



# News

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The Newsletter of the  
Association of Former  
Employees of the Asian  
Development Bank

## Chapter News

## People, Places, and Passages



## Annual General Meeting



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## Our Cover



Top left: Chapter Coordinators who attended the 2022 AFE Annual Meeting;  
Top right: Kathleen Dietrich's image of a blue-footed booby in the Galápagos;  
Below: ADB Headquarters with the eastern skyline behind.

## AFE–ADB News

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# AFE–ADB Updates

## From the Former AFE President

Alfredo E. Pascual (ADB 1989–2008)

*Ed: Fred Pascual resigned his position as president of AFE–ADB on 15 August 2022 as he has to devote all his time to his new Philippine Government position heading the Department of Trade and Industry. We thank him for his service and wish him well.*



**Pension Matters.** Several Staff Retirement Plan holders have inquired about how ADB determines the cost-of-living (COL) adjustment. For an explanation, please see my report at the Annual Meeting, on pp. 12–13. I hope ADB will implement procedural changes to shorten the long lag in the COL adjustment.

**Access to Headquarters.** The HQ became fully accessible starting on 1 August, more than 2 years after ADB closed its offices to safeguard the health and welfare of staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, HQ continues to implement mask-on, safe distancing, and other COVID-19 related protocols. Retirees now have access again to HQ.

**CitiBank Gone.** UnionBank formally acquired Citibank Philippines' consumer business. All CitiBank customer accounts, personal information, and account information were transferred to UnionBank on 1 August 2022, and UnionBank has now occupied the space at HQ that CitiBank formerly used.

**Resigning my AFE Presidency.** As you may have seen in recent AFE e-mail announcements, I resigned as President of AFE, effective 15 August 2022. As the newly appointed Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry in the Philippines' new administration, I must now concentrate on the demanding duties and responsibilities of this post. As

of this writing, the AFE Election Committee, formed for the election of the next AFE President, is hard at work. In the interim, Chair Steve Groff appointed Vice President Jill Gale de Villa to serve as acting president.

I will not say goodbye because I will remain an AFE member. But let me express my gratitude for the honor and opportunity afforded me to be President of our Association. It has been a rewarding 2 years and 3 months on the job—a little over half of my 4-year term. I assumed the AFE Presidency in May 2020, shortly after the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, and I now leave the post when the pandemic appears to be nearing its end. I will likely have the distinction of having guided AFE through this pandemic. We have managed to hold meetings and other activities online.

I say farewell to my colleagues on the AFE ExCom. I shall miss working with them, even though we have only collaborated remotely during the last 2 years. Fortunately, the ADB HQ partially eased entry restrictions a few months ago, allowing us to visit our new office space and meet in person a couple of times.

Thank you for your support, Jill, Nannette, Bobbie, Malou, and our assistants Alona (who has left us) and Icon (who joined us recently). With patience and empathy, I feel we have effectively surmounted communication barriers. Best wishes to you all! ■

## From the AFE President

Jill Gale de Villa (ADB 1993–2005)



**C**hanges. Transitions are upon us galore.

- Fred Pascual has moved on to another challenge (see the previous article), and I have now replaced him.
- We are still attempting to finalize the move into our new office at ADB, which is conveniently located near

the West Core Lobby. But we still have some issues to solve, including a leaky ceiling and redoing the filing, which was disrupted by an earlier flood from above and is being revamped by our ExCom Secretary Bobbie Montesa, who promises to disrupt it into something much more useful for us.

- Our former assistant Alona resigned and has been replaced by Maricon Algara (Icon), [malgara.contractor@adb.org](mailto:malgara.contractor@adb.org), who we hope will stay on longer.
- And of course the ups and downs of COVID waves continue to hamper endeavors.



Maricon (Icon) Algara,  
AFE's new assistant.

**AFE ExCom.** At the ExCom, Fred Pascual has moved on to an eminent cabinet position with the new Philippine President Ferdinand (“Bongbong”) Marcos, Jr. We thank Fred for his 2+ years at AFE, including moving us toward digitalization of the accounting and finances, and supporting the ExCom functioning in general. He has definitely added value and will be missed.

The ExCom is now meeting every 2 weeks; our meeting notes attempt to keep us on track with and (when possible) ahead of

events. There is much more to do than we can, given issues of connectivity in general and ADB's new systems. I am at office twice a week, working from home otherwise, Malou and Icon are in 3 times a week, others come in as needed.

The ExCom has been expanded by the addition of two temporary members, as permitted by the Bylaws.

- Barbara Palacios is assisting with Cigna matters, and she has for some time been one of AFE's representatives on the GMIP Consultative Forum. Barbara is preparing a new survey of members regarding Cigna insurance use and issues.
- Hans-Juergen Springer is assisting with pension matters and is representing AFE on the ADB pension committees.

**Website and Facebook.** Regarding communications, Bobbie and I are working toward updating our website—we have to move to a new version of the program we are currently using, and are looking for a redesign. The Facebook page continues to send updates to its almost 900 members, and we do recommend you join it. ■

## Health Matters

Jill Gale de Villa

Regarding the health insurance, the last GMIP Consultative Forum was held on 26 August 2022, with Barbara and I representing AFE. Prior to the meeting, BPMSD shared Cigna's latest statistics (July 2022) for staff and retirees combined. Items of interest include COVID-related case increases, telehealth use, and savings from Medicare enrolment. Items we raised at the meeting include issues with the guarantee of payment not arriving promptly, unclear communication, and issues with contacting the ADB representative Michelle Salvador.

The statistics show that COVID-19-related cases soared again during the first half of 2022, in both number and related health reimbursements. I was surprised, because while the numbers are available and indicate a worldwide increase due to the Omicron variant; however, cases among the vaccinated tend to be less severe, so we don't hear so much about them.

Cigna reports to ADB on 10 “service-level agreements”—basically these are performance indicators with the indicators agreed between Cigna and BPMSD. In Q1 of 2022 Cigna fell short on 4 indicators, and in Q2 Cigna's performance improved but still fell short on 3 indicators. Issues reported to us by members have pertained mostly to areas where Cigna did not meet the indicators. Barbara and I continue to raise members' issues with Cigna at the GMCF and directly with BPMSD as appropriate.

Telehealth use is down, which may be in line with people being more willing to go back to their own doctors in person.

Savings due to Medicare enrollees topped \$10 million for mid-2020 to mid-2022.

We continue to get requests from members for assistance sorting out coverage issues and guarantees of payment for procedures. Sometimes we can help, sometimes not, but Barbara and I believe that our assistance has been useful in many cases. Do keep us informed about issues so that we can adequately represent your concerns to ADB. To do that, we need specifics.

Please see also the VP report at the Annual Meeting, p. 13–14. ■

### Health Insurance Coverage

- Before a planned procedure, check the latest Summary Plan Description, available on your page of the Cigna Website to see if it is covered; if there is any doubt, e-mail Cigna and ask.
- In the US, always check in advance whether your provider is in the Cigna network for our insurance coverage because it seems there are various networks depending on the plan—and remember that this status can change from one visit to the next. Best to ask the provider and e-mail Cigna to be sure.

## Building an AFE–Thailand Chapter

Jean-Pierre Verbiest (ADB 1989–2010)



Since mid-2021, several former ADB staff members in Thailand have been meeting to bring together an AFE Thai Chapter. However, due to COVID-19 and the absence of some organizers, it has taken some time to finalize an organizing meeting.

We have been maintaining contacts with over 50 former ADB staff through an active line with daily updates. We are pleased that former ADB staff and board members have been playing an active role in the development of the Chapter.

The ADB–AFE Thailand Organizing Committee (ATOC) finally met on 16 August 2022 to look into how an AFE–Thailand Chapter could be concretely set up. Prior to this meeting, consultations were undertaken with several other AFE chapters on how to proceed with setting up an AFE Chapter. Thailand is a very important country for ADB. Nearly 70

retired staff, both Thais and non-Thais, live in Thailand and many former ADB staff visit the country every year.

The ATOC comprises Bob Dawson, Shirpa Jarvenpaa, Hubert Jenny, Peter King, and me. Several Thai ADB retirees wanted to attend but were unable to do so. They were, however, briefed about the meeting and what would be discussed. So they are also on board.

The purposes of the AFE–Thailand Chapter include to help and support each other, share information, and enjoy ourselves during a number of get-togethers across this wonderful country.

To bring the chapter to life, we plan to organize a “founding” Annual General Meeting” (AGM). The first AGM will be held in Bangkok as most Thai and non-Thai members live here. It is tentatively scheduled for late November or early December. We plan a Friday–Saturday–Sunday event. On Friday, those coming from other parts of Thailand and some of us here in Bangkok would get together for a relaxed casual dinner at a unique place. On Saturday, we would get together in the morning and have the AGM, followed by lunch.

In mid-to-late afternoon, we plan to hire a private wooden boat with snacks and drinks aboard for an early sunset river tour. The boat trip would be followed by a very fun celebration dinner!

The AFE–Thailand Chapter would have a coordinator, co-coordinator, and co-coordinators for Chiang Mai, Phuket, Eastern Seaboard, and Hua Hin. Future AGMs would alternate between these areas of Thailand.

We will of course be very happy to welcome anytime former ADBers from across the ADB world! ■



Organizing Committee of the new AFE–ADB Thailand Chapter; l-r: Hubert Jenny, Peter King, Shirpa Jarvenpaa, JP Verbiest, and Bob Dawson in front of a portrait of Thailand’s late King Bhumibol Adulyadej.



# ADB's 55th Annual Meeting

5 May 2022 and 26–30 September 2022

As you know, ADB's 2022 Annual meeting is being held in two parts, and mostly virtually.

**During the first stage of the 55th ADB Annual Meeting**, on 5 May 2022, the ADB Board of Governors approved ADB's financial statements and net income allocation in line with its institutional requirements. The First Business Session was restricted to ADB Governors or their appointed representatives. Follow this link to view and hear the meeting <https://www.adb.org/news/videos/55th-adb-annual-meeting-1st-stage-governors-business-session>

The meeting was then adjourned to be reconvened at its second stage later in 2022.



President Masatsugu Asakawa addressing the Board of Governors.

**ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa's Address to the Board of Governors Business Session**, at the 55th Annual Meeting, 5 May 2022 follows.

Members of the Board of Governors, greetings.

We are meeting virtually for this Business Session for the third straight year because, while there has been much progress toward overcoming the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, conditions do not yet allow us to meet in person.

However, I look forward to the possibility of gathering together with you and our stakeholders later this year, where we can discuss in much more detail the conditions in Asia and the Pacific, ADB's support to our developing member countries (DMCs), and our priorities moving forward.

Until then, let me offer two brief messages.

First, although today's business session is abbreviated,



the items taken up here are absolutely critical to ensuring ADB's service to the region.

I am very grateful to the Governors—through the guidance of the Chair of the ADB Board of Governors, the Minister of Finance and Governor for Sri Lanka—for adopting ADB's financial statements and allocation of net income. The items on our agenda reflect ADB's robust activity during a crucial year for our region, with commitments of \$22.8 billion in 2021 and allocable net income of \$1.2 billion. I am very grateful for your decision to allocate \$292 million of this allocable net income to the Asian Development Fund and \$90 million to the Technical Assistance Special Fund.

