



News

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

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER EMPLOYEES OF ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

REFLECTIONS AND CONNECTIONS



25th
ANNIVERSARY



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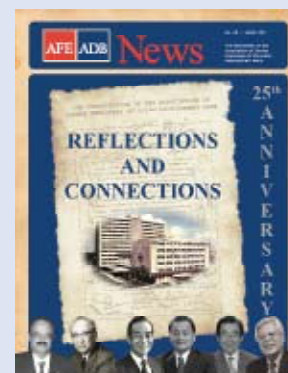
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Our Cover



Our Cover: Background: AFE–ADB's Constitution. ADB Headquarters on Roxas Boulevard (1972–1991); below, AFE Executive Secretary M. Ikramullah Khan (AFE 1986–2008, President Takeshi Watanabe (AFE 1987–1993), President Masao Fujioka (AFE 1993–2007), President Tadao Chino (AFE 2007–2009), President Bong-Suh Lee (2009–present), and Executive Secretary Hans-Juergen Springer (2008–present).

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AFE–ADB 25th Anniversary

Message from ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of AFE–ADB



I congratulate the Association of Former Employees of the Asian Development Bank (AFE–ADB) on their 25 years of service to the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and its former staff members. Our former employees are “ambassadors-at-large” for ADB, helping to spread our good news and representing us to a global audience, from Manila

to countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America. The AFE–ADB community includes former employees now working in and connected with governments, the private sector, and other multi- and bilateral development institutions and teaching in universities in many countries.

AFE–ADB maintains effective communications between ADB and AFE members through the web, the *AFE–ADB News*, and AFE’s chapters representing many countries. AFE circulates *ADB Today* to its members, keeping them informed of ADB’s activities to help widen the reach of the recruitment efforts. AFE members also contribute to the Staff Community Fund to help Manila’s needy.

We appreciate the assistance our former employees provide to us both as active staff and after leaving, and we look forward to maintaining and furthering the mutually beneficial relationship we have with AFE–ADB. ■

AFE’s First President: Takeshi Watanabe

Eiji Kobayashi (ADB 1968–1994)



We are saddened by the demise of Mr Takeshi Watanabe, ADB’s first President (1966–1972), but his achievements during his 104 years will continue to shine.

After serving at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank as executive directors, Mr Watanabe was elected the President of ADB at its inaugural meeting in 1966. His commitment to Asian development, however, had commenced several years earlier, to crystallize the concept of a much desired development bank for the region.

According to his book, *A Diary of an ADB President* (published in Japanese in 1973), Mr Watanabe placed utmost importance on recruiting capable staff members for the new bank, and made it a rule to interview personally each candidate. As one of them, I recall a rather pleasant interview with the President in Tokyo. After having settled in Manila, he invited us new recruits to his residence in Forbes Park.

Ms Fusako Otahara, who served 3 years as secretary to the President, states that Mr Watanabe was a really able and effective man on the international stage; such a person was difficult to find in Japan those days. Ted Mesmer briefly comments that Mr Watanabe was truly a remarkable man and an ideal leader for the newly established ADB.

Kunio Takase pays tribute to Mr Watanabe’s solid work to lead to the success of ADB and Asia’s economic development. He believes that the Green Revolution (rice) in Asia, promoted by Mr Watanabe, has led to the Rainbow Revolution (rice, maize, root crops, fruits, vegetables, livestock, and fisheries) in Africa, where multilateral organizations now render assistance.

Mr Watanabe was a man of wisdom and wit. His speeches and published works were very effective at letting the world public know about the new institution, ADB. In Manila he liked to take pictures, see tropical flowers, make water color paintings, and collect seashells. And, our thanks may be recorded for his service as the first president of AFE–ADB during 1987–1993. ■

AFE’s First Executive Secretary: M. Ikramullah Khan

John Cole (ADB 1983–2004)



M. Ikramullah Khan in front of the AFE–ADB Office.

MIkramullah Khan was the founder of AFE, and for 22 years its executive secretary. He was the mainspring of the organization and steadfast in his commitment to the interests of retirees. His work touched many lives.

Ikramullah Khan joined ADB as a senior treasury officer in 1969, having formerly worked for the National Bank of Pakistan. He left ADB’s service in 1984 as chief of the former Internal Audit Office. He established AFE in 1986 and steered it until his retirement in 2008, by which time

the Association had grown from the initial 30 members to exceed 2,200 former employees and surviving spouses. He worked tirelessly to cement the links between former ADB staff members and ADB, and to work with ADB on behalf of its former employees.

One very significant achievement was to secure for AFE a seat on ADB’s Pension Committee. Then he served as the AFE representative on the Committee, working assiduously for retirees’ pension rights.

Ikramullah Khan was successful too in a number of other endeavors. He assured AFE’s good financial health; pioneered AFE’s annual general meetings, held in conjunction with ADB’s annual meetings; and arranged for the incorporation of AFE. He launched and then published the twice-yearly *AFE–ADB News* and the directory of members, and he helped establish AFE chapters in a number of countries. ■

AFE—The First 25 Years

David Parker (ADB 1976–2004)



The idea of establishing an association of former ADB employees was first discussed in 1983. By 1986, the idea was fast becoming a reality, and M. Ikramullah Khan (ADB 1969–1984), encouraged by ADB President Masao Fujioka, organized the Association of Former Employees of the Asian Development

Bank (AFE–ADB). Mr Fujioka promised ADB’s full support.

The Association held its first annual general meeting in Osaka, Japan, on 26 April 1987 in conjunction with ADB’s 20th Annual Meeting. The 60 participants approved the AFE Constitution, which set forth AFE’s objectives as to (1) encourage and help members to keep in touch with former colleagues and arrange to keep them updated on ADB’s activities; (2) issue a directory of members at suitable intervals; (3) liaise with ADB and extend possible support for its well-being, leading to good public relations; and (4) undertake other appropriate activities of the Association.

The Constitution provided that AFE’s office bearers would include a president and a secretary, to be elected at the annual general meetings, and country coordinators, “to be nominated out of volunteers or requested to assume responsibility by nomination in respective countries ...” Takeshi Watanabe, ADB’s first president (1966–1972),

was elected as AFE's first president. Ikramullah Khan, who had made AFE a viable institution, was elected its secretary. (In August 1994, the title was changed to "executive secretary.") As envisaged in the Constitution, the country coordinators formed an important channel of communication between the members and the AFE secretary.

In 1989, ADB committed to provide AFE with office space and secretarial support, help with mailing and meetings, produce a directory, and appoint liaison officers in key departments and offices. By 1990, the need for by-laws to streamline AFE operations had become apparent, and in the next few years, work on the by-laws became a priority.

In April 1991, shortly after ADB moved into its new headquarters building, AFE was provided with an office in



succeeded by Masao Fujioka (ADB president from 1981 to 1989) as AFE's second president. He served for 14 years.

the special facilities block. Also in that month, AFE published its first newsletter, with the aim of enabling former employees to communicate with one another and with the entire ADB community. AFE also recognized that the formation of regional chapters as affiliates should be encouraged.

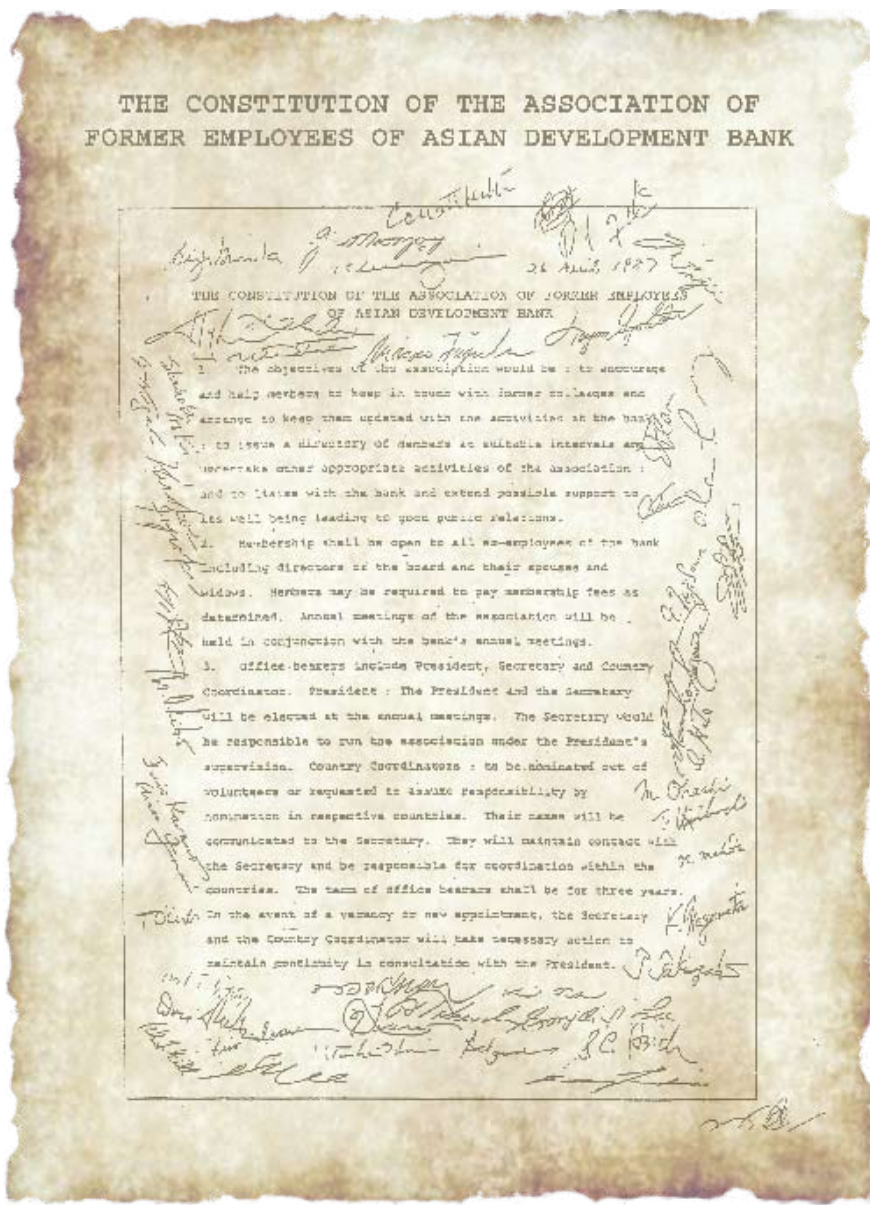
At AFE's annual general meeting in Manila in May 1993, Takeshi Watanabe was

