-ADB's 36th Annual Meeting.** AFE-ADB will therefore

- hold its chapter coordinators and annual meetings during early May, with the Chapter Coordinators Meeting on 3 May and the Annual General Meeting on 4 May; and
- further activities (to be announced) in Sri Lanka in September.

## 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.

The **Indonesia Chapter** plans a get-together in late May or early June 2022 in Jakarta, provided the circumstances permit. Contact Putu Kamayana at [putu\\_kamayana@yahoo.com](mailto:putu_kamayana@yahoo.com) for more details.

The **Europe Chapter** is holding its 23rd reunion on 16–19 September 2022 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Contact [ghecker1@t-online.de](mailto:ghecker1@t-online.de).

The **Australia Chapter** is planning an annual reunion for 17–20 October 2022, to be organized by Con Pappas and others in Dubbo, New South Wales. Access to Dubbo is via road, scenic rail trip, or flying to Dubbo City Regional Airport. Points of interest include the Taronga Western Plains Zoo, Wellington Caves and Phosphate Mine, Western Plains Cultural Centre gallery and museum, and the gallery and sculpture gardens of local Bret Mon Garling. The now traditional golf tournament and barefoot bowls will be included in the program. Contact Keith Leonard at [keith.leonard@gmail.com](mailto:keith.leonard@gmail.com).

The **AFE-ADB Southern California Chapter** will hold its year-end get-together on Sunday, 23 October 2022 at Orange Hills Restaurant & Events in Orange, California. All AFE-ADB members are welcome to join us. Contact May Seron-Tigas at [may4usna@gmail.com](mailto:may4usna@gmail.com) for details.

The **New Zealand Chapter** will hold a Reunion in Christchurch in October 2022. Please contact Gordon Fox at [gordon.fox@xtra.co.nz](mailto:gordon.fox@xtra.co.nz) for more info.

## AFE-ADB News No. 61 (September 2022)

Please send, by June 2022, 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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