The business you completed today will allow us to continue to provide support to our DMCs, swiftly and without interruption, during these challenging times. I am also grateful to my ADB staff, who have maintained the highest standards in their work and delivered for the populations we serve.

My second message is that although the major challenges we have faced recently may seem stark and overwhelming, all crises do have an end. Accordingly, we have ensured that ADB's response to the pandemic maintained a clear focus on accelerating the transition to a green, resilient, and inclusive recovery—because mitigating the impacts of the current crisis and addressing long-term development needs are not mutually exclusive.

And so, we continue to serve as the climate bank for Asia and the Pacific, by supporting the just transition to a net zero future. We are promoting gender equality across our operations. We are addressing poverty and inequality—especially for the most vulnerable – by strengthening health, education, and social protection. We are enhancing regional cooperation, and supporting efforts to enable our DMCs to better mobilize the resources they need to meet their development needs.

Across our operations, we are building resilience, and remaining vigilant against future crises. I am confident that, through our cooperation and careful planning, we will lead our region through the challenges and emerge stronger than before.

Let me end by saying thank you, Governors, for your support, guidance, and solidarity over the past year. Let us

continue on the path we have laid out—in our Strategy 2030, and through all the wise adjustments you have made to ensure that our vision stays relevant, and attainable—as we strive for a more prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific. Thank you.

**The schedule of events for the continuation** of ADB's third mostly virtual annual meeting follows (excluding closed meetings of governors):

### 26 September

- Women in the Green Economy
- A Conversation with President Masa
- Looking for Progressive Policies to Tackle Asia's Inequality
- Building Back Greener with Nature-Based Solutions
- Book Launch—Blue Economy and Blue Finance
- Financing the SDGs
- Society Perspectives on Just Transition and ADB's New Energy Policy

### 27 September

- ADB–International Economists Association Innovative Research
- Meeting Between CSOs and ADB Management
- Reimagining Tourism
- Role of Fixed Income in Driving the Sustainable Finance Agenda
- ADB President's Press Conference
- Harnessing the Power of the Private Sector and CoFi Partners for Green Recovery
- A Decade of Safeguard Lessons

### 28 September

- Post-COVID Outlook
- Building Sustainable Blue Economies
- Digital Transformation's Contribution to Green Recovery
- Development Effectiveness Review
- Joint Launch of the Taskforce on Climate Change
- Evolving Safeguard Policies
- CAREC Program: Regional Cooperation for Better Disaster Resilience

### 29 September

- CNBC Debate: Managing Asia's Energy Transition
- Future Host Country Event (Incheon 2023)

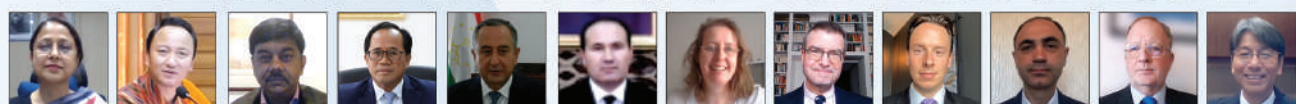
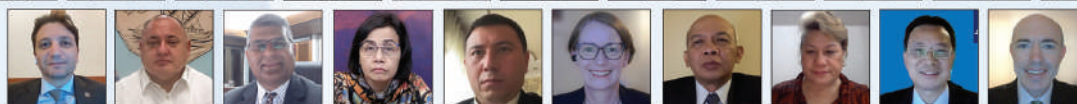
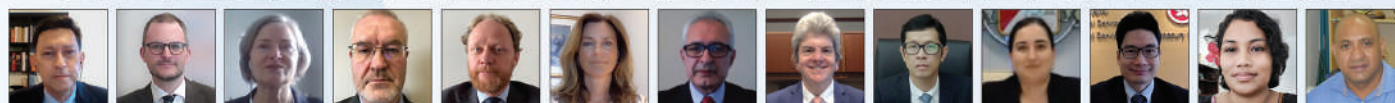
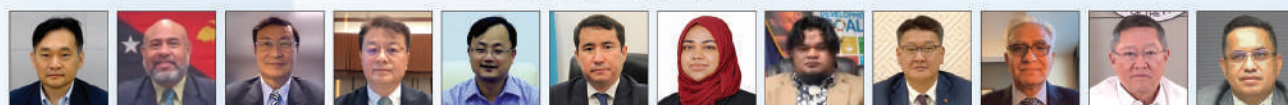
### 30 September

- Governors' Plenary
- Risky Business: Supporting Fragile and Conflict-Afflicted Situations
- Financing the Net-Zero Transition
- Reimagining Green Economy Trade and Industry Pathways
- Meaningful Youth Engagement
- What Has the Asia and Pacific Region Learned from COVID-19
- How Innovative Finance Can Help Win the Battle Against Climate Change

Register at <https://am2022.adb.org/event/eef31f94-5ad0-4017-954c-1a3c44018e72/websitePage:43309f94-477d-454e-b138-acc348ae6a09> or simply type "ADB 2022 annual meeting" into google. ■



FIRST BUSINESS SESSION OF THE  
55th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK  
VIRTUAL • 5 MAY 2022



R1: Muhammad Ehsan Khan (The Secretary, ADB); M.U.M. Ali Sabry (Chair of the Board of Governors, Sri Lanka); Masatsugu Asakawa (President, ADB)  
R2: Sang Kyoo Lee (Republic of Korea); Andrew Oaeke (Papua New Guinea); Yu-Peng Tseng (Taipei, China); Kusun Bang (Uzbekistan, Vanuatu); To Huy Vu (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam); Abzal Abdikarimov (Kazakhstan); Mariyam Manarath Muneer (Maldives); Patrick Langrune (Marshall Islands); Javkhan Bold (Republic of Mongolia); Noor Ahmed (Pakistan); Carlos Dominguez (Philippines); Antonio Freitas (The Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste)  
R3: Kris Panday (Canada); Jesper von Camp-Nielsen (Denmark); Anu Hassinen (Finland); Paul Ryan (Ireland); Frans van der Straaten (Netherlands); Harriet Veddeggjerde Solheim (Norway); Masoud Hashemi (Sweden); Anthony McDonald (Australia, Azerbaijan, Federated States of Micronesia, Federated State of Nauru, Republic of Palau, Solomon Islands); Sophak Chea (Cambodia); Ekaterine Guntsadze (Georgia); Joseph Chan (Hong Kong, China); Koin Uriam Kirifone (Kiribati); Taufia Patolo (Tuvalu); Weihua Liu (People's Republic of China); Charles Moravec (United States)  
R4: Nurussa'adah Muhamad (Brunei Darussalam); Abu Bakar HJ Jambol (Malaysia); Ishwori Aryal (Nepal); Serene Ong (Singapore); Arkhom Tempittaypaisith (Thailand); Stefany Knoll (Belgium); Anne Marchal (France); Paola Pettinari (Italy); Ana Barreto (Portugal); Tomas Fernandez (Spain); Dominique Parvizicli (Switzerland)  
R5: Fatima Yasmin (Bangladesh); Namgyi Tshering (Bhutan); Sameer Kumar Khare (India); Bounleua Sinxayvoravong (Lao PDR); Davlatali Said (Tajikistan); Toyly Malikov (Turkmenistan); Verena Hagg (Austria); Roger Fischer (Germany); Yves Weber (Luxembourg); M. Alper Batur (Turkey); Philip Rose (United Kingdom); Takahiro Yasui (Japan)

# Incheon 2023



In 2023, ADB hopes to have an in-person annual meeting in the Republic of Korea. In September 2020, the ADB Board of Governors resolved that the Fifty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors (2023) would be held on 2–5 May 2023 in Incheon, Republic of Korea.

The 53rd ADB annual meeting, which took place in 2020, was originally planned to be held in the Republic of Korea’s main gateway, its western port city of Incheon. Initially, the country’s Ministry of Economy and Finance and ADB agreed to shift to a two-part meeting with the second part on Sept. 17–18. However, that too had to be held virtually due to COVID. This was especially sad for AFE’s then Chairman, Bong-Suh Lee, who had hoped to host us before retiring from AFE. Let’s keep our fingers crossed that we will be able to go to Incheon and greet him next year. ■

## Executive Committee

Chairman—Stephen P. Groff  
 President—  
 Vice President and Acting President—Jill Gale de Villa  
 Treasurer—Nannette Guinto-Amorado  
 Secretary—Teresa Samson Montesa  
 Ex Officio, insurance—Barbara Palacios  
 Ex Officio, pension—Hans-Juergen Springer  
 Administrative Staff—Malou Pasicolan and Alona Miral

**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)

## 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

Nick Llave	Jill Gale de Villa
Hans-Juergen Springer	Graham Walter

### Publications Committee

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

## Chapter Coordinators

Australia—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, Midi Diel Kawashima  
     North Group—Rosalia Baeza, Maria Luisa Baleva,  
         Aileen Francisco, Vic Rivero  
     South Group—Teresita Ablaza, Carmen Bontia,  
         Marynella Cruz, Ofelia Sta. Ana  
     West Group—Aurora Aragon, Monina de Guzman,  
         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



# Annual General Meeting 2022

## Zoom 2022

While we had hoped to be in Sri Lanka now, that could not transpire. So, for the third time, we Zoomed—with ADB’s assistance. As usual, the addresses and reports of the meetings are summarized here but are available in full on our website: [www.afe-adb.org](http://www.afe-adb.org) in the Member’s Only section. ■

## Chapter Coordinators’ Meeting

### Present

**Executive Committee:** President Alfredo E. Pascual (AEP), Vice President Jill Gale de Villa (JGV), Treasurer Nannette G. Amorado (NGA), ExCom Secretary Teresa S. Montesa (TSM)

**Chapter Coordinators:** Australia: Keith Leonard; Canada: Bruce Murray; Europe: Günter Hecker; Indonesia: Putu Kamayana; Japan: Kazu Sakai; New Zealand: Gordon Fox; US Washington DC: Frederick Roche; Philippines: Gam de Armas; Sri Lanka: Lakshman Athukorala; India: Shiladitya Chatterjee

**Administrative Assistants:** Marilou Pasicolan (MP), Alona Miral (AM)

### Adoption of the 2021 Agenda and Minutes of the Meeting

Both were adopted. A draft of the 2021 minutes had been sent for comments.

The President’s, Vice President’s, and Treasurer’s reports are provided on pp. 12–14, with pertinent discussion at the meeting summarized here.

### President’s Report: Questions and Discussion

**1. Fred Roche, US DC Coordinator:** The IMF recently approved an 8.5% cost of living increase for their retirees which is in line with current inflation rate in the US. The IMF adjustment is based on the period March 2021–March 2022. ADB’s is based on October 2020–September 2021, which does not capture the recent surge in inflation.

**AEP** added that the IMF adjustment may be based on

US dollar inflation only, whereas ADB’s is based on multiple currencies. There is a time lag for ADB due to the need to collect local data from multiple DMCs.

**Günter Hecker (GH), Europe Chapter Coordinator:** This relates to the COLA arrangement of 3% inflation and the “claw-back” clause therein: How much “claw-back” has been/will be calculated for the actual compensation.