A first draft of the by-laws was sent to country coordinators before AFE's annual general meeting in May 1994 to seek their comments, and the proposed by-laws were approved by members in August 1994. The by-laws contained detailed provisions regarding AFE's purpose, the establishment of country chapters in any member country of ADB, the holding of meetings of the Association, the officers and country coordinators, the procedure for the election of officers, financial matters, etc.

During the 1990s, AFE was increasingly active in making representations to ADB on behalf of members on various matters, including pensions and medical insurance. In 1993, AFE efforts led to ADB issuing ID cards to facilitate pensioners' access to headquarters.

In February 1996, AFE was incorporated as a charitable association in the Republic of Vanuatu.

A milestone in AFE's history was reached in May 1999 when ADB provided a subsidy to the Association in recognition of its role in fostering ADB's development mission and to help defray its administrative costs in carrying out its official activities. An important component of the subsidy each year is an allocation for "eligible local expenses" for chapter development. In practice, the amounts allocated to individual chapters under this category are used to subsidize the cost of gatherings they hold during the year. Another important component of the subsidy is an allocation for business travel and hotel accommodation expenses relating to the headquarters team's travel to attend the AFE annual general and other business meetings.



The by-laws were revised during 2004–2006.

Following Masao Fujioka’s decision in May 2007 not to seek reelection as AFE president, Tadao Chino, ADB president from 1999 to 2005, was elected as the third AFE president.



In October 2007, with the anticipated retirement of Ikramullah Khan as AFE executive secretary, Hans-Juergen Springer was elected to the position. Ikramullah Khan retired in May 2008. He had dedicated 22 years to furthering AFE’s growth and the interests of its members. His retirement thus marked the end of an era. In recognition of his dedicated service to AFE, he was given the honorary title of executive secretary emeritus.

Over the years, AFE members have helped the Association in many ways. In recent years, the treasurer’s position was filled, first by Victor The and, since May 2007, by David Parker. Jill Gale de Villa was elected as deputy executive secretary, commencing in July 2008. Committees have also been established to advise on pension, health insurance, publications, by-laws, and other matters.

In July 2008, Tadao Chino passed away at the age of 74, after serving as AFE president for a little over a year.

Also in 2008, the AFE by-laws were amended to move to a preferential voting system.

In February 2009, Bong-Suh Lee, who had been vice-president (Region West) at ADB during 1993–1998, was elected as AFE’s president, to serve for 4 years. In July 2009, AFE’s founder and executive secretary emeritus, Ikramullah Khan, passed away. He was 83.

The AFE newsletter, *AFE-ADB News*, has been published regularly since 1991. Content and quality have continued to improve. It is circulated to members twice a year.

The year 2009 saw the beginning of AFE’s participation in charitable work in cooperation with ADB’s Staff Community Fund, with AFE members responding generously to an appeal for funds to alleviate the suffering of flood victims in Manila in the aftermath of Typhoon Ondoy (Ketsana). Work on developing an AFE website was completed in 2009. The website was made available to the public in 2010. At the beginning of 2010, AFE adopted a new logo, designed to be in harmony with ADB’s new logo.



AFE continues to hold its annual general meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of ADB. By 2010, AFE

had held 24 such meetings in various locations around the world. The 2011 ADB meeting is being followed by a 3-day celebration, on 9–11 May 2011, in Manila, of the 25th anniversary of AFE’s founding.

From just an idea in 1983, AFE has grown into a well-run organization serving more than 2,200 members living in 62 countries. Under its president and management team comprising the executive secretary, deputy executive secretary, and treasurer, AFE continues to look for ways to expand its service to its growing membership. ■



Farewell merienda for the Khans: (L–R): Hans-Juergen Springer, Wolf Preuss, Mehbooba I. Khan, M. Ikramullah Khan, Ursula Schaefer-Preuss, Bindu Lohani, and Liqun Jin

Rosie and the Five Presidents

Lou Angelo (ADB 1981–1986)—From interviews with Rosie Luistro



Anybody who worked in ADB from 1967 to 1998 knew who Rosie Brillantes Luistro was. She was the executive secretary of the ADB president, and there were five of them during her “term of office.”

Rosie counted 25 years in the Office of the President. She stayed on the sidelines, but gained a wide knowledge of how things were done from ADB’s early years to the gradual changes that came with the growth of the international organization. She had this history in her head while adapting to new tasks in the job that was like no other at ADB. Having Rosie around helped each of her presidents “settle in” with confidence.

Rosie came to ADB in 1967, a year after it opened for business at its temporary offices in Makati. She was hired as secretary to the assistant board secretary, then as secretary to the deputy director of projects.

When ADB moved in 1972 to its first headquarters on Roxas Boulevard, Rosie had an unexpected call from Personnel—to be the secretary of President Shiro Inoue, ADB’s second president. “I was surprised, excited, and then apprehensive,” she recalled. Takeshi Watanabe, ADB’s first president, was assisted by two Japanese secretaries (Fusako Otahara and Mutsuko Ogawa), but President Inoue broke tradition by making Rosie the first Filipina secretary to the president.

Years later, after he had left ADB, President Inoue wrote to Rosie:

“President Sato was kind enough to notify me that you will [soon] retire from the ADB. In August 1972, when Mr Watanabe and I spent 1 whole day discussing the future of ADB, one thing which surprised me was that Mr Watanabe had a Japanese female secretary. He recommended that I

should recruit Ms Otahara’s successor while I was still in Tokyo. ADB’s official language is English and the Philippines is an English-speaking country. I wondered why I would need a Japanese secretary. After I arrived in Manila, I asked [my personal assistant] Akira Nambara to find the best... and [he] succeeded to “steal” you from Mr [Yoshinao] Sakatani for me. It was the beginning of your long, dedicated, and efficient service for five presidents of the ADB, including myself.”

No Room for Error. Finding Rosie was not difficult as she was recommended by many professional staff. Mr Nambara and other senior management officials trained her in the job and taught her all she needed to know about diplomatic protocol and procedures in the President’s Office. Rosie said she had to discipline her senses to uphold the confidentiality of everything that passed through her eyes, ears, and hands.

“To work in the President’s Office, it was necessary to know the management methods and procedures practiced by the presidents, the vice-presidents, senior staff, and the director of administration. Soon it became second nature to me to be thorough, to review the business of the day, to clear things up with concerned staff, and to reread documents or reports awaited by the president as there was no room for error. In the President’s Office, the first and last rule was careful, careful, careful.”

From the outside, the President’s Office looked glamorous, but inside, Rosie saw how long and how hard the President worked, often going home late.

The Order of Business. For Rosie, the regular order of business in the President’s Office was to help manage its administrative side. “This entailed a vast amount



President Fujioka and Rosie.



(L–R): Hisashi Ono, Xianbin Yao, Rosie Luistro, Jun Mizuguchi, Mitsuo Sato, Mrs Mizuguchi, Sheila de Guzman, and Zeny de Villa.

of correspondence with member countries, preparing speeches, getting ready for annual meetings and other international conferences, and endless loan signings.”

Rosie remembers how she coordinated with various departments to obtain Board documents and arrange photo coverage or dining room service.

Rosie and the Advisors. Rosie’s and the personal assistant’s jobs morphed, over time, into new roles and new titles. From executive secretary, she became a senior technical assistant and then senior management administrator. This meant taking charge of the Management Offices’ budget, personnel, office space, and staff welfare. The president’s “personal assistant” became the “advisor” and soon there were two of them. The advisors and Rosie were assisted by two second secretaries.

Rosie claimed she never had an advisor that she didn’t like, adding she learned a great deal from them. Remaining calm in the eye of the storm was a virtue that all of the advisors possessed in varying degrees, she noted. “The likable Hitoshi Nishida diluted the tension in the office with his good humor and eased the fear of having to face President Yoshida. The affable Masakazu Sakaguchi came back to ADB twice, earlier as director of BPMDS and today sits in the ADB Board as Executive Director for Japan. I remember Masatsugu Asakawa, Shigemitsu Sugisaki, and Masanori Yoshida, who, despite time pressure, seemed calm, cool, and collected.

“The little things I remember of them are probably the same qualities that made them outstanding and successful in their careers after ADB.”

The Annual Madness. Rosie attended all the annual meetings held at ADB headquarters in Manila and in the capital cities of ADB member countries. Here is her take of

what it was like to be a member of the president’s personal staff during this “annual madness”:

“Every annual meeting was a frenetic whirlwind of activities crammed into just a few days. The president’s schedule during an annual meeting was a nightmare—trying to squeeze in hundreds of delegations from member countries and financial institutions that he was obliged to welcome and receive, posing for photos, and giving brief statements. And of course, he had to be at the proceedings and the official social events on time. To keep up with the president, I must have used roller skates.

“Most staff looked forward to this yearly event, especially the social events organized by the host country, but sadly not me. I couldn’t go sightseeing because I had to work on day 1 and be on standby for last minute requirements of the president. I would arrive in the host country and see nothing but the convention center until the annual meeting was over and it was time to go home.”

The Five Presidents. Here is Rosie’s reminiscence.

“Actually, I did not work for President Inoue as long as I did for the others because I was being trained during his term. He was very soft-spoken and warm and always smiled at the support staff he met on the elevators or hallways.

“President Taroichi Yoshida loved to sing. He and his Japanese assistant would often invite my husband and me to their home for dinner. If it was a barbecue party, he would turn the grill himself. He enjoyed being host. After dinner, he would break into a Japanese song and we would spend the evening singing together. I was not married yet when President Yoshida started his term in 1976. When I married Rey Luistro, an engineer, in 1978, President Yoshida and his wife were my wedding sponsors.

“If President Yoshida loved to sing, President Masao Fujioka loved to dance. Like many ADB presidents, he played golf. His golf tournaments were often followed by a dinner-dance at the Manila Polo Club. Maybe it was an excuse to dance—he and his wife danced quite well, whether it was the waltz or the tango that requires precise footwork.

“My longest stint was 8 years with President Fujioka. My feedback from the staff was that he looked stern. I thought this was appropriate in order to get things done, and I was grateful to him for all that I learned in discipline, hard work, and a systematic way of working. He gave me additional responsibilities and more challenging tasks. Behind a serious façade was actually a big heart, especially for the support staff. It was he who approved the housing loan for them, which was implemented together with salary increases and additional staff benefits.

“President Fujioka was ADB’s first director of administration. He was [probably] the first president to venture into the cafeteria instead of going all the time to the executive dining rooms.

"This brings to mind President Kimimasa Tarumizu, successor to President Fujioka, who also went occasionally to the cafeteria. He would greet everyone at their tables and converse with them. The staff members were delighted with his unpretentious manner.

"President Mitsuo Sato was a compassionate man. I remember he urgently wrote a letter to the US ambassador to facilitate the immediate departure for medical treatment in Boston of a staff member who was in danger of losing his eyesight due to an accident."

Perks, a Byproduct. There were perks, of course. The best one was an intimate view of the personalities behind the titles and their families. At one private party, a president's wife taught Rosie how to prepare sushi and sashimi. On official trips, she was always treated "like a daughter," and the wife of the president always inquired if she was alright, or if she had any concerns.



(L-R): Mrs Fujioka, Mrs Tarumizu, Rosie Luistro, and Mrs Yoshida.

Rosie met many important people in the course of her duties. She presented bouquets to the wives of distinguished guests and even to newsmakers like Imelda Marcos and Cory Aquino.

Goodbye to Her Presidents. After 30 years, the unsinkable Rosie decided to take early retirement in February 1998. She wanted to spend more time with her family. She was tired of traveling. She wanted to do other things. She described an unforgettable goodbye:

"The week before I officially left ADB, I was invited by my presidents to visit Japan to say goodbye to them. Arriving with my husband at our hotel room, I was surprised to see flowers, gifts, and kind messages! They arranged several social functions and a tour of the city of Tokyo. On our last night, we attended a special dinner where all of my presidents, and others I worked with—former executive directors for Japan, former directors of BPMSD, the advisors—were present to say words of

affection. I was full of joy and on our flight home I felt sad because I felt I might never see some of them again. True enough, in recent years, I've lost three of the five presidents I have served—Presidents Inoue, Tarumizu, and Sato."

Farewell to ADB. Rosie wanted to leave without fanfare and sent her regrets to all goodbye invitations. But someone had a secret plan. "I was overwhelmed," says Rosie, "to be the honoree at a surprise reception and to be surrounded by about 200 people from ADB, both professional and support staff—and of course President Sato and the vice-presidents."

When President and Mrs Sato tendered a dinner in her honor, he expressed his thanks once more for her years of faithful service and wished her and her family much happiness. Rosie responded that the honor was all hers and thanked the president for his support and appreciation of her contribution to ADB. To quote from an article by Zeny de Villa in the *Bank Forum*, May 1998: "with Rosie's response, so ended an era. Farewell, ADB's Rose."



(L-R): Hideo Nakajima, Rey Luistro, Masao Fujioka, Rosie Luistro, Mieko Fujioka, Yasushi Kamihara, and Masakazu Sakaguchi.

A Purpose in Retirement. Post-ADB, Rosie feels that she is still very much connected. To keep up with friends, she launched a group site called exADBfriends@yahoo.com, which has about 325 exADB members from Asia, Canada, Europe, the Middle East, and the US.

Rosie does not own a rocking chair yet but she does have grandkids from her daughter, Timmy. In a related direction, she joined an organization that aims "to develop the less privileged sectors of society into healthy self-reliant communities through primary health care and values training." ■

Reflections (How Many Camels...)

Noritada Morita (ADB 1978–1997)

Ed: Excerpted and condensed from ADB: Reflections and Beyond.



I was leading an ADB team to Pakistan. On my first visit, we went to a rural town on the other side of a large desert. The desert was very hot..., over 50°C. It was the first time I realized why you have to close the window of the car; if you open it the heat comes in and you get dehydrated.... The jeep that we used

had no air-conditioning.

Three of us traveled for about 8 hours.... Because we did not start traveling early in the morning, we were still traveling in the desert at 10 am. We were all thirsty. My colleague said, "Mr Morita, I know we have a problem. We do not have enough water. If you do not mind, I will stop the car. I can see an old shepherd or farmer taking care of 30 or 40 camels.... we could ask for camel milk from the farmer."

We stopped ... and my colleague negotiated with the farmer. He was so happy as, perhaps for the first time, he had seen a foreigner begging for milk. He squeezed the milk from the camel and ... I tried it first. I will not go into how it tasted, but I told my friends it was fine, and we took it. It tasted a lot stronger than goat milk, but for us it was life-saving.

When we had satisfied our thirst, I ... thanked the farmer through the interpreter.... He asked me how many camels I had in my village.... I was conscious that ... I had to be diplomatic. I replied, "I would like to have camels in my house in Japan. But in Japan the climate is so cold and during the winter we have snow so it is not nice for



camels as they dislike the cold weather. Instead, we have to use cars, but camels are much nicer."

He was happy when he found out that I had no



camels. There, they measure the degree of their wealth by the number of camels. He was so happy that he had 40, but I had none.

After we said goodbye, I said, "We have to think a little. A man

in this area considers that, throughout the world, wherever you go, people must have camels. That is his perception. That is his standard. When we talk to the people... with a different culture and environment.... We have to learn from them."

My conclusion was that working in the international community, in different areas, in different environments, we quite often do not realize the importance of subtlety in background and culture. Then, when a dialogue is started, there is often a mismatch of discussion.... This was eye-opening to me in understanding what working in Asia means.

I tell this story as a sincere gesture of appreciation to that old man, because, in a way, I owe thanks to him. If I had not met him, and he had not asked this very interesting question, I would perhaps have been unable to open my eyes to the subtlety of cultural differences. ■

Reflections (Significant Changes...)

Geert van der Linden (ADB 1978–2006)

Ed: Excerpted and condensed from ADB: Reflections and Beyond.



A lot of it is with hindsight because I was not that personally aware of the larger picture, as I mentioned. ADB was very much a project bank with a donor mentality, maybe those two concepts of a project bank, moving from one project to another, and a donor bank. We assisted poor countries. ADB had no country

strategies and we had no sector strategies, so why we did a particular project was determined on a case-by-case

basis. The first country strategy, I think, was only done in the mid-1980s after 20 years of ADB's existence.

The 1980s was a period of significant change for ADB. In the 1980s it moved, you might say, from being a project bank to being a sector bank. We started to look at projects in the context of what we wanted to accomplish in a sector in a country, and that meant that we would look not only at the design of a project but also at government policies in the sector and maybe make efforts to influence those policies. We had never really attempted that before. In addition, we introduced a new lending instrument called the "program loan" where we would hand over big chunks of money in exchange for policy reforms in a sector. That was really the big transition in the 1980s, from a project bank to a sector bank.

In the 1990s, there was another significant change. We had changed from projects to sectors, and then further to countries, so we introduced the country focus. Country strategies became key documents and we started to open resident missions. The recognition was that the unit of business is not the project or the sector but the country and the rationale for ADB thus should be determined country by country.