**AEP:** The claw-back clause was earlier withdrawn.

**2. Lakshman Athukorala, Sri Lanka Coordinator:** In Sri Lanka, the inflation rate is 5.5%. There is a need to revisit computation of the COLA for those receiving their pension in local currencies. Since there is a lag of 9 months on the computation, ADB should be forward looking instead of calculating based on a historical context.

**AEP:** ADB is not obligated to make prospective adjustments by the currency inflation.

**3. Kazu Sakai, Japan Coordinator:** Is COLA linked to the currency of pension and not the inflation in the country of residence?

**AEP:** That’s correct.

**4. GH:** Citibank is not responding to paper correspondence and email. What will happen to accounts that have not received communication about the change of accounts?

**AEP:** AFE is circulating information, and Gam de Armas is keeping his chapter members informed.

### Vice President’s Report: Questions and Discussion

**Lakshman Athukorala:** Cigna declined some coverage in Sri Lanka, and Cigna reimbursement is delayed. Do you have a regular meeting with ADB insurance?

**JGV:** We meet twice a yearly at the GMIP Consultative Forum. If there are urgent matters, there can be ad hoc consultations.

### Treasurer’s Report: Query

**GH:** What kind of professional fees were covered under sections (1) and (11)? The report mentioned that for 2021 the bank subsidy was, inter alia, utilized to cover professional fees of administrative staff and consultant.

**NGA** noted for 2022, chapters may submit their usual reports for reimbursements, but they were reminded of the cut-off date of end of November. Since no reunions happened during the pandemic, chapters may request for additional funds to cover 2022 expenses.

## Chapter Reports



**Canada: Bruce Murray.** Because of COVID, AFE Canada held no in-person activities during 2021.

On 31 October 2021, Toronto AFE organized a Zoom Octoberfest. The theme was “SAWA” or “We are tired,” reflecting the general sentiment about COVID’s impact. Everyone attending was encouraged to “bring their own *baon*,” share memories of ADB, and talk about how they were spending COVID lockdowns.

Sixteen AFEers attended the Canadian AFE Christmas Zoom on 16 December 2021 that lasted for 2 hours. Everyone 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. Attendees appreciated the fact that Jill participated via Zoom and briefed the meeting on AFE Manila developments and online work, particularly related to pensions and health insurance issues. The Zoom recorded that Canadian AFE Chapter’s appreciation of the work and support of the AFE Manila staff.

During the year a couple of updates were sent to all Canadian AFEers covering things such as (i) economic forecasts and COVID in the Asia and Pacific Region; (ii) the COVID situation in the Philippines; (iii) 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; (iv) restrictions on entry to ADB Headquarters, including that AFE Manila staff could not enter Headquarters for most of 2021; (v) 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 (vi) Canada and ADB.



**Europe: Günter Hecker.** As in most other chapters, reunions were postponed twice during the pandemic. A reunion is being planned in September and 85 members expressed interest. Mostly members kept in touch via e-mail.



**India: Shilo Chatterjee.** India has experienced three major Covid waves so far. A very successful vaccination program with 1.9 billion vaccine doses administered so far as well as restrictions including lockdowns

have contained the virus which is continuing but with low intensity and in a mild form at present. Though many of our chapter members were affected, thankfully, almost all recovered.

The 26th Annual General Meeting of the India Chapter was held virtually on 22 December 2021. It was well attended and was also addressed by AFE–ADB President Fred Pascual and the Vice President Jill Gale de Villa.

The 27th AGM of the India Chapter as a regular physical meeting is now planned be held in New Delhi on 13 October 2022. This will be followed by a 10-day reunion tour of Punjab and the Himachal hills. As in case of previous chapter reunion tours, we welcome other AFE members to participate.

**An issue is the legal status of AFE–ADB at the chapter level.** The India Chapter is facing problems with its bank account as bankers have wanted to see the chapter’s bylaws. However, currently AFE–ADB (India) Chapter is functioning purely informally. Bankers have suggested therefore that the chapter be formally registered, adopt bylaws, and submit know-your-client (KYC) documents of the association.

Because banking laws are getting more stringent everywhere, it would be useful to learn how other chapters are handling this problem.

**A second issue is health insurance:** Adding more CIGNA-approved providers is necessary particularly in cities with no approved hospitals. VP de Villa took this up with CIGNA. What is the response, if any?

**JGV:** Cigna indicated it will attempt to recruit providers that have a significant number of clients who have Cigna insurance. Cigna also noted that some providers decline being affiliated with Cigna because, among other reasons, they prefer upfront payment.



**Indonesia: Putu Kamayana.** I am very disappointed to report that despite the progress in the nation’s COVID-19 vaccination program, people are still reluctant to go out or attend gatherings. So, the chapter postponed the reunion we had planned for August last year, and we are now hopeful that conditions will permit us

to convene safely for a gathering on the outskirts of Jakarta sometime in July or August this year. We will certainly announce it to the larger community in case any members from other chapters wish to catch up with old friends at the event. We were contemplating organizing a multi-day out of town outing such as to Yogyakarta and Solo, but we are still cautious about such an event in the current circumstances.

Otherwise, we are frequently in contact with several chapter members through social media. I and the other Executive Committee members Zsizi Rachman and Kinan Bhinekawati are readily accessible in that manner anytime.



**Philippines: Gam de Armas.** The Philippines Chapter has not had a get-together for the past 2 years due to COVID-19. I and our Area Coordinators tried to organize meetings, including Zoom sessions, in 2020 and 2021, but failed to do so for lack of [widely used] facilities and know-how. In our initial survey this year, we had suggestions

for possibly holding a picnic. We will pursue this and other options, taking into account the safety of members and compliance to existing health protocols.

Two of our four areas have new coordinators and the remaining two area coordinators have modified their composition. From a total of 11 area coordinators in 2021, we now have only 9.



**Sri Lanka: Lakshman Athukorala.** The chapter plans to hold a reunion/get together by the end of June and December.

**Japan: Kazu Sakai.** In 2021, the Japan Chapter had to postpone the reunion originally planned for 2020. Given the present COVID-19 situation in Japan, we will not be able to decide the timing of a reunion soon.



**New Zealand: Gordon Fox.** The New Zealand Chapter continues to be coordinated by me in Wellington, assisted by Ron Hamilton (Secretary, Auckland) and Mike Ryan (Finance, Christchurch). This year we have welcomed two new members to our relatively small chapter. Spouses and

partners at our 2020 Reunion in Blenheim decided to establish an informal ladies' support group to enable spouses and partners to provide mutual support when the need arises. Rosemary Fox (a former President of the ADB Spouses Association and former telephone counsellor with InTouch Foundation) agreed to coordinate the group.

Fortunately, we were able to proceed with our scheduled Reunion Dinner in Auckland in March 2021. This followed our normal pattern of holding a major Reunion and a smaller Dinner in alternate years. Participants arrived from as far

afield as Wellington (an eight-hour drive away, necessitating an overnight stay in Auckland). Our scheduled 2022 Reunion will be held in Christchurch, planned by John Austin and Mike Ryan. Our practice is to hold our reunions during March each year in order to identify issues that should be raised by chapter representatives at the AFE-ADB AGM.

Unfortunately, COVID-19 caused us to reschedule our 2022 reunion to late October. Arrangements will be kept as simple as possible, focusing on a dinner, should the reunion again need to be postponed or cancelled. ■

## 36th Annual General Meeting



ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa

### ADB President's Address

Dear Mr. Groff and AFE members,

It is a great pleasure to be able to have the opportunity to record this message for your annual meeting today.

One of ADB's great strengths is that it has a broad community which spans well beyond its current staff. Former employees are an important part of this community in addition to other groups such as contractors, consultants, and dependents of staff. Your association continues to play a very helpful role in supporting former employees in a number of ways which are of great service to ADB. I recognize and appreciate the role of the 16 Chapter Coordinators in liaising between your members and the Executive Committee at Headquarters.

Firstly, it enables former employees to remain connected to the ADB Community through events across your 16 Chapters and through communication materials such as your very informative newsletter, your Facebook page and our OneADB Today emails. Secondly, it provides a collective voice to management in areas that are important to your members. This for example includes the ADB retirement plans and post-retirement



medical plan where your representatives Fred, Hans, and Jill provide very helpful insights and contribute very actively and constructively to discussions. I am sure that it must have been challenging to accomplish these activities over the last 2 years during the pandemic and so I really appreciate the efforts that the AFE has taken to do this. I am hopeful that as we move out of this period, we will be able to enjoy once again face-to-face interaction with each other. As a start, it is good to hear that you are now able to reoccupy your office at HQ. I wish you a very productive and informative meeting today.

### Chairman’s Opening Address



Chairman Stephen P. Groff

Dear Friends and Colleagues, Welcome. While it is nice to “see” so many of you, I am sorry that that the Covid-19 pandemic has relegated us once again to a virtual Annual General Assembly meeting. I would like to thank Fred Pascual, Jill Gale de Villa and the AFE–ADB officers for all their work over the last year and for the preparations for this meeting. I would also like to thank President Masa for his participation and recognize

President Nakao who is also joining us.

Notwithstanding ongoing improvements, the situation with the pandemic continues to pose challenges around the world. The gradual opening of travel is welcome but uncertainty around new and highly communicable variants makes a full “return to normal” difficult. In spite of these difficulties, the AFE team continues to play a critical role in keeping us all connected and updating us on issues of collective concern.

AFE–ADB membership is approaching 3,100 former staff, management, and board members and there are 16 chapters spread across the globe. Fred, Jill and Nanette will provide additional details, but our total budget is approximately \$64,000—54% of which is financed through membership dues and the remaining portion through the ADB subsidy.

AFE-ADB continues to provide information and updates to our members through social media and the twice-a-year AFE News magazine. The officers also play an important role as liaisons between ADB management and members on issues related to health insurance, pension and others.

I ... look forward to being able to see all of you next year.

### Report of the President



President Alfredo E. Pascual

Our AFE Executive Committee (ExCom) has had a full crew since our last Annual General Meeting on 30 April 2021, with Chairperson Steve, me, Vice President Jill, Treasurer Nannette, and Secretary Bobbie, assisted by Malou and Alona. While virtual communication among us has been satisfactory, lack of in-person interaction has constrained collaboration. In any case, we are glad we made it through the year.

**2021 AFE AGM via Zoom.** In our 35th AFE Annual General Meeting via Zoom on 30 April 2021, we witnessed the turnover of the AFE Chairperson position to former ADB VP Stephen Groff from former ADB VP Bong-Suh Lee. Over 130 members attended the meeting. ADB President Masa favored us with his encouraging message.

**Access to ADB HQ.** ADB HQ went into complete lockdown in mid-March 2020. Since then, ADB has transitioned operations from a work-from-home modality back to the HQ.... Beginning Monday, 4 April 2022, ADB announced that fully vaccinated retirees, among others, are permitted to enter the HQ and access the banks, pharmacy, laundry service, etc. In addition, ADB has also begun issuing the new ADB smart ID to retirees. AFE’s timely intervention before the announcement ensured that retirees were included among those eligible to enter the HQ and obtain the new smart IDs.

**Transition of Citibank Services at ADB HQ.** Citibank has decided to sell its consumer banking business in the Philippines and several other countries, and it has chosen UnionBank to be the buyer of its Philippine retail operations.... About 600 retirees use Citibank Manila as their pension depository bank, and around 250 of this number have a non-Philippine address.... ADB pensioners may designate any bank to be the depository for their pension in the Philippines.... If changing the depository bank, the retiree must inform the ADB Pension Unit by e-mail at [pension@adb.org](mailto:pension@adb.org) (attention: Ms. Melanie Covar).

**Pension Matters.** Accompanying my report is the BPMSD Statement on the Staff Retirement Plan (SRP), Defined Contribution Plan (DCP), and Post-Retirement Insurance Plans (available on the AFE website). You may refer to

this statement for discussions on the reforms made to strengthen the long-term sustainability of the SRP, the actuarial valuation of the SRP Fund as of 30 September 2021, and the DCP features and net assets.

Given the high inflation currently experienced worldwide, I will focus this section of my report on our pensions' annual cost-of-living (COL) adjustments. Currently, ADB provides retirement benefits in 30 currencies.

At its meeting on 28 April 2022, the ADB Pension Committee approved ... COL increases in pensions to be applied effective 1 October 2021 for four groups of SRP participants:

1. For participants who joined before 1 October 2012, the COL increases ... are Bangladesh, 5.5%; India, 5.1%; Kazakhstan, 7.7%; Nepal, 3.6%; Pakistan, 8.8%; Papua New Guinea, 4.3%; Philippines, 4.1%; Sri Lanka, 5.5%; United States, 3.3%; and Vanuatu, 3.8%.
2. For participants who joined on or after 1 October 2012 but before 1 October 2017, the COL increases are equal to the observed CPI increases of 1.4% for EUR and 3.3% for USD.
3. For participants who joined on or after 1 October 2017, the COL increase equals the observed CPI increase of 3.3% for USD.
4. For pre-2012 participants who have accepted to extend employment beyond age 60, (a) the supplemental COL increase for the 10 currencies which had COL increases greater than 3% will apply to pensions earned during their service up to age 60; and (b) the COL increases equal to the observed CPI increase for the relevant currency area will apply to the pension earned during their service beyond age 60.

I will now explain how ADB determines the annual COL increases for pensioners who joined the SRP before 1 October 2012 (pre-2012 participants). Pensioners who joined the SRP on or after 1 October 2012 (2012 participants) are not entitled to the minimum 3% COL increase.

- For the current Plan Year (from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2022), the 3% minimum COL increase was given starting in October 2021. For the countries whose CPI increased during the year ended 30 September 2021 at a rate higher than 3%, the supplemental COL increase on top of the 3% minimum will be incorporated into the pension only by July 2022. The supplemental increases due for the nine (9) months from October 2020 to June 2022 will be paid retroactively as a lump sum together with the pension for July 2022.
- The lag in the payment of the supplemental COL increases is due to the waiting time for all the required 30 CPI data to become available. The Pension Committee's approval of the COL increases can only be done in April or May of the current Plan Year.
- The sources of CPI data are IMF's International Finance

Statistics Online, except for Taipei, China (National Statistics Database); Bangladesh and Kazakhstan (Census and Economic Information Center); and Vanuatu (Haver Analytics).

**Digitalization Initiatives.** To enhance the efficiency of AFE, we implemented a simple, cost-effective cloud-based digital accounting software and are contracting the same service provider to customize the accounting system further and establish a member relations management system. We are still in the process of deciding ... how we will restructure the AFE HQ website. These components will be interlinked to form an integrated digital information system for AFE.

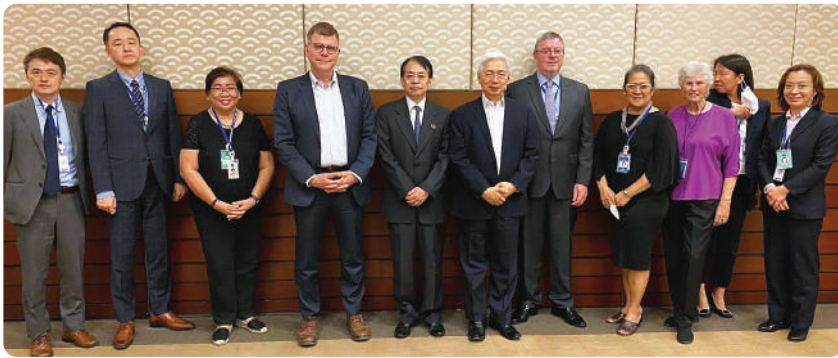
**Concluding remarks.** ... I would like to thank and congratulate our coordinators for sustaining their respective chapters amid the pandemic for over 2 years now. Thanks also to the members of the AFE committees for publications and medical insurance for volunteering their time when needed, our two administrative assistants for having provided the ExCom the needed support virtually from their homes, and our counterparts at ADB for helping address our concerns. Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues in the ExCom for their undiminished commitment to the Association despite the challenges of the times.

## Report of the Vice President

Welcome to our third digital annual meeting—at least this year the Executive Committee can sit together and we have now seen our new office space. As we move into our second year of vast changes associated with COVID-19, the impact on AFE's functioning has in some ways been profound, with continuing impediments to workflow. This report primarily covers two topics: communications and health insurance.



Headquarters Team, l-r, front: President Fred Pascual, Chairman Steve Groff; back: Administrative Assistant Malou Pasicolan, Treasurer Nannette Guinto-Amoroso, Secretary Bobbie Montesa, VP Jill de Villa, former assistant Alona Miral.



Lunch after the 2022 Annual Meeting hosted by ADB President Asakawa. L-r: Chief Advisor to the President Haruto Takimura, BPMSD Director General Yasuo Watanabe, AFE Secretary Bobbie Montesa, AFE Chair Stephen Groff, ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa, AFE President Fred Pascual, ADB Vice-President Bruce Gosper, AFE Treasurer Nannette Guinto-Amorado, AFE Vice President Jill Gale de Villa, Senior Advisor to the President Niny Khor, BPMSD Deputy Director General Xinning Jia.

AFE with their time and expertise. Do volunteer if you would like to help move these ideas into realities.

**Communications.** During 2021, we continued to have to handle our communications from outside the protective and enabling AFE headquarters building and tech support, which has impacted our e-mailing. Our ExCom Secretary Bobbie Montesa has been a lot of help with this, as she works with Alona and Malou. We look for some amelioration of the issues as we move to work part time from the office—but, like the rest of the world, work-from-home will continue to be a part-time feature for us. One continuing issue is the quality and content of the ADB news we forward—*OneADB Today*—the problem lies in the quality of what ADB gives us for distribution.

**AFE News.** Issue #60 is available, and I am happy to report that several members have e-mailed thanks for and approval of it. These thanks belong to all the contributors, who provide substance and interest on a wide range of topics for a wide range of readers. We hope to start distributing hard copies with the edition #61. Do send us your articles for it.

The AFE Publications Committee reviews all articles submitted for the People, Places, and Passages section for appropriateness for our broad audience and adherence to the conditions set out on the second-to-the last page of the magazine. This helps assure the range of articles continues to be broad. Several members of the committee also assist with editing and proofreading. And some Chapter Coordinators have done an exemplary job of encouraging their members to provide articles. This is especially helpful for members who are a bit shy about writing about their activities.

Our **AFE-ADB HQ Facebook page** continues to be useful, with essential and some other information posted. It has about 900 members.

Going forward, we intend to redesign the **AFE-ADB.org Website** to increase its readability and attractiveness. Initial work has been done and will continue through the year.

As noted last year, we would like to do more, such as institute a blog or two on matters of interest, including development work, and are investigating how to do so given the limited number of retirees active in supporting

**Health Insurance.** Retirees are very appreciative of the health insurance—covering an essential need—and retirees based in the Philippines are thankful for ADB’s support for us to receive Covid vaccines. The majority of our AFE interactions with retiree Cigna clients pertain to giving information on how and where to find the information needed to request guarantees of payment, claim, and respond when claims are not readily accepted by Cigna. We sometimes bring individual matters to Cigna for action, and we bring them to BPMSD and the GMIP Consultative Forum with the aim of bringing action through ADB monitoring of Cigna’s agreed performance standards and adjusting them as needed.

Barbara Palacios and I met twice last year and once this year with the GMIP Consultative Forum—in April and August of 2021 and February of 2022—to discuss policy issues and matters affecting the wider group of insured. We note what appears to be an increase in Cigna’s errors in processing claims prior to settlement, including asking for the same information more than once and asking again for information that has already been provided, and have raised this issue with Cigna and BPMSD. We appreciate the input from Chapter Coordinators.

Your continued feedback on the insurance provides us with information that facilitates our efforts to improve the insurance service through our participation in the GMIP Consultative Forum, liaison with Cigna, and liaison with ADB insurance staff. Stay safe and well.

## Report of the Treasurer



Treasurer Nannette Guinto-Amorado

The COVID-19 pandemic started in 2020 and continued in 2021 through the present. Our Association continued to operate and I have good news on the financial side.

**A healthy financial situation.** Our External Auditor, Villaruz, Villaruz and Co., CPAs, gave us an unqualified audit opinion, stating that our financial statements fairly presented our financial position, financial



performance, and cash flows in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium-Sized Entities.

At the end of 2021, we again managed to have an excess of receipts over expenses, amounting to \$16,242. This resulted in an almost 10% increase in our fund balance of \$185,785 at 31 December 2021. Our cash on hand and in bank increased by 37% compared with 2020. This was mainly due to reallocations of the ADB subsidy to cover the professional fees of our administrative consultant (Malou Pasicolan), cost of the digital accounting system, and the maintenance fees. This was also due to having no business travel expenses during 2021.

**Fully shifted to digital accounting.** During 2021, we have fully installed and implemented Accubooks, an online accounting and enterprise risk planning system developed by Ally Techno Grit Solutions Corporation based in the Philippines. After initial implementation problems, Malou and I are now quite comfortable with recording and reviewing online. Our next project is to link this accounting system with a member relationship management system. This will enable AFE to be more responsive to our members.

**Almost fully utilized ADB Subsidy.** In 2021, AFE-ADB received a 6% increase in subsidy from ADB, making the total subsidy \$29,800. However, because of the pandemic, we were not able to use the budget for business travel expenses and we only used 1/3 of the budget for eligible local expenses. Only 5 of the 16 chapters managed to hold their annual reunions (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, US-New York/New Jersey and US-Southern California). Two chapters did not fully utilize their budget and we learned about this too late to reallocate their allotments, thus we forfeited \$1,179 of the subsidy. Except for this, however, we did manage to reallocate the rest of the unused budget to cover the cost of our digitization project and the professional fees of our administrative consultant.

**Moving Forward in 2022.** Our subsidy for 2022 remains the same as in 2021, amounting to \$29,800. Anticipating increases in post-pandemic activities, we established a "Reserve Pool" with an estimated amount of \$2,100 or about 14% of the budget for AFE Chapters' annual meetings.

For your information and reference, two documents, approved by our Chair Steve Groff, are available online in the Members' Only section of the AFE website:

- 1 AFE-ADB Resources: Utilization in 2021 and Proposed Budget for 2022; and
- 2 Utilization of ADB Subsidy for 2021 and Budget Allocations for 2022.