The other significant change in parallel in the 1990s was that we started to work seriously at a regional level, starting in the early 1990s with the Mekong region and then later on in other regions, like Central Asia and so on. We actively promoted regional cooperation; we started to finance cross-border projects like road links or railway links. That was a big change in the 1990s, a country focus and regional focus.

The third big change in the 1990s was that our agenda broadened significantly and we started to talk about gender, environmental, and governance issues. We reached a point in the late 1990s where we had something like 30 sector or thematic policies, which is rather a lot for a relatively small institution with a small group of professional staff with, in fact, the absolute inability to have adequate expertise in all these 30 sector or thematic areas. ■

Ed: ADB Reflections and Beyond records the memories of ADB staff members and six retirees. You can download the pdf file of ADB: Reflections and Beyond from <http://www.adb.org/documents/books/adb-reflections-and-beyond/default.asp>. To order a printed copy, email knowledge@adb.org.

Visit ADB's alumni portal
www.adbalumni.org
 e-mail: alumniadmin@adb.org

History of the Indonesia Chapter

Dimiyati Nangju (ADB 1978–2001)



Shortly after AFE-ADB was established, M. Ikramullah Khan, its founder and first executive secretary, requested former ADB staff in Indonesia to form a chapter. Soeksmono B. Martokoesoemo, who retired from ADB in 1988 after serving for 8 years as director of the former

Agriculture and Rural Development Department, heeded the call. At that time, there were very few former ADB staff residing in Indonesia, because, to start with, ADB had recruited few Indonesians during the '60s and '70s, mainly because there were not many Indonesians who had international experience and a good command of English. Despite this disadvantage, Soeksmono went ahead to form an Indonesia Chapter in 1990 together with other former ADB staff, including Sofjan Djajawinata (former executive director), Kartadjoemena (former executive director), Soesilo Sardadi (former secretary and executive director), Charles Njio (former senior project economist), Burhom Natapermadi (former senior agronomist), and Eddie Gunadi (former audit specialist).

When Mohammad Soerakoesoemah retired from ADB in 1992, he took over from Soeksmono as chapter coordinator. Soerakoesoemah tried very hard to keep the Indonesia Chapter going by having social activities among the retirees and other former ADB staff living in Indonesia. His problem was and remains the small size of the chapter, because until 2000, very few former ADB staff were residing in Indonesia.

When I retired from ADB in March 2001, Soerakoesoemah asked me to take over as chapter coordinator, which I gladly accepted. I made an effort to increase the membership by including not only Indonesians who had resigned or retired from ADB headquarters, but also Indonesians who had resigned or retired from the Indonesia Resident Mission as well as non-Indonesian ADB staff who were residing in Indonesia. The number of former ADB staff grew considerably from about 10–15 members to about 30–40 members. We had regular social-cum-business meetings three or four times a year. Members were requested to pay annual dues to the chapter (in addition to AFE-ADB dues) so that we could finance the administrative and social costs of the chapter. And we published reports about AFE-ADB for members' information.

The Indonesia Chapter celebrated its 20th anniversary in December 2010. It has now become a mature chapter and is very active. Looking back, however, I can cite several strengths and weaknesses of the chapter.

The main strengths of the Indonesia Chapter are:

- Most of its members live in Jakarta or the surrounding cities (e.g., Bogor and Bandung), and therefore it is relatively easy to invite them to come to a meeting in Jakarta or nearby.
- About 55% of the members are classified as active because they and their spouses attend the chapter's meetings regularly, and this number is adequate to keep the chapter alive and well.
- The chapter coordinator and a few other members show an active interest in attending the ADB Annual Meeting every year so that we are able to keep abreast of the development of AFE-ADB in other countries and at headquarters, and to interact with the President, executive secretary, and other chapter coordinators.
- We have been able to organize activities to keep all members happy irrespective of whether they are retirees or nonretirees. This is extremely important, because the major issues discussed at the Annual General Meeting of AFE-ADB often focus more on the problems of retirees, rather than the problems of both types of members.
- To keep our chapter relevant, we have decided to get involved in social activities by helping poor students to finance their education costs at the elementary level. However, there are also weaknesses of the chapter:
- Most members are reluctant to accept the responsibility of being chapter coordinator. Ideally, the position should be rotated every 2–3 years.
- Former ADB staff who worked at the Indonesia Resident Mission have so far been unwilling to get involved in chapter activities, although they have been invited to join. The reason for this is not entirely clear. Perhaps they are shy, or they do not feel that they belong to our AFE-ADB chapter, whose membership consists mainly of former staff from headquarters. Similarly, non-Indonesian staff who live in Jakarta are also reluctant to attend the chapter's meetings, although they have been invited.
- We have lost many active members in the past 20 years, including Kartadjoemena, Sofjan Djajawinata, Soesilo Sardadi, Natapermadi, O.R. Bako, Jani Damiri, Bistok Sitorus, Soegito Sastromidjojo, and most recently Soeksmono B. Martokoesoemo, the founder of the Indonesia Chapter. At the same time, we have not been able to increase our membership significantly, because not many staff from Indonesia retired or resigned from ADB during the same period.

So what is the future prospect of the Indonesia Chapter? Can it survive another 20 years, or will it die for lack of interest among its members? I can see a good prospect for it

to remain active in the next 20 years if the current Indonesian staff in ADB, numbering about 35, will return to Indonesia and join the chapter when they retire or resign from ADB. If not, then AFE-ADB will no longer remain relevant. ■

The Making of the AFE Europe Chapter

Gerhard H. Kahl (ADB 1969–1989) and Günter Hecker (ADB 1979–2002)



It all started with the then executive secretary/founder of AFE-ADB, M. Ikramullah Khan, setting up four separate country chapters in Europe in the mid-1990s and early 2000s. The first five “founding” chapter

coordinators were Wolf Klueber for Germany (1997–1998); Michel Rougé for France (2000–2004), Hans Forberg and Zia Noorzoy (1998–2000) for the four Scandinavian countries; and Daud Ilyas for the UK.

The German Chapter really started, albeit unofficially, in September of 1995 in Berlin, when Agi and Heinz Bühler hosted 15 German ADB friends at their home. It was a very happy Saturday noon to Sunday afternoon affair, and many of the participants expressed the wish to have such get-togethers more often.

But it took until September 1998, a year after the German Chapter had been officially established, when Ilse and Wolf Klueber hosted the first 2-day official reunion at Bad Homburg's Kurhotel near Frankfurt. It was very well attended by 27 people on the first day and 36 on the second. At the request of Wolf, the baton was passed on to “younger blood,” with Gerhard Kahl taking over as the country coordinator, as this position was now called.

Gerhard soon expanded his list for e-mail and snail-mail communications (plus many reminder telephone calls!) to include AFE members residing in other European countries as well. Due to its success, this concept was widened in 2004 to invite active ADB staff on home leave or mission travel in Europe, as well as other AFE members residing outside Europe and traveling in Europe during September. As a result, the reunions have been enriched by visitors from Australia, Canada, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Thailand, and the US.

With Michel Rougé resigning as the French Chapter's country coordinator in 2005, that chapter was officially amalgamated into a renamed Continental European Chapter, or CEC. The Nordic countries' chapter joined 3 years later. The UK Chapter grew slowly up to a size of about 25 more or less active members, all centered in the Greater London area. They met off and on for luncheons, dinners, or other private get-togethers, but with modest attendance. Therefore, David Craxton, then the country coordinator of the UK Chapter, suggested to also amalgamate with the CEC.

For family reasons, Gerhard Kahl, at the 10th reunion in Bregenz, Austria, announced his intention to resign. Günter Hecker was unanimously elected as the new chapter coordinator of the again renamed chapter, the Europe Chapter, to be effective following ADB's Annual Meeting in Madrid, Spain.

M. Ikramullah Khan and his wife Mehbooba were able to attend all seven chapter meetings between 2000 (Münster/Westphalia) and 2006 (Scheveningen/Netherlands). In 2007, they were unable to attend due to last minute visa problems. In 2008, Mr Khan was advised by his doctors in Manila not to take the long and taxing trip to Potsdam/Berlin.

During all German Chapter, CEC, and Europe Chapter reunions, the planners and hosts strove to negotiate reasonable accommodation rates in good, centrally located hotels and to offer one or more guided tours of the city or other sights, as well as visits to outstanding attractions like local festivals; small historic towns and churches; harbors; medieval castles; opera houses; famous art and other museums; monuments; watercraft; and ships' locks; and "mission-visits," with discussions with the management of international organizations and industrial plants like the Vattenfall lignite coal mines, the Heidelberg Printing Press, and the Volkswagen assembly plant for the Phaeton. Naturally, all reunions had a business meeting in which all salient issues such as pension, income tax, and health insurance were discussed and individual experiences of the members exchanged.

Meeting of the German Chapter in Münster, Westphalia in 2000; in front of the water castle Droste-Mülshoff.



This bouquet of wining-and-dining, physical activities, culture, and business has been well accepted by the participants. The fact that many Europe Chapter members are rather dispersed over a large area required extending the duration of the reunions to more than 3 days, as it would be difficult and financially prohibitive for many members to travel very far just for a luncheon or dinner meeting and not to have ample time to meet at leisure and renew friendships with old colleagues and their family members.

An important challenge for the future success of the Europe Chapter is to rejuvenate its membership to attract more new ex-ADBERs, especially given the now shorter time that ADB staff remain at the institution. It is gratifying to note that the Europe Chapter has several participants who were at ADB for less than 3 years and still value our reunions for their happy camaraderie.

The German Chapter, CEC, and Europe Chapter have held 13 reunions, with 28–60 participants (averaging about 43).

Friederike Kantner of Langenzersdorf, Austria as host is now planning, together with Peter Bodora and Günter Hecker, our next annual reunion in Vienna, 23–26 September 2011. All visiting ADB staff and AFE members and their families are most cordially invited.

Please get in touch with Friederike (fgkant@gmx.net), Günter (ghecker1@t-online.de), or Peter (pbodora@aol.com) as early as possible if you want to receive an invitation and the full program details, which were sent out at the end of February 2011. ■

AFE–ADB Updates

From the AFE-ADB President

Bong-Suh Lee (ADB 1993–1998)



It is indeed a pleasure to greet our expanding and impressive membership in this, our 25th Anniversary issue of the AFE–ADB News.

As stated in our Constitution, AFE’s objectives are to “help members to keep in touch with former colleagues and arrange to keep them updated on ADB’s

activities; issue a directory of members at suitable intervals and undertake other appropriate activities of the Association; and liaise with ADB and extend possible support for its wellbeing, leading to good public relations.” Reviewing AFE’s activities shows that we have indeed served these purposes well. Our *AFE–ADB News*, website (www.afe-adb.org), e-mails, and letters keep members informed and help link us through space and time and through gatherings such as the Annual General Meeting and chapter meetings. We issue a directory of members (a new one is planned). We support ADB as its global ambassadors, and through disseminating news about ADB and its recruitment opportunities. And we liaise with ADB on matters of importance to retirees. I am particularly grateful for the active participation of AFE members and for the strong support of ADB’s Management.

In 2010 I attended the Country Coordinators meeting in Tashkent, which I found both constructive and instructive, and chaired the Annual General Meeting. I am looking forward to chairing my third AFE–ADB Annual General Meeting, in Ha Noi.

Preparations for AFE–ADB’s 2011 Annual General Meeting in Ha Noi are well under way, as are those for our reunion in Manila directly after the Ha Noi meetings. We will be enjoying productive networking and good camaraderie—along with some invigorating golf. I look forward to meeting and greeting a good share of our membership in Ha Noi and Manila this year. ■

From the Executive Secretary

Hans-Juergen Springer (ADB 1972–2002)



As it is said: change is the only thing that is constant. AFE has seen a number of changes in the latter part of 2010 and early 2011. Gene Owens, coordinator of the Washington, DC Chapter, passed the baton to Clay Wescott. Eiji Kobayashi handed the reins of the Japan Chapter to Tsuneaki Yoshida.

After the untimely death of Hi-Young

Kim, Yoong-Soo Seo took over to lead the Korea Chapter. And Ruth Esmilio agreed to head the New York–New Jersey Chapter after Nanette Amorado completed her 1-year term. New Zealand established itself as a new chapter under Colin Pratt. Two new groups have come up in Canada: the Toronto group under Fraternidad “Nida” Rodrigo, and the Ottawa group under John Rive. And last but not least, our long-time administrative assistant Josephine Aquino moved to another position in ADB and was replaced by Victoria “Beck” Celzo, who started work with us on 1 February.

2011 promises to be an exciting year with the forthcoming annual meetings in Ha Noi during 3–6 May and the Association’s 25th anniversary celebration in Manila on 9–11 May. Steve Banta is heading the organizing committee for the AFE anniversary, supported by several subcommittees, which have been working earnestly to make this important event a success. As this issue of the *AFE–ADB News* goes to typesetting, many members have already enthusiastically responded to the survey conducted to plan for the anniversary festivities.

We have also established a committee, chaired by Bruce Purdue, to revise the Association’s by-laws. Since AFE has grown to over 2,000 members, it is desirable to review, among other matters, the need for a broader management structure. The committee is expected to submit its report by the third quarter of 2011, after which AFE members will be asked to provide their comments on the proposed changes.

We have not forgotten that an update of our members’ directory is due, but the updating is taking longer than we

had planned, as we want to change the editorial format of the printed version (to save paper, mailing cost, and energy) and make it compatible with an electronic version to be placed on our website, all of which requires a change in the database.

I hope to see many of you at the annual meetings of ADB and AFE in Ha Noi 3–6 May and at the 25th Anniversary celebrations in Manila 9–11 May. ■

Farewell to Jo, and Welcome to Beck



Farewell Jo Aquino

In February, our wonderful Jo Aquino moved on to another job in ADB, to further her career. In her stead, we welcome Beck Celzo, who has joined us and is assuming Jo's responsibilities. ■



Welcome Beck Celzo

Health Matters

Jill Gale de Villa (ADB 1993–2005)



TowersWatson study. As you know, the TowersWatson report recommended that ADB consider an age-related premium for the health insurance, and ADB decided not to include this in recommendations to move forward. Such a change would potentially place a huge burden on retirees—

indeed, sufficient burden so that some would have to drop out and face the risks of no coverage. Thus, there was great relief that ADB arrived at the correct decision for the well-being of retirees and staff.

Claims and Costs. On Thursday, 17 February, Hans and I met with BPDB's Cristina Keppler and Alona Saludo and Vanbreda's Bart Jordens and Vladimir Balinchenko. 2010 was not a good year for health matters. Reimbursements tallied to date had increased for both current and retired staff members—the rise was 47% over 2009, to a total of P547 million (approximately \$12 million) from P372 million in 2009. The increase was partly attributable to an unusually high number of “peak files”—individual cases costing P2 million or more. In 2010 there were 29 peak files versus 18 in 2009. Of the 29 peak files, 8 were for active staff members and/or dependents, and 21 for retirees and/or dependents. Of the total, 11 are in the United States, and 9 of the 11 are retirees. We also need to continue, where feasible, to use primary insurance (such as national health plans) in order to keep our premiums down.

Premiums collected were over P100 million below reimbursements. This is partly compensated for by the smoothing effect of the reserve established in 2009, when premiums exceeded reimbursements and the excess was set aside to smoothen future situations where the reverse happens. But the bottom line is we can expect a premium increase—although Cristina did say the increase would not be 47%, given that the results in 2010 are considered to be anomalous. The amount will not be known until about the middle of the year. Medical inflation continues to outpace the general cost of living inflation—and we all need to be aware of this and budget for it.

A pdf file of the hand-out at the meeting is available on the AFE website.

Other Issues. Other matters discussed were (1) the need for a broader range of optional coverage, including but not limited to annual medicals and tests such as mammograms and colonoscopies; (2) alternate financing options such as a reserve fund for peak files; and (3) a widening of the premium scale so that higher earners contribute more to the plan. BPMSD is looking into this and other matters, pending the result of a survey of “national” staff (the new term for the previous “support” staff, and then “local” staff). We also noted that retirees pay much more for healthcare than active staff because active staff members have free treatment at the clinic; a lower contribution rate, at 20% versus 25% for retirees; and the fact that we pay for the full cost of the premium attributable to the amount over the stop loss. At an earlier meeting, we discussed the possibility of covering Ayurvedic medicine with Vanbreda’s Sook Kuan Leung. She noted that at this time Vanbreda does not have the capacity to administer claims for Ayurvedic medicines and treatments, but they will look into it for the future.

Changes: US. Owing to problems with the current intermediary, Hygea, Vanbreda is switching to Cigna. They feel this will be more user-friendly so that US-based clients have fewer issues, will provide better control on claims, and will allow for issuing one card from both Vanbreda and Cigna, versus the two that are currently issued. US residents who do not have their new cards by 1 August should contact Vanbreda directly through e-mail or phone (1-855-882-5267, toll free). Note that the US telephone number for Vanbreda will not change.

New Cards. For retirees not based in the US, ADB is issuing new cards and will be requesting you to send new photos (although we all know we look either the same as when we left ADB or even better...).

Health and Wellness Fair. Of interest to retirees based in or near Manila, ADB is holding its second Health and Wellness Fair on 19–21 October, including very helpful explanations of how we can facilitate using our insurance, plus booths of providers for comparison “shopping.” During the last health fair we were able to establish a relationship with Lifeline, where Metro-Manila-based members can have access to reliable ambulance service and emergency telephone consultations 24/7, for P500 annually per member and household of up to 10 people—this is half the normal price. Just call Lifeline (896-9191) and tell them you are an AFE member. Note also that holders of the SM Advantage Card are automatically Lifeline members. ■

Pension Matters

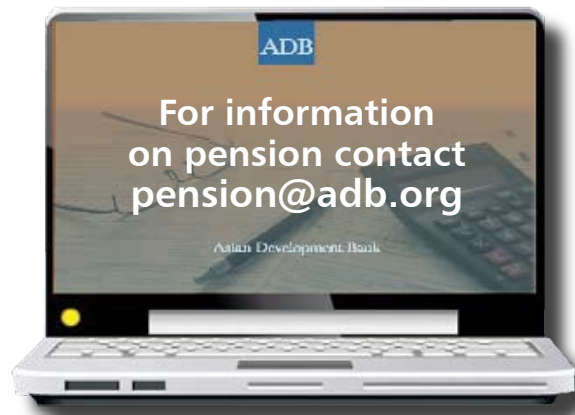
Hans-Juergen Springer

The possible removal of the 3% minimum guaranteed cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and its replacement with a purely inflation-based COLA has been high on our minds. We have reported to our members through the chapter coordinators on the recommendation made by ADB’s consultants in October last year and the representation I made to the Budget, Personnel, and Management Systems Department (BPMSD) saying that there was no legal basis, in our view, to take this benefit away.