## BPMSD's Statements

**Post Retirement Group Medical Insurance Plan (PRGMIP).** Stop-loss limits in 2021 increased from \$5,385 (international staff) and PHP69,925 (national and administrative staff) to \$5,655 and PHP73,420 (respectively) based on the 5% annual indexation. The limits for US non-network care increased by 5% as well. For US in-network care, the IS limits apply to all categories.

Medical insurance reimbursements increased from PHP814.3 million in 2020 to PHP850.6 million in 2021, or an increase of 4.5%. Reimbursements to retirees and dependents amounted to PHP484.5 million in 2020 and PHP456.7 million in 2021, or 59.5% and 53.7% of the totals.

**Post Retirement Group Life Insurance Plan (PRGLIP).** A total of 525 participants were covered in 2021 including 35% of new retirees. There were 522 participants in the plan in 2020 including 19% of new retirees.

**Long-Term Care Insurance Plan (LTCP).** A total of 619 retirees and spouses were enrolled in LTCP in 2021 and 595 in 2020.

### Staff Retirement and Defined Contribution Plans

(The full report is available on AFE's website, Members Only, 2022 Annual Meeting)

**Staff Retirement Plan (SRP).** Following the 2016 review to strengthen the long-term financial sustainability of the SRP:

- 1 From 1 October 2017, eligible new entrants to ADB are enrolled in the reformed SRP and Defined Contribution plans.
- 2 The Funding Policy to determine ADB contributions to the SRP was strengthened, providing a framework for ADB to predictably and consistently meet the costs and expenses of the Plan. Budgeted Contributions to the Staff Retirement Fund at 27.0% of the pensionable salaries of active Staff Retirement Plan (SRP) participants were approved from 2021.
- 3 SRP governance was strengthened by increased reporting from the Investment Committee to the Pension Committee and increased technical briefings to the Pension Committee, among other measures. Pensions for current pensioners are not affected by the decisions taken on pensions for new staff hired on or after 1 October 2017. Similarly, the rights in the defined benefit pension scheme for members hired before that date remain intact, as well as the interest rates on discretionary benefits contracts already in existence the end of 2016.

**2020 Actuarial Valuation Results.** Some key findings of the actuarial valuation by Towers Watson Hong Kong Limited (Willis Towers Watson) are as follows:

- the adjusted market value of assets is \$3,476.27 million and projected benefit obligations is \$3,998.43 million which gives rise to an unfunded past service liability of \$522.16 million; and
- to fund future annual service accruals, and taking into account the past service deficit, the required contribution rate is determined as 42.40% of payroll.

As approved by the Pension Committee on 1 June 2018, there were no additional OCR transfers in Plan Years 2018, 2019, and 2020. The Total Contribution rates retained were 25.0%, 24.0% and 24.0% respectively, as budgeted. Budgeted Contributions to the Staff Retirement Fund at 27.0% of the pensionable salaries of active Staff Retirement Plan (SRP) participants were approved from 2021.

The plan had an investment return of 7.75% in plan year 2020 leading to a decrease in the funded ratio from 97.6% to 90.3%, when measured on a market value basis. The funded ratio, as based on the adjusted market value of assets, decreased from 97.3% to 86.9%, reflecting a return on assets on adjusted value basis of 4.1%.

The valuation results are published in the SRP Annual Report available online via the ADB Alumni Portal and in hard copy on request. BPMSD is working diligently to strengthen the pension administration and improve the level of service for our members.

**Defined Contribution Plan.** The Defined Contribution Plan established in 2017 became effective for staff hired on or after 1 October 2017. It is designed as a retirement savings vehicle, funded through contributions from ADB and participants, and invested based on each participant's instructions. The 24 funds available for investments cover a range of asset classes and currencies. ■

## AGM 2022 Participants

### Australia

Colandavelu Narayanasuwami  
Rita O'Sullivan  
Roger Weir

### Austria

Ulf Freiwald

### Cambodia

Vandy Dav

### Canada

Bruce Murray

### China, People's Republic of

Yushu Feng  
Heqing Huang  
Tinhua Luo

### Finland

Erkki Jappinen  
Robert Wihtol

### Germany

Günter Hecker  
Hans-Juergen Springer

### Hong Kong, China

Sophia Ho

### India

Munawar Alam  
Shiladitya Chatterjee  
Ajay Sagar  
Paritosh Tyagi

### Indonesia

Syarifah Aman-Wooster  
Putu Kamayana  
Dimiyati Nangju

### Japan

Shigeo Kashiwagi  
Ayumi Konishi  
Takehiko Nakao  
Kazu Sakai  
Yasuki Sawada  
Kunio Senga

### Malaysia

Benjamin Lee  
Chatiya Nantham  
Hock Chye Ong

### Nepal

Bindu Lohani

### New Zealand

Eric Gordon Fox  
Richard Keith Leonard  
Helen Tobin  
Erlinda Wayman

### Philippines

Anna Maria Alipio  
Nanette Amorado  
Antonio Arana  
Gam de Armas  
Yolanda Asuncion  
Lope Auxillos  
Felix Bilar  
Ofelia Caalim  
Odessa Canto  
Thomas Bethel Colvin  
John Robert Cooney  
Peter Darjes  
Jesus Felipe  
Stephen Groff  
Peter Hanton  
Wilhelmina Jacinto

Werner Liepach

Renato Limjoco  
Maria Solita Mabaquiao

Lea Malazo  
Natividad Medina

Teresa Montesa

Editha Okada

Maria Nina Oliveros

Danilo Orzal

Lilia Orzal

Barbara Palacios

Socorro Panis

Alfredo Pascual

Jannette Pascual

Araceli Patricio

Carmen Perez

Zynthia Potian

James Edmond Rockett

Edgardo Rodriguez

Omar Tiwana

Jill Gale de Villa

Annie Vizcarra

Graham Walter

### Singapore

Siew Fing Wong

### Sri Lanka

Sarath Lakshman Athukorala  
Jeeva Perumalpillai-Essex

### United Kingdom

Juzhong Zhuang

### United States

John Chang  
Renan Del Carmen  
David Jay Green  
Pura Gutierrez  
Edward Haugh, Jr.  
Eugenia McGill  
Ying Qian  
Lorna del Rosario  
Donneth Walton  
Matthew Westfall



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

# Chapter News

## Canada

Bruce Murray (ADB 1980–2007)



**Annual Meeting.** I participated virtually in the Chapter Coordinators meeting in the lead up to AFE's May AGM and gave a short report on AFE Canada news in 2021/2022 with a focus on (1) the Toronto AFE group 31 October 2021 Zoom Octoberfest with the theme "SAWA" or

"We are tired," and (2) the 16 December AFE Canada Christmas Zoom.

**Mid-Year Report.** In August 2022 I circulated a report to all AFE Canada members on developments during the first half of 2022. It covered (1) developments in ADB and AFE, (2) the transition of accounts from CitiBank to UnionBank, (2) the second phase of the 55th ADB Annual General Meeting and related hyperlinks, (3) ADB's COVID response as of July 2022, (4) total ADB financing in 2021 and financial support to the Philippines in 2021, (5) the economic outlook for the Asia and Pacific Region, and (6) AFEers and ADB staff who had passed away in 2022.

**Manila and HQ.** Emma and I visited Manila for the month of April, the first time since COVID. We were required to wear a mask on the PAL flight. The PAL website had good, up-to-date material on requirements for travelling to the Philippines.

As of 4 April, fully vaccinated retirees could enter HQ and access the ground and 1st floors of the building, including the banks, pharmacy, laundry service, etc. Retirees can also obtain their new ADB smart ID from the Pass and Key Office. The procedure to get a new retiree ID was quick and only involved getting a new picture taken. At the time, most ADB staff were working remotely.

By June, HQ-permitted occupancy was raised to 75%, although working remotely remained an option, and HQ services were resumed. Only fully vaccinated staff and business contacts could enter HQ. On 1 August ADB moved to permitting 100% occupancy, and staff were given a month to transition from working remotely.

The fact that virtually all ADB staff were working remotely makes it all the more impressive that in 2021 ADB provided \$22.8 billion in financial support to help the Asia and the Pacific sustain the COVID pandemic response and aid in the region's economic recovery. The level of financial support in 2021 was 28% lower than the record \$31.6 billion in 2020 at the height of COVID. An additional \$12.9 billion in cofinancing was also mobilized. In 2021, India received the most financial support at \$5 billion, followed by Pakistan with \$3.2 billion, Bangladesh with \$2.8 billion, and the Philippines at \$2.2 billion.

During our April visit we were pleasantly surprised vis-à-vis COVID. Everyone was wearing masks and most people were vaccinated—not just in the gated communities but others such as the family of our long-time maid and people we know who live in the province. Initially, people could only get SINOVAX because the OECD countries were getting all of the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines. However, now many people have had a couple of shots of Moderna and Pfizer.

Another pleasant surprise was the elevated expressways that are now fully operational in Manila. One day we visited one of Emma's brothers who lives in Bulacan. Emma's sister and sister-in-law, who live in Alabang, were with us. When we arrived back in Manila it was about 4:30PM. We went from the Manila end of the northern Luzon Expressway (NLEX) to Alabang in about 40 minutes. Of course, we had to pay the tolls but the traffic flowed along at 60 kilometers (km) per hour with no stopping or traffic jams. We were stunned as normally that drive would take hours!

**Update on ADB Assistance to Asia and the Pacific.** ADB has provided substantial assistance to help the Asia and Pacific Region in general, and the Philippines in particular, in the battle against COVID, through the \$20 billion COVID Facility and the \$9 billion Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility. Total committed resources now stand at \$32.87 billion covering 293 projects. ADB also helped to arrange for the vaccinations and booster shots for staff, dependents, retirees, contractors, and consultants. ADB kept staff up-to-date on the local COVID advisories and restrictions and travel requirements. After 27 months of activity, ADB's Pandemic Crises Management Team had its final meeting on 7 June 2022.

Nearly 60% (\$13.5 billion) of ADB's 2021 funding was targeted for the pandemic response and strengthening the health sector. For the Philippines, a total of \$2.05 billion,





or 92% of ADB’s 2021 financing for the country, was for the COVID response. That included \$650 million in loans through the Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility to procure and distribute over 85 million doses of COVID vaccines. ADB also provided a \$600 million loan to support reforms in the government’s universal healthcare program to provide continued access to health services for around 109 million Filipinos, including at least 36.9 million homeless people, senior citizens, and other vulnerable groups. The project aims to strengthen and expand government services, including health insurance, telemedicine, hospital care, and health diagnostics.

During the last couple of years, ADB has provided substantial financing which should help to address Manila’s traffic problems. In 2021 ADB provided a \$175.1 million loan to support the construction of three road bridges crossing the Marikina River to improve traffic flow: (1) the Marcos Highway–St. Mary Avenue Bridge, linking Barangay Calumpang to Barangay Jesus dela Peña in Pasig City; (2) the Homeowner’s Drive–A. Bonifacio Bridge connecting Barangay Sto Niño to Barangay Tañong; and (3) the Kabayani Street–Matandang Balara Bridge linking Barangay Malanday to Balara, Quezon City. Construction started in 2022 and completion is expected in 2026.

ADB projects are also designed to help commuters. In 2020 ADB approved the \$123 million EDSA Greenways Project to improve the pedestrian environment in four mass transit stations along EDSA (the Balintawak Station on LRT Line 1, the Cubao station of Metro Rail Transit Line 3 [MRT-3], the Guadalupe station on MRT-3, and the Taft station on MRT-3 and LRT-1). The Project, to be completed by 2024, will build or improve a total of 5 km of covered elevated walkways around the four stations. Elevators will be attached to the elevated walkways to address the needs of the elderly, pregnant women, persons with disabilities, and people with small children. The elevated walkways will be connected to mass transit stations to help promote the use of public transport.

ADB has also financed two huge commuter railway projects for Metro Manila. In June 2022 ADB approved a \$4.3 billion loan for a Philippine Railway Project. The 55-km South Commuter Railway project is ADB’s largest

infrastructure financing in the Asia and Pacific region to date. The project will halve travel time between Manila and Calamba City in Laguna Province, from the current 2.5 hours. The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is funding the rolling stock and railway systems. All ADB-financed infrastructure such as civil works for the railway viaduct, 18 stations, bridges, tunnels, and depot buildings will be designed to be disaster-resilient and able to withstand typhoons and earthquakes, according to the statement.

In 2019, ADB provided a loan of \$2.75 billion to help finance the Malolos–Clark railway project. JICA is financing the link from Tutuban to Malolos. The project will support the construction of two sections, totaling 53.1 km, of the North–South Commuter Railway (NSCR), a 163-km suburban railway network connecting the regional center of Clark in Central Luzon with Metro Manila and Calamba, Laguna. The project will use advanced technology to build an elevated railway line to ease traffic pressure in and around the National Capital Region. Trains will be able to travel at speeds of up to 160 km per hour once the railway is completed. The project is aimed at encouraging people to live outside of Manila by connecting the city and the Luzon region to developments in the Clark Freeport and Special Economic Zone. This includes the new Clark Green City which plans to accommodate up to 1.2 million people. The new rail link will also support the current expansion of the Clark International Airport. JICA is cofinancing the project with additional financing of up to \$2 billion for the rolling stock and the railway systems. ■

**Medical Treatment Not Working? Want Another Opinion?**

Try Cigna’s **“Second Opinion.”** Two of our members told me have done this, to their benefit.

- In one case, Cigna did not want to approve an operation, and suggested their Second Opinion service. The member consulted and tried what Cigna’s doctors recommended, and it worked, saving him the knife.
- In another case, a member was suffering through repeated infections. Cigna suggested he try “Second Opinion.” He did, and Cigna’s doctors recommended a course of treatment that cured him. He is so happy.

So, if your medical treatment is not working or you are concerned about whether it is the right treatment, you could try Cigna’s **Second Opinion**—it’s a free service because it is part of our GMIP. Here’s how:

→Go to your Cigna page→Type “second opinion” into the search box→Click on “TrustedMedical Experts.” *Jill*

# Japan

Kazu Sakai (ADB 1987–2014)



**D**ue to continuing Covid-19 contagion, the Japan Chapter kept postponing its reunion. So, there is not much to report, but two recent events are pertinent to chapter members.

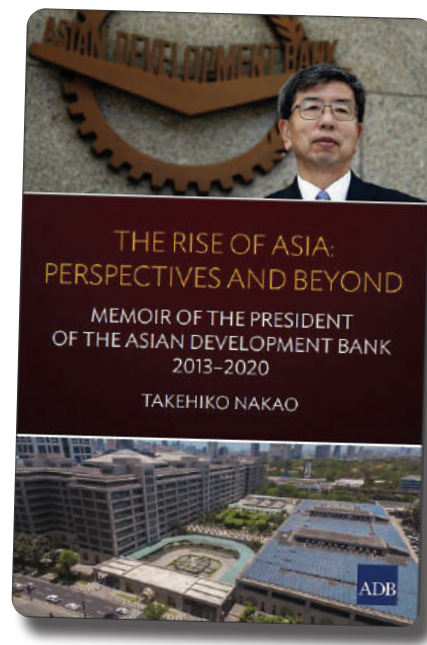
**A Gathering for Skipp Orr.** In the last issue of the AFE News, I mentioned the passing of Ambassador Robert “Skipp” Orr, former US Executive Director. Skipp

spent a large part of his time in Japan and was a member of the AFE Japan Chapter. On 21 April 2022, Skipp’s widow, Mitsuko (Miko) Orr, hosted a memorial dinner in Tokyo. About 50 of Skipp’s friends attended, including former ADB President Nakao, Mrs. Kuroda, and several AFE members and former ADB staff members. President Kuroda, who was in Washington, DC. for the IMF and World Bank spring meeting, sent a message. Unfortunately, many of those who wanted to join the gathering from abroad were not able to come because of COVID-19-related restrictions on foreigners’ entry into Japan. It was still a very heartwarming gathering, with Miko telling us about Skipp’s life and close friends sharing their dear memories of him. Together, we remembered this extraordinary man who was a successful businessman, an accomplished scholar, an ardent educator, a dedicated public servant, a warm family person, and a genuine friend to many.

## A Presidential Memoir.

In July 2022, ADB published an English version of President Nakao’s memoir, *The Rise of Asia: Perspectives and Beyond—Memoir of the President of the Asian Development Bank 2013–2020* was published by ADB. The memoir, originally published in Japanese in 2020, relates how President Nakao managed ADB, by giving his views

about the role of the President and vividly depicting interactions with leaders of developing member countries, ADB’s Board, Management, and staff. The book also provides President Nakao’s observations, reflections, and insights on the rise of Asia, challenges it is facing, and prospects for the future. The book was very well received in Japan, and I am happy to see it now available in English for a wider range of readers, especially non-Japanese ADB colleagues and retirees. The book can be downloaded in pdf from ADB’s website: <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/808451/rise-asia-perspectives-beyond.pdf>. ■



AFE members and others at the memorial dinner for Skipp Orr.



# People, Places, and Passages

## Galápagos-Ho

Kathleen Dietrich (formerly Moktan; ADB 1992–2015)



In February 2020, Darcy and I had just returned from a wonderful expedition to Antarctica. Our next bucket list adventure was scheduled for April 2020 to the Galápagos Islands, but it was cancelled due to COVID.

During 2020 as Albertans, we pretty much had the Rockies to ourselves, visiting Jasper, Banff, Lake Louise, and Canmore. In 2021 we had more cross-Canada visitors and towards the end of the year, a trickle of international visitors. In 2021 we ventured to the other side of the Rocky Mountains, making a couple of trips to Yoho National Park, the Khutzeymateen Grizzly Bear Sanctuary in Northern BC and Haida Gwaii in British Columbia.

We were in Canmore towards the end of February 2022 when I stumbled upon a National Geographic Photography Tour of the Galápagos scheduled for the end of April. We had been fully vaccinated, blissfully avoiding the plague, and were starting to notice a lot of our family and friends taking the plunge and travelling outside of the country. So, thinking it was a long shot, we reached out to Nat Geo. Wow, we were lucky, not only did we get on the National Geographic Endeavour II on 29 April, but we had a great cabin too!

From what we understand, tour companies operating in the Galápagos are restricted to two routes, of 7 days each, which they repeat on a 15-day cycle. We were on the southern route, starting on San Cristobal then travelling to Española, Floreana, Santa Cruz, San Salvador, and Genovesa islands. We left the ship and returned to the Ecuadorian mainland from Baltra.

The trip was everything we imagined. The Endeavour II had 88 passengers and about as many crew on board. Our expedition leader had lived in the Galápagos for many years. Our National Geographic Photography Expert was Ralph Lee Hopkins, the Director of the Expedition Photography Program for Lindblad-National Geographic. There were also nine naturalists, most of whom were Nat Geo certified photo instructors, all Ecuadorian (as was the entire crew). We were taken on shore at daybreak and often stayed to sunset (the national park prohibits visitors from being on the uninhabited islands after sunset). We were in groups of 12 with a naturalist/photo instructor and had lots of time to photograph an amazing array of birds and animals. I often felt the naturalists would have preferred to herd cats...imagine 12 photographers with tripods, monopods, and lenses galore disembarking from a zodiac, stopping 12 feet from the drop off point, and all taking a gazillion pictures of the first sea lion encountered!



National Geographic Endeavour II and one of the trusty zodiacs, Floreana Island.





Top Left: "Blue-Footed Booby Yoga." " (Male blue-footed boobies display their feet in an elaborate mating ritual by lifting them up and down while strutting before the female. Sky-pointing is also part of the mating ritual.)  
 Right: "Blue-Footed Booby Dance."  
 Middle left: Nuzzling sea lions  
 Bottom: Sally Lightfoot crab.

Days on the ship involved an early morning trek, then a snorkel, lunch, natural history and photography presentations, and afternoon snorkel and/or trek. Each evening's cocktail hour included a debrief of the day and plan for the following day. On the final day were presentations of the photographs by staff and guests. It was a jam-packed itinerary, with plenty of great food and drink, and a lot of photographs taken.

So, to the photographs. I managed to whittle down the 3,000-4,000 shots I took to a mere 336. Here are just a few of my favorites. I went to the Galápagos specifically to see the blue-footed boobies, without a doubt my favorite bird. I shot the "Blue-Footed Booby Dance" and "Blue-Footed Booby Yoga" in the late afternoon on Española Island. This is a magical island.

To commence our visit to the island, we disembarked from the zodiac and started about a 3-kilometer walk, greeted by sea lions, marine iguanas, and Sally Lightfoot crabs as we left the beach and began the gradual climb. It was not really a trail walk, more clambering over boulders, carefully avoiding the marine iguanas. They are quite magical and appear to materialize in front of you—in other words, they are very well camouflaged. The trek took us to a roosting site of the wave albatross, then colonies of marine iguanas, blue-footed boobies, Nazca boobies, and cormorants. We finally got back into the zodiacs as the sun was sinking below the horizon.

Marine iguanas and Sally Lightfoot crabs are prevalent throughout the islands. As with many species, the marine iguanas are endemic to the Galápagos—they are cold blooded but graze on undersea algae. They swim down, grab onto rocks with their very sharp claws, munch away for about 15 minutes, and then must quickly return to shore, where they warm their bodies in the sun. Beautiful, colorful little crabs are everywhere, but are not considered edible by humans.





Right: Marine iguana "aka  
Godzilla understudy."  
Bottom: Marine iguanas  
sunning themselves.







Top: Lava lizard on Española Island.  
Directly above: Land iguanas on Cerro Dragon.

Bottom: The giant Galápagos tortoise's lifespan is about 100 years in nature—and up to 177 years in captivity. This is the western Santa Cruz subspecies that is endemic to Santa Cruz Island in the Galápagos.





Darcy photographing a baby sea lion oblivious of the rule against “approaching the animals,” then turning its back on Darcy (image below) when he didn’t turn out to be the little sea lion’s mother.

In addition to blue-footed boobies there are red-footed boobies, whose feet only become red upon sexual maturity. The picture captioned “Heh my feet are really red” (p. 25) was shot on Genovesa Island. It was an amazing island, with breeding colonies of red-footed and Nazca boobies, doves, gulls, frigate birds, and finches, as well as being a great place for the Galápagos sea lion to frolic in the surf.