While ADB has yet to make a decision on the 3% guaranteed minimum COLA, we firmly believe that the Staff Retirement Plan (SRP) document does not allow for such a change without the consent of the SRP’s active participants and retirees. Our position is based on a careful review of the relevant provision in the SRP document. A decision is to be made some time after the middle of the year. I am confident that our view will eventually be accepted by ADB.

There are two other matters that I would like to report to you about. First, ADB undertook a review of the SRP’s actuarial assumptions, assisted by the SRP’s consultant actuaries—an exercise that is carried out every 5 years. Rajiv Nundy, principal benefits and compensation specialist of BPMSD’s Development and Benefits Division, gave a briefing on the review’s result to the staff representatives on the ADB Pension Committee plus Jill de Villa and myself. The briefing was very helpful to improve our understanding of this highly technical matter. We were assured—and I am confident—that the assumptions used in the actuarial valuation are very conservative, a fact that should put our minds to rest that the SRP is, despite the recent turmoil in the financial markets, a sound plan.

Second, ADB reviewed the Investment Policy, Guidelines, and Objectives of the SRP, an exercise that is also undertaken periodically. Philip Erquiaga, vice-chairman of the Pension Committee’s Investment Committee, and



staff members of the Pension Investment Unit briefed the elected staff members of the Pension Committee plus Jill de Villa and me on the outcome of the review. This was very useful for a better understanding of the SRP's strategic asset allocation. While the review yielded no major changes, certain adjustments to the investment policy were proposed. The SRP's fixed income investments (30% of total) would be widened from a purely US to a global bond strategy. For the equity portion (70% of total), the review recommended reducing the target allocation of US equity from 45% to 40% and allocating at least 5% to Asian markets. The projected long-term investment return has been reduced to a more conservative assumption from 8% per annum to 7.5%, in light of projected slower growth.

The two papers covering the review of the actuarial assumptions and the review of investment guidelines have meanwhile been approved by the Pension Committee. I feel confident that the SRP is based on conservative assumptions and its investments are managed in a conservative manner. ■

What's New at HQ?

Larry Ramos (ADB 1989–2000)



Ed: AFE member, photographer Larry Ramos, captured images of the parking building in its final stages of completion and of the new smokers lounge.

Parking Building. The 2008 general capital increase was good news for ADB and clients, and required an increase of staff. This

brought congestion to an already full headquarters building and surrounding parking area. To provide



additional space for the expanding staff, ADB will build a third atrium onto the current main building in Mandaluyong. The third atrium will extend into the current parking lot. In preparation for starting the new building and to alleviate parking issues, ADB constructed a new parking building within the compound and beside EDSA. It will accommodate 306 cars.

Lung Center. Ever since smoking was banned inside the ADB building, smokers have had to go outside to puff away. But many nonsmokers have complained about having to breathe in cigarette smoke while traversing the areas where smokers congregate, including in the interior courtyard. In response, ADB erected two "smokers' lounges" in the central courtyard—there are sometimes referred to as "the Lung Center." ■



Workshops of Associations of International Retiree Organizations

Jill Gale de Villa, Gene Owens (ADB 1982–1997), Conchita Acupanda (ADB 1967–1970)

On 10 November 2010, the 1818 Society, the Association of World Bank Group Alumni, convened the second annual meeting of retirees associations of international organizations. As in 2009, Jean-Yves Maillat coordinated the meeting, and it was held in the World Bank. The two working groups, which met simultaneously, pertained to health insurance and communications. As in 2009, five retirees associations attended in addition to AFE and the 1818 Society:

- Association of Former International Civil Servants, Washington Chapter (AFICS/W);
- Association of Former PAHO/WHO (Pan American Health Organization, World Health Organization) Staff Members;
- Association of Retirees of the IDB (Inter-American Development Bank);
- Association of Retirees of the Organization of American States (AROAS) and Association of Pensioners of the Retirement and Pension Fund of the OAS (ASPEN); and
- International Monetary Fund Retirees Association (IMFRA).

For AFE, Tita Acupanda and Gene Owens attended the communications workshop and I attended the session on health insurance.

Group 1—Health Insurance

Larry Hinkle of the 1818 Society was convener for health insurance. Discussions centered around three main topics: (1) US health care reform, (2) participation in US Medicare Part B, and (3) a joint healthcare matrix. Matters of governance and physicians' participation in insurance schemes also arose.

US Health Care Reform. The participating institutions varied as to whether they were aligning themselves with the new US health care law or the extent of such alignment, with institutions based outside the US less likely to align than those based in the US. Organizations

based in the US could reap some immediate financial benefit from doing so, through the US Early Retiree Reinsurance Program (ERRP), under which government subsidies are granted to those offering health insurance to retirees who are not yet old enough to qualify for Medicare.

The World Bank's Human Resources Department is proposing the following benefit changes, which are expected to be approved, to be effective January 2011: (1) extension of retiree medical insurance coverage to children under age 26 irrespective of whether or not the child is a dependent; (2) provision of 100% reimbursement for a range of in-network preventive services (to be specified); and (3) treatment of mental health benefits and hospitalization for substance abuse on a par with physical health benefits, eliminating current caps on annual visits for mental health and lifetime hospitalization benefits for substance abuse treatment. These changes are expected to bring the benefits into close alignment with recent US health insurance legislation.

Information on US health care reform is available at <http://www.aarp.org/health/health-care-reform/>

Governance. The OAS has an insurance advisory committee, with representation from AROAS. The OAS Secretary General appoints four people to the committee, and the staff and the retirees associations each have four representatives. The committee makes recommendations to the OAS Secretariat as to insurance plan provisions. The committee has recommended that the OAS extend insurance coverage to children up to age 26 as long as they remain dependents. The discussion of the governance structure for OAS's retiree insurance attracted substantial interest, as it suggests a higher level of transparency and participation by retirees than in some other organizations.



Medicare Part B

Participation. Participation in Part B of Medicare varied from being required of eligible retirees by the World Bank and OAS, to providing incentives to participate by the UN, little incentive to join by IMF, and no incentive at other institutions. About a third of World Bank beneficiaries participate in Plan B, saving the World Bank a significant sum.

Issues of Physicians'

Participation. PAHO noted issues of members from other countries feeling they are subsidizing the high cost of medical care in the US, and of physicians leaving both Medicare and insurance plans in general.

Joint Health Care Matrix. Following last year's Workshop, a matrix of health care information was developed by Jill de Villa of ADB, Carol Collado of PAHO, and Pat King of the 1818 Society. Drafts of the matrix were presented to this year's participants for consideration and discussion. Some organizations felt it was more worth doing than others because of risks; some saw it as a tool for advancing retiree interests and a race to the top; and others saw it as promoting the lowest common denominator. There were different assessments of risks among organizations. Most of the organizations felt that participation in the entire matrix exercise was worthwhile; a few would exchange detailed information on selected issues.

The consensus was that distribution of the matrix should be limited to people working on healthcare issues in their retiree organizations and to the boards of the retiree organizations, because of a risk that wider distribution could lead to misinterpretation and counterproductive results. Focal points were nominated for further development of the matrix, and the group discussed how to move forward to complete the matrix over the next 6–12 months. Two issues singled out for priority handling were Medicare and governance arrangements for retiree medical insurance plans.

Group 2—Communications

IMFRA's Klaus Boese was convenor for the Communications workshop, which covered methods of communication, membership matters, and challenges.



AFE representatives Tita Acupanda and Gene Owens (seated, 4th and 5th from left) participating in the wrap-up of the meetings on health insurance and communications and membership, at the World Bank. On the right is Jean-Yves Maillat, 1818 Society, who organized the meetings in 2009 and 2010.

Methods of Communicating. Prior to the meeting, our organizations were surveyed as to the methods, procedures, and effectiveness of communications. The types of retiree information and costs of communications are relatively similar among the various associations.

The most significant communications tool is the Internet, and much discussion focused on the establishment, maintenance, and use of a website. The website of the 1818 Society is the most sophisticated. The section most frequently viewed is obituaries and remembrances of former colleagues. The World Bank IT staff manages the 1818 Society's webpage. IADB, IMF, and the UN noted the advantages of security and technical assistance through being attached to the host institution. AFE's website is not a part of ADB's.

Membership. Each association summarized its communication strategies and major issues.

Fees. Regarding fees, only one association has a yearly payment. Only AFE–ADB has a differentiated payment by professional and local staff. PAHO provides an opportunity to participate through voluntary payments and charitable contributions to worthwhile causes. Others have contributions from their host organizations to cover operating costs. AROAS has a voluntary contribution. PAHO has a one-time payment of \$300 at retirement for a lifetime membership. The cost is included in the retiree's final termination package. AFICS provides a choice of paying dues of \$300 for lifetime membership, or \$35 annually, or none.

Maintaining memberships. Active membership in "retiree associations" is declining due to shorter term employment among current new staff, a view that one is

moving on—not “retiring” in the traditional sense, and easy communication via the Internet.