The Galápagos sea lions (related to California sea lions) are found on

a number of islands. Sea lions, which are not seals, have external ears and walk on their flippers. They are also very cute and very vocal; like other species in the Galápagos they appear to have absolutely no fear of humans. One little fellow who was left in a safe cove while momma went to feed went right up to Darcy and sniffed his foot! We are not supposed to be closer than 6 feet from the animals, but it is hard when they come to you.

The Galápagos is also famous for its giant tortoises, which were hunted almost to extinction by the whaling ships. Because a tortoise can live for a year without food or water, the ships would stop in the Galápagos and capture several, keeping them in the hold, basically supplying the crew with fresh meat for a year. We were lucky to go to the Charles Darwin Research Centre on Santa Cruz Island where they are working to preserve and reintroduce endemic species and to photograph the Santa Cruz Tortoises in the wild.

In addition to marine iguana, a number of species of land iguana are endemic to the Galápagos. We spent a morning on Cerro Dragon (“Dragon Hill”) where we came upon about 14 variously sized iguanas and even saw three in a rough and tumble fight—they move fast when they are being chased! In addition to the large (sometimes up to 30 pounds) land iguanas, each island has its own little lava lizard. These are tiny, but very photogenic. The little one at the top of p. 24 was at the beach on Gardner Bay, Española Island.

We saw many beautiful and amazing species, including star fish, sharks, rays, and sea turtles while snorkling. On land, there were flamingos, penguins (yes, the little Galápagos penguin—only 2,000 are left in the wild), frigate birds, finches, herons, gulls, doves, and pelicans. But the last word has to go to the Nazca booby. It is the largest of the Galápagos boobies, and not nearly as pretty as the red-footed booby or as goofy as the blue-footed booby, but has its own special charm, and its beautiful yellow eyes compensate for its somewhat lackluster greyish green feet.

I hope my article does justice to this really magical part of the world. If you haven’t been to the Galápagos, put it on your bucket list. Darcy and I give top marks to National Geographic Expeditions, at least for the Galápagos Islands. ■







Top left: Red-footed booby.  
Top right: Nazca booby.  
Bottom: Short-eared owl,  
Genovesa Island.



# ADB Finns

Robert Wihtol (ADB 1994–2013)



The ADB Finns, past and present, met for our traditional summer lunch on 4 August at Kari Saari’s home in Hämeenlinna, about an hour’s drive north of Helsinki. We had beautiful summer weather, enjoyed traditional Finnish summer food and drinks, were entertained by Kari’s daughter

Anneli who played traditional Finnish songs for us on the accordion, and spent the afternoon reminiscing about good times in Manila. ■



L-r: Ari Kalliokoski, Kari Saari, Jyrki Wartiovaara, Max von Bonsdorff, Robert Wihtol, Sirpa Järvenpää, Antero Vähäpassi, Jaana Kalliokoski, Heikki Noro, Annukka Westling, Paolo Nesi, and Rolf Westling.

## Transporting through ADB Retirement

Gregg R. Garcia (ADB 1995–2012)

Every time I meet Jill, I am reminded to share some story or experience. I am often at different workplaces or companies. Quite strange, but as a retiree, that works for me. Here is my story.



Gregg Garcia and the JICA-funded Metro Manila Subway Project.

After a decade of working for the Light Rail Transit (LRT), the 1st metro in Manila, in 1995, I was given an opportunity to start my ADB journey in the Office of Administrative Services (OAS—now the Corporate Services Department, or CSD). I had three growing kids during that time. I would say that it is quite a blessing for most staff to be working in ADB.

My kids have grown now (of course a lot taller than me), and I thank ADB for their good education as they are now employed and settled. My wife Lanie, who used to teach high school students at St. Paul’s Pasig (where she had many ADB dependents as her students) has also retired.

In my ADB days, I stayed fit, went to the gym regularly, but missed group games such as bowling and basketball. Though my Myers-Briggs score indicated I am an introvert, I have a passion for helping people. When my position at ADB was regularized, I ran for the Staff Council and served 2 terms, and I became a member of the ADB Coop Board. I continued to support many project teams, hone my skills, bring out the best in my big OAS team, attend lunch-time brown bag seminars, join conferences and the transport community of practice, and learn from many international and local ADB staff. I believe that ADB has always had a learning and helping culture. I wanted to join ADB projects but, coming from OAS, I had no project experience and that, I think, disincentivizes many of us.

In 2008, I was cited as an Outstanding Staff Member by OAS. I worked full-time straight for OAS, my only department and family in ADB. Raveedranath Rajan (my boss) and I managed printing services well with all the time-sensitive Board of Directors and project documents. I believed I contributed to helping many ADB teams’ in their mission for Asia. I prioritized work, family needs, my kids’ education, and my ageing in-laws.

I also pursued further education, completing my doctorate degree prior to retiring from ADB in 2012. With the full support of my new boss (Alex Tarnoff), I was one of few staff who pursued development assignments in other departments.



During time with the then Regional and Sustainable Development Department (RSDD: now SDCC), I had the best mentors who supported transport activities for developing member countries (DMCs), particularly the Philippines. It was widely known that economic losses due to transport (particularly along EDSA etc.) in the Philippines amounted to about PHP4.5 billion daily, happening right beside ADB's HQ. Yet I saw that as an opportunity: I have always believed that problems are opportunities in work clothes.

After early retirement, I initially thought of just enjoying life with family; enjoying the library and K-Hub, reading many daily newspapers (and enjoying Starbucks, which we supported in the Hub); probably going fishing; and playing sports such as golf, badminton, etc. However, while paying my daughter's tuition, I met my previous professor who chaired a department.

He mentioned that three professors were on sabbatical leave and, because I had just retired, he offered me a teaching position and to become a full-time assistant professor of engineering and business at De La Salle University (DLSU) in Manila, my MS Alma Mater, for about 3 years. Teaching was greatly satisfying and we brought home the University Athletic Association of the Philippines Crown in my 1st year of teaching. On the side, there were a lot of opportunities in transport, so I consulted with other organizations such as the Institute for Transport and Development, Nippon Electric Company, Clean Air Asia, and other ADB partners. I also registered my own management consultancy firm, GREGG Management Consultancy Services, but this did not fully materialize as I was always employed and had to juggle time for other ADB partners for consultancy services.

Finally, I had a chance to travel. I had speaking and university engagements in many Asian countries (including Malaysia and Indonesia) and brought many of my university students to the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. I also handled intellectual property management at DLSU, such as patent and innovation works; taught part-time with other universities; and advised on or became a panel member for thesis research and dissertations.

I consulted with ADB in 2018 for the ADB Southeast Asia Department's Infrastructure Preparation and Innovation Facility, helping the Philippine Department of Transportation



Gregg boating with family at Subic.

with project management and advisory services for the country's Build, Build, Build (BBB) Projects. I knew that many ADB-funded sustainable solutions for EDSA in major Metro Rail Transit (MRT) stations and for Metro Manila Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) were in the pipeline. I consulted with the Department of Transportation's Road Team, Pasig City, (LRT Line 1) PHP69 billion Cavite Extension, and the PUV Modernization Program. And I supported the RSDD team in demonstrating bike-sharing systems to many universities and cities including Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

At the height of the pandemic in 2020, I handled interface management with Acciona, a Spanish company in Clark, for the North South Commuter Railway Extension Project Package 2 ADB-funded project. I am currently handling rail systems interface for the general consultant of the Metro Manila Subway Project funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Some of my rail expert colleagues are in their 50s to 70s. My ADB experience of course helped me a lot! I knew I was working with best in the field. I knew that the future transport landscape is on the right track for the next generation. With the Philippine Rail Institute, it will, I think be sustainable.

ADB has a lot of international and local talent in its retirees' pool, and within our own expertises we can collectively help DMCs such as the Philippines back on track. That also keeps us busy, sharpens our minds (without pressure), and helps us stay fit. In my simple "nuts and bolts" engineering and consulting role, I consider myself always a work in progress.

As we follow our passions and dreams, we also have to prioritize our health and continue to love and be with family. I am always thankful and hopeful for the best for every ADB retiree. Let us always keep the faith. Stay safe and healthy.

Follow me at LinkedIn: [Linkedin.com/in/drgregg-r-garcia-595a5b7b](https://www.linkedin.com/in/drgregg-r-garcia-595a5b7b) ■



The Metro Manila Subway Project under construction.

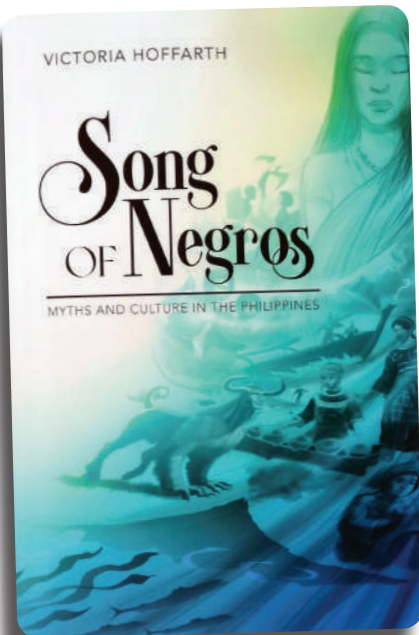
# Song of Negros

Book by Victoria Bantug Hoffarth  
 Article by Pilar Zimonyi (spouse of Ivan Zimonyi ADB 1972–1995)



At the launch: Pilar Zimonyi, who wrote this article, with her husband Ivan (left) and Peter Darjes (beside Pilar).

The newly re-opened Ayala Museum in Makati hosted its first event on 24 April 2022 with the well-attended launch of the book, *Song of Negros: Myths and Culture in the Philippines*. Attending AFE members included Peter Darjes, Alam Munawar, Fred Pascual, Christian Perez, Hans and Liz Springer, Jill de Villa, and Ivan and Pilar Zimonyi.



The book contains 15 beautifully illustrated myths, legends, and folktales from the island of Negros in the Philippines, and explains the significance of these tales to the culture of the provinces in particular, and of the country in general.

Former Tourism Secretary Narzalina Lim introduced the main speaker, Dr Rene Samaniego. Dr. Samaniego is an eminent psychiatrist and psychotherapist

who practices at Makati Medical Center and teaches at the Ateneo School of Medicine. He was a former president of the Philippine Psychiatric Association and Carl Jung Circle, and now serves as Secretary of the Asian Federation of Psychiatric Associations.

"Mythology", said Dr. Samaniego, "is a projection of our unconscious, representing the totality of the human experience. Depicted in myths are our life events: our birth, death, illness, loss, and everything else that happens in between."

The book description by the UK publisher, Troubador Publishing Ltd., states:

*The fantastical tales of your culture's mythology can shape your world in ways that you don't even realise. (The author) Victoria Hoffarth embarks on a journey to seek such myths from the Philippines, explaining the symbolic values as well as the underpinnings of 15 myths, legends, and folktales from the island of Negros, given the collectivistic culture of the Philippines.*

*Through interesting and well-written tales, Dr. Hoffarth shows how myths are intimately related to history and religion—from Christianity to Islam, from ancient Greece to Hollywood, from pre-Enlightenment Spain to modern, secular Europe. Especially relevant to those interested in commonalities among peoples coming from different cultures, this is a very accessible book with a tone that bridges the gap between academia and popular literature. Entertaining, Informative, and insightful, it stimulates our imagination, and encourages us to ask questions.*

*Whether you're intrigued by the folklore of a culture rarely delved into, or in general curious about the origins and meanings of myths, Song of Negros is a go-to book for you.*



Vicki Hoffarth speaking at her launch.