To respond to the challenge, four key issues were identified as of greatest interest to former staff: pension, health, keeping active, and networking. Detailed suggestions included

- networking and facilitation of reemployment opportunities with the host institution;
- providing up-to-date information on post-employment benefits, including medical and pension services;
- sharing information about global medical services and opportunities for savings, a directory of up-to-date e-mail contacts, information on the deaths of former staff, addresses of surviving spouses, travel, and education;
- facilitating social events and charitable giving;
- providing legal or other social services to members requiring such assistance;
- attracting and maintaining participation through a “calling tree”;
- holding raffles through the website (IMFRA);
- facilitating a house exchange program; and
- using social networking tools, such as Facebook.

In all associations, not all members are connected through the Internet.

For contacting prospective retirees, the human resources groups of the participating organizations include a presentation from the retirees’ organization at preretirement seminars.

Challenges. Because our host organizations are changing, with significantly more short-term employees, pension schemes are changing, and the retiree associations need to determine how to remain relevant. The associations should no longer call themselves “retiree” organizations, as, rather than “retiring,” people evolve to a higher, more satisfying life. We should consider becoming more like university alumni associations, to build upon a sense of pride and identification through prior association. The host organizations represent continuity, status, prestige, and financial stability, and it is in the interest of the retiree organizations to closely link to their host organizations.

Because of potential legal issues, the office holders should have liability insurance provided by the association. ■

Visit AFE online at
www.afe-adb.org

See also ADB's alumni portal
www.adbalumni.org

Heart and Soul

On 1 October, the Staff Community Fund (SCF) staged its annual fundraiser, this year with a MoTown theme. During the past year the SCF had distributed over P3.3 million to beneficiaries, with more committed by year-end. Results of SCF’s efforts over the years have included a scholarship to Dennis Alibangbang, an orphan who is currently close to finishing his undergraduate education at the University of the Philippines. The 13 beneficiary organizations in 2010 included the Foundation for Disadvantaged Children, Southeast Asian Institution for the Deaf at Miriam College, and Tahanan ng Pagmamahal Children’s Foundation. The fundraiser and annual donations almost reached the year’s target of P6 million.



SCF scholars.



Southeast Asian Institution for the Deaf at Miriam College.

This year’s performances included a band comprising deaf students at the Ma. Lena Buhay Foundation as well as our very own singers; dancers; musicians; and the magic man—Tsukasa Maekawa—who wowed the audience with his tricks. ■



That's Why We Do This

C. Lawrence Greenwood, Jr.



Ed: C. Lawrence Greenwood, ADB's vice-president for operations (2), composed this song, which poignantly expresses why ADB's development work is so important.

There's a girl
 She sits and dreams about a special world
 Where instead of spending hours
 Fetching water from the well
 She waits for that schoolyard bell to ring
 And it makes her sing

There's a boy
 Life has never given him much choice
 His young hands hardened by the years
 Of working with the clay
 Making bricks to lay
 He tries to keep his hopes alive
 Give him wings and he will fly

Chorus
 That's why we do this
 That's why we care
 Help a father feed his children
 Grant a mother's prayer
 So please remember



The love we shared
 Don't you ever, ever lose it
 Cause you know the simple truth is
 That's why, that's why we do this

Someday
 Every man can feed his children everyday
 When every mother's dream
 Will come alive in every way
 We have a role to play
 Carry on until the day is gone
 Here's where you and I belong

Chorus
 That's why we do this
 That's why we care
 Help a father feed his children
 Grant a mother's prayer
 So please remember
 The love we shared
 Don't you ever, ever lose it
 Cause you know the simple truth is
 That's why, that's why we do this

Some of us will take the high road
 It's never easy to make the world change
 Building bridges to tomorrow
 We will do our best to make a brighter day

Chorus
 That's why we do this
 That's why we care
 Help a father feed his children
 Grant a mother's prayer
 So please remember
 The love we shared
 Don't you ever, ever lose it
 Cause you know the simple truth is
 That's why, that's why we do this



Chapter News

Australia

Peter Carroll (ADB 1982–1999)



The Australia and New Zealand members held a joint meeting on 5–8 October 2010 in Queenstown, South Island, New Zealand. Arriving in Queenstown by air was spectacular, with the snow-capped Southern Alps rising up steeply through the clouds beneath our wings, interspersed with verdant

cultivated valleys, lakes, and small picturesque towns. Other participants made their way by road from Christchurch and other parts of New Zealand.

In the early evening of Tuesday 5 October, a merry band of some 44 ex-ADB staff and their partners met for welcome cocktails in the Earnslaw Lodge on the edge of Lake Wakatipu, where most participants stayed. The Lodge has stunning views across the lake and the Queenstown golf course to the “Remarkables,” a ring of white-topped mountains that were reflected in the waters of the lake. Colin Pratt, Ron Hamilton, and I welcomed the group, at this first combined reunion of the Australia Chapter and the New Zealand members of AFE-ADB. Participants then walked to the center of Queenstown, where dinner was enjoyed in a variety of restaurants according to individual tastes.

After breakfast the next morning, we boarded our buses (yes, we required two!) for an exciting day visiting some of the many attractions in the beautiful Queenstown hinterland. We spent some time in the old gold-mining town of Arrowtown with its geriatric stone buildings, many shops (selling possum wool garments!), and an excellent museum before heading off to observe a bungee jump over a stream in a steep, rocky, and narrow gorge. After a group photo at a scenic lookout, we proceeded to Carrick’s Winery for a delicious lunch washed down with appropriate quantities of local “grape juice.” Our next ports of call were two more wineries in this prime pinot noir region, followed by a very scenic return to Queenstown through winding agricultural valleys backed by snow-capped mountains.

In the evening, we all sauntered down to the Prime Restaurant for a gourmet dinner to unwind and celebrate a most enjoyable day.

Thursday morning, 24 of us gathered at 9.30 a.m. in the cleared dining room of the Earnslaw Lodge to begin the fifth Annual General Meeting of the Australia Chapter, with guests from New Zealand. As coordinator, I opened the meeting and welcomed members and guests, especially David Parker, our treasurer from AFE-ADB headquarters in Manila.

My report for the year made special reference to last year’s reunion in Queensland; ADB’s 43rd Annual Meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan; and the AFE AGM. David Parker conducted the election of the office bearers for the coming year. I was re-elected as coordinator, and Con Pappas as secretary/treasurer (with assistance from Ken Waller). State



Seated (L–R): Martyn Nicholls, Andrew Proctor, Alex Gordevich, Victor Diem, Peter Carroll, Loh Ai Tee, Robert Byrnes. Standing (L–R): John Ling, Ron Hamilton, John Samy, Frank Sharpley, Neil Collier, Colandavelu Narayanasuwami, Jeffrey Wilson, Willy Lim, Joe Rajaratnam, Thein Swe, Ross Clendon, Mike Ryan, Gordon Fox, Colin Pratt, David Parker, Anthony Kuek, Con Pappas, and Abbas Talib.



Attendees sightseeing at the Australia–New Zealand meeting in Queenstown, New Zealand.

representatives elected were Neil Collier and Phil Young for Queensland, Con Pappas and Alex Gordevich for New South Wales, and John Thorp for Victoria and the rest of Australia.

I then thanked members of the previous committee for their support, especially John Ling, who had to resign due to illness. Issues discussed under general business included AFE–ADB finances; the TowersWatson review of salaries and benefits; access to online reports and pension payments; health cover and Vanbreda International; the proposed health insurance manual; life insurance; the AFE–ADB *Handbook for Survivors*; AFE–ADB networking; proposed 25th Anniversary celebrations for AFE–ADB; proposed review of the AFE constitution and by-laws; AFE membership fees; the AFE website and the ADB alumni portal; expansion of ADB headquarters; membership directory; and updating of members' contact details.

The members voted against using AFE's accumulated funds for chapter expenses and confirmed that these funds should be maintained in reserve for emergencies such as essential legal advice.

Re the TowersWatson report, David Parker was asked to convey the meeting's firm opinion that the parameters of the health insurance contributions set at the time of staff retirement should not be altered. Any overall increase should be spread among all contributors to the health insurance scheme (staff and pensioners). If BPMSSD decides to alter the parameters for pensioners, then the executive secretary should strongly advocate for pension parameters to be "grandfathered."

There was general agreement that the 25th Anniversary celebrations should be held in Manila, Philippines, following ADB's Annual Meeting in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, and seven

members indicated their intention to attend the functions in Manila.

It was agreed that the AFE constitution and by-laws should be reviewed and adjusted as necessary.

Members also agreed that the ADB alumni portal and the AFE website should be linked for easier access.

I recommended that the New Zealanders present consider forming a chapter of their own, and this resulted in deep discussion and a decision to hold a special meeting following the closure of the AGM. It gives me great pleasure to report that the New Zealanders present voted to form the New Zealand Chapter of AFE–ADB and elected their office bearers, with Colin Pratt as coordinator. Congratulations, New Zealand!

It was agreed that the next reunion (2011) of the Australia Chapter will be conducted in the Sydney region in October, kindly hosted by Con and Helen Pappas and Alex and Lynne Gordevich.