Dr. Victoria Bantug Hoffarth was born and grew up in Victorias, Negros Occidental in central Philippines. She left her provincial town in 1964 for university at Maryknoll College in Manila, then onwards to New York City for graduate school at Columbia University, earning a master's degree in psychology in 1971, and a PhD in media ecology from New York University in 1976.

In 1979, she married Klaus Hoffarth, a German economist who worked at the Asian Development Bank in Manila. When he transferred to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in London, Vicki followed her husband, spending many years in Europe teaching in business schools and doing consulting work on women-in-management. Her husband passed away in 2016, and she now divides her time between Manila and London, and with her son in Berlin.

Vicki is also the author of *When Turtles Come Home: A Memoir on Life in the Philippines*, and maintains a blog [www.victoriahoffarth.com](http://www.victoriahoffarth.com)

Both books are available for sale in the Philippines at the nationwide branches of Fully Booked, at Shopee and Lazada online, and at the Ayala Museum and the Negros Museum. They can also be purchased on Amazon.com in paperback and e-book formats. ■



Vicki and guests enjoying good wine and delicious Negrense food at her launch.



Attendees listening to talks by Narzalina Lim, Rene Samaniego, and Vicki.

## New Members

**A**FE-ADB extends a warm welcome to the following new members of the Association (country of residence is indicated in parentheses):

### March 2022

Gankhuyag, Gantuya (Mongolia)  
Gutierrez, Pamela Pueo (Philippines)  
Panis, Ma. Virginia (Philippines)  
Sharan, Diwesh (India)

### April 2022

Andrada, Evelyn (Philippines)  
Nao, Ikemoto (Japan)  
Saligao, Lenette (Philippines)  
Sy, Regina (Philippines)

### May 2022

Aguila, Arnold (Philippines)  
Kobayashi, Hiroki (Philippines)  
Peri, Ravi Venkat (India)  
Valle, Veronica (Philippines)

### June 2022

Amparo, Ma. Cecilia (Philippines)  
Apostol, Cristina (Philippines)  
Buena, Arah Camille (Philippines)  
Radstake, Frank (Philippines)  
Tabulug, Rita Carmela (Philippines)  
Wanniachchi Kankanamalage, Aruna (Sri Lanka)  
Zhang, Qifeng (Canada)

### July 2022

Peththawadu, Jagath (Sri Lanka)  
Thonden, Chimi (United States)  
Tseng, Yu-Peng (Taipei, China)

### August 2022

Hruscha, Stefan (Japan)  
Puray, Cherry (Philippines)  
Van der Auwera, Michiel (Philippines)

A 2022 Survey on PRGMIP was sent out to PRGMIP (Cigna) members on 5 September 2022. Please respond to the survey within the next 3 weeks. This will help your AFE officers assess members' awareness and satisfaction with our group medical insurance. Thank you for your cooperation.



# Senior Appointments at ADB

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

- Paul Curry**—Advisor, Office of the Director General (BPOD), Budget, People, and Management Systems Department (BPMSD) assumed office on 16 August.
- Scott Roberts**—Advisor, Office of the Director General (SEOD), Southeast Asia Department (SERD) assumed office on 15 August.
- Anna Charlotte Schou-Zibell**—Advisor, Office of the Director General (SAOD), South Asia Department (SARD) effective 5 August 2022.
- Jyotsana Varma**—Country Director, Cambodia Resident Mission (CARM), SERD assumed office on 11 July.
- Niny Khor**—Advisor, BPMSD and Head, Strategic Workforce Unit, BPMSD assumed office on 23 June.
- Yoshie Shibata**—Advisor, Office of the Director General (BPOD), BPMSD assumed office on 07 July.
- Jeff Taylor**—Deputy Director General, Procurement, Portfolio, and Financial Management Department (PPFD) assumed office on 22 June. Concurrently, he will continue to serve as Director, PFP1 until the new director assumes office.
- Rustam Ishenaliyev**—Advisor and Head, Portfolio, Results, and Quality Control Unit, Office of the Director General, Pacific Department (PARD), assumed office on 14 June.
- Lin Lu, Advisor**—SEC and Head, Information Access Unit, Office of the Secretary (SEC), assumed office on 10 June.
- King Chung (Stephanie) Hung**—Director General, Office of the Director General, Information Technology Department (ITD), effective 11 August 2022.
- Artur Andrysiak**—Country Director, Turkmenistan Resident Mission (TKRM), CWRD, assumed office on 18 May 2022.
- Aaron Batten**—Regional Director, Pacific Subregional Office in Suva, Fiji (SPSO), PARD, assumed office on 16 May 2022.
- George Rublee**—Advisor, RMOD and Head, Remedial Management Unit, Office of Risk Management (ORM), assumed office on 11 May 2022.
- Matt Farley**—Director, Infrastructure and Technology Division (ITID), ITD assumed office on 25 April 2022.
- Gi Soon Song**—Director, Human and Social Development Division (SAHS), SARD assumed office on 20 April 2022.

- Aman Trana**—Chief Financial Management Officer, Procurement, PPFD assumed office on 18 April 2022. Concurrently, she will continue to serve as Director, Public Financial Management Division (PFFM), PPFD until further notice.
- Cindy Malvicini**—Senior Advisor (CWOD), CWRD assumed office on 18 April 2022. Concurrently, she will continue to serve as Country Director, Uzbekistan Resident Mission (URM) and Officer-in-Charge, Turkmenistan Resident Mission (TKRM), CWRD until further notice.
- Warren Evans**—Special Senior Advisor (Climate Change), Office of the President (OPR) effective 18 September 2022.
- Aaron Batten**—Regional Director (SPSO), PARD effective upon assumption of office.
- Chia-Hsin Hu**—Deputy Director General, Office of the Chief Economist and Director General (EROD), Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD) concurrently Advisor, BPMSD and Head, Strategic Workforce Unit (BPOD-SWU) assumed office on 21 March 2022.
- Donghyun Park**—Economic Advisor (Strategic Knowledge Initiatives), EROD, ERCD assumed office on 14 March 2022.
- Asad Aleem**—Deputy Country Director, Pakistan Resident Mission (PRM), CWRD assumed office on 10 March 2022. ■

## Health Insurance Contacts for Urgent Matters and Queries

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call +632-8632-4444 and ask for local 7800  
Alona Saludo: +632-8632-4480  
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(allow 1–2 business days for response)

For additional information, guarantee of payment, and precertification, go to <https://www.cignahealthbenefits.com/en/planmembers> log in, go to “Contacts”

# Obituaries

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

**Vimla Mehta**, wife of V.R. Mehta, passed away on 30 July 2022 at the age of 83 in New Delhi. Condolences may be sent to Mr. V.R. Mehta at [vrmehta99@gmail.com](mailto:vrmehta99@gmail.com).

**Dipti Roy**, wife of the late Barun Roy, passed away on 18 June 2022 in her home in Salt Lake, Kolkata. Condolences may be sent to her daughters Mousumi Roy at [mroy@unm.edu](mailto:mroy@unm.edu) and Srabani Roy at [srabanir@gmail.com](mailto:srabanir@gmail.com).

**Janaki Desai**, wife of the late V.V. Desai, passed away at her home in Mumbai on 10 June, 2022. Condolences may be sent to her son Amit and daughter Sameeksha at [sameevdesai@gmail.com](mailto:sameevdesai@gmail.com).

**Clement V. Murugasu**, former Senior Education Specialist, passed away on 25 May 2022 at the age of 92. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Julie Murugasu at [juliethomas005@gmail.com](mailto:juliethomas005@gmail.com).

**Peter Wallum**, former Senior Urban Economist, passed away on 14 May 2022 at the age of 73. Condolences may be sent to his wife Jennifer Wallum at [jennywallum.747@gmail.com](mailto:jennywallum.747@gmail.com).

**Madhav Godbole**, former Senior Development Policy Officer, passed away on 25 April 2022 at the age of 85. Condolences may be sent to his wife Sujata Godbole at [sujatagodbole@gmail.com](mailto:sujatagodbole@gmail.com).

**Klaus-Peter Kriegsmann**, former Senior Financial Sector Specialist, passed away on 24 March 2022 at the age of 68. Condolences may be sent to his wife Marina Sylvia Kriegsmann at [kkriegsmann@web.de](mailto:kkriegsmann@web.de). ■



Join the AFE-ADB HQ Facebook page for timely news about AFE and ADB.

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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. Articles will preferably be 250–1,000 words. Articles for publication should be sent in MS Word as e-mail attachments to [afe-adb@adb.org](mailto:afe-adb@adb.org).
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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, David Parker, and Hans-Juergen Springe 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

### 2023 Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors

The Asian Development Bank (ADB), will hold its **56th Annual Meeting** of the Board of Governors in Incheon, Republic of Korea on 2–5 May 2023.

## Chapter Events

**The Philippines Chapter** plans to hold at least one get-together for each area group this year with, the **South Group set on 1 September** at Palms Country Club, Alabang, Muntinlupa. The other groups have planned a dinner, lunch, or outing from October to December. A virtual get-together for all members is also planned on 24 November 2022. For information contact Gam de Armas at gamdearmas@yahoo.com.

**The Indonesia Chapter** will discuss in the third quarter of 2022 the timing of its much-delayed gathering. Contact Putu Kamayana at putu\_kamayana@yahoo.com for more information.

**The AFE–ADB New York/New Jersey Chapter** plans to have an outdoor event for its annual reunion in Fall 2022. Details to be announced when finalized. Contact Lorna del Rosario at delrosariol@un.org.

**The Europe Chapter's** 23rd Reunion will be held on 16–19 September 2022 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Our program includes visits to the major sights in Belfast and Northern Ireland along the 120-mile Coastal Route; we will also visit the famed Bushmills Distillery. Contact ghecker1@t-online.de for information.

**The New Zealand Chapter** will hold a reunion in Christchurch in October 2022. Christchurch is surrounded by many places of natural beauty and has several cultural and historic places of interest, highlighted by reconstruction after the severe earthquake of 2011. We welcome members of other chapters. Contact Gordon Fox at gordon.fox@xtra.co.nz for more info.

**The India Chapter** will hold its Annual Meeting at the India International Centre, New Delhi on 13 October 2022. Following the meeting a Reunion Tour has been organized to historical, religious, and cultural attractions in Punjab and the hills of Himachal Pradesh, including the cities of Amritsar, Chandigarh, and Shimla; and the Kartarpur Gurdwara in Pakistan. Contact Shilo Chatterjee at shilochatterjee@gmail.com for details.

**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. Dubbo, which is 300 km northwest of Sydney, has been inhabited for over 40,000 years. Our traditional golf "tournament" and barefoot bowls will be included. Contact Keith Leonard at keith.leonard@gmail.com.

**The AFE–ADB Southern California Chapter** will hold its yearend get together on Sunday, 23 October 2022 at Orange Hills Restaurant & Events in Orange, California. Any AFE–ADB member is welcome to join us. Contact May Seron-Tigas at may4usna@gmail.com for details.

## AFE–ADB News No. 62 (March 2022)

Please send, by January 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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