With the bureaucratic requirements completed, golfing members and observers were taken to the pier to catch a water taxi over the lake to the picturesque Queenstown golf course, where we had a light lunch in preparation for the afternoon's exercise. The Peter Pattison Memorial Golf Tournament kicked off at 2:00 p.m. with 5 teams of 2 playing "Ambrose" accompanied by the usual exclamations, hilarity, and wit (and some even played golf!). The course was for mountain goats, and strong lungs and legs were required to follow the ball around the course, or wherever else it went! It was a most enjoyable day, with incredible views, and everyone was in high spirits upon returning to the clubhouse and calculating the winners over a thirst-quenching drink or two. As happened last year, Loh Ai Tee and Willy Lim were declared the winners.

About 44 members and partners met at the Tatler Restaurant for a happy and boisterous annual dinner. I thanked the organizers (Colin Pratt and Ron Hamilton) for the wonderful reunion, and awarded certificates to the winners of the Peter Pattison Memorial Golf Trophy. We then reminisced about life in ADB and Manila.

Everyone agreed it had been a great reunion in a beautiful venue, and it was with some sadness that we bid our farewells after breakfast the next morning and everyone went on their separate journeys—many on extended sight-seeing tours around magnificent New Zealand. ■

Canada West

John Cole



The Canada West Chapter held two get-togethers in December 2010, both very happy events with lots of reminiscing and catching up.

The first was held at a Chinese restaurant in Vancouver. Twenty-four AFE members and partners attended: Lew and Ky Hayashi, Fremma and Jun Esquejo, Aria and Padma Ganesan, Maria and Gilbert Soriano, John Kuiper, Lolit and Tony Telan, Bruce Murray, Merrell Chinyee and Yasmin Alladine, Leigh Durland, Manny and Grace Aquino and their son Emmanuel, Len and Rey Castro, Jenny and Vir Majorreis, and John and Lynne Cole. The food was excellent, Coordinator John Cole reviewed the year's AFE and ADB events, and the party was great fun.

There were two seasonal quizzes, one on trivia, one on music, to torment and tantalize everyone (e.g., On Christmas Day in which decade did Charlie Chaplin die? By which title is the song *Previous Festive Season* better known?) Jenny

(L-R): Manny Aquino, Bruce Murray, John Kuiper, Lew Hayashi, Ky Hayashi, Jasmin Alladine, Merrell Chinyee, Leigh Durland, and Emmanuel Aquino.

Majorreis, games master extraordinaire, was in splendid form once again with some gentle physical activity for everyone. And Manny Aquino, who journeyed to Vancouver from Washington State, played the guitar and led the singing of a host of festive songs.

The second get-together was a lunch at a restaurant near Victoria on Vancouver Island. The attendees were Dick and Leslie Gold, Charles Coe, Karol Charleson, Alex and Laura Jorgensen, Anne Porter, Richard Marshall and Sharon Broadley, and John and Lynne Cole. Again, a good time was had by all, with good food and excellent conversation. ■



Tony and Lolit Telan



Aria and Padma Ganesan



Jun and Fremma Esquejo



Maria and Gilbert Soriano



Washington, DC

Gene Owens and Clay Wescott (ADB 1998–2006)



6 November 2010—The Washington, DC Chapter convened its Fall business meeting and luncheon at the

new headquarters of the North American Resident Office (NARO), just off Farragut Square in downtown Washington DC. AFE–ADB members were welcomed to the new office by Resident Director General Chris MacCormac. Joining us from Manila was Jill Gale de Villa, our deputy executive secretary, who was in Washington to represent AFE–ADB in the discussions with international retiree organizations on health insurance and communications issues.

After showing us around the new office space, Chris provided a brief overview of what has been going on at ADB in Manila, as well as some of the recent ADB activities in North America.

Highlights of NARO’s activities in 2010 include

1. representing ADB at international meetings of the Climate Investment Funds (a set of funds financing projects using different approaches to mitigation of and adaptation to climate change), and at other international meetings including the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program;
2. coordinating with staff of at the United Nations headquarters, New York, on ADB’s activities to address the recent devastating floods in Pakistan;

3. engaging in consultations (in North America) leading to the G-20 Leaders Summit in Seoul on 11–12 November 2010; and
4. providing representation at the Second Ministerial Meeting of the Methane to Markets Partnership (ADB is an implementing agency of the Partnership).

Jill brought the members up-to-date on the several issues pertaining to staff health and pension benefits that are under consideration in Manila as elaborated in the TowersWatson Study. It now appears that the TowersWatson suggestion to link fees for medical insurance and other medical benefits to age is no longer under consideration. However, the issue of the guaranteed 3% annual increase in ADB’s pension benefit to compensate for increases in the cost of living (COL) is still under discussion. Several AFE–ADB members and chapter coordinators pointed out that considerable written evidence suggests that the 3% annual pension adjustment is contractually guaranteed.

The group’s discussions on this issue showed general agreement among pensioners that any change in the 3% COL increase should be grandfathered. Many of the pensioned staff indicated they were willing to make contributions to enable AFE–ADB to hold our position on this issue, or perhaps call upon legal representation from retired members formerly with the Office of the General Counsel. Another point frequently made during the discussion was that of negative perceptions and the lack of empathy and understanding both by the consultants that carried out the TowersWatson Study and perhaps some active staff in ADB concerning the sacrifices made by former staff members who worked over decades to bring ADB its present highly regarded, international global reputation. Others pointed out that former staff have made personal financial decisions based on confidence in the policy positions and reputation of ADB. To reverse long-standing

Back row (L–R): Karti Sandilya, Clay Wescott, V. Krishnaswamy, Graham Colin-Jones, Rolf Zelius; Middle row: Alison Wescott, Des Horton, Tita Acupanda, Thelma Diaz, Anne Sweetser, Gene Owens, Jill de Villa, Bernard Donge; Seated: Yvonne Colin-Jones, Marilou Hakuta, Nancy Dizon Korionoff, Chris MacCormac, and Cherie Melencio. Not shown in the picture: Bill Peterson, Ellery Owens, and Anita Kartadjoemena.





Thelma Diaz, Anne Sweetser, Gene Owens, and Chris MacCormac.

policy decisions impacting pensioners shows a fundamental lack of compassion for both existing and former staff. Members attending agreed that they wanted to remain in the picture with information on what is taking place on this issue. The incoming Washington, DC chapter coordinator, Clay Wescott, noted that he would try to provide a means to facilitate continuing dialogue on the issue, including links to a Facebook page.

Communication among members and between AFE chapters in the US was also discussed. Recent efforts have been taken to bring together AFE staff from the New York–New Jersey area with those in the Washington area through social functions. Several members attending, including Tita Acupanda and Cherie Melencio, agreed to work with Clay Wescott to update the Washington, DC Chapter’s membership list. It was acknowledged that the effort to get people to pay their AFE–ADB dues on a yearly basis is still difficult if one does not have a pension from which to extract payment. Alternative means of payment, or perhaps a different “type” of membership could be created for those who can be members of two retiree associations—such as both World Bank and ADB—to enable social networking.

The last item on the business agenda was the confirmation of Clay Wescott as the newly elected coordinator for AFE in Washington, DC. Clay was elected by acclamation. In his brief address he agreed to expand the role of the chapter, with more attention to reaching out to other US chapters. Gene Owens, as chapter coordinator for 6 of the past 10 years, expressed his appreciation to all of the former staff who had helped to make AFE–ADB’s representation in the Washington area a success.

The business meeting was preceded by a delightful luncheon selection of Asian dishes and snacks, with drinks to facilitate social interaction—as if it needed facilitation. It was great to see old friends remembering good times together. ■

Europe

Peter Bodora (ADB 1978-1997) and Günter Hecker

Over the recent years, September has been the time for the reunion of the AFE–ADB Europe Chapter. It is just after the grandchildren have returned to school, and the likelihood of good weather is slightly higher than 50%.

This year, the venue of the 13th reunion was in the magnificent city of Dresden, on Friday–Monday, September 10–13. Most of the 44 participants arrived on Friday evening, travelling through heavy rains. Miraculously the sky cleared in the evening, and three most pleasant days followed, with the rains resuming only after our reunion. Had organizers Günter Hecker and Peter Bodora learned anything useful during their missions, like supplicating the rain god?

Our hotel was right in the city center, and most of the city’s highlights were within walking distance. After checking in, we all went to the Frauenkirche for an organ concert. A short presentation was given on the church destroyed in the last days of WW II, primarily by the intense heat from the burning city. After the reunification of Germany, this monument was restored through donations, using as many of the original stones as possible. The church has become a symbol of the will to reconstruct our cultural heritage and maintain traditions. All participants received a small piece of the unusable rubble upon making a small donation for the church’s upkeep.

History, Business, and Alchemy. Saturday, we viewed a documentary on the history of Dresden, as background before a guided tour—unfortunately, it was all in German. The tour covered most of what was left after WWII of a city once known as the “Florence of the North” and the parts that have been restored, including the Zwinger; the Hofkirche; the Brühl’sche Terrace; and the “Parade of the Princes,” a 102-m long porcelain-tiled mural. The mural depicts all the 35 rulers of Saxony—the area of which Dresden is the capital—between 1123 and 1904. These include Otto the Rich; Konrad the Great; Friedrich the Meek; Albrecht the Degenerated; August the Strong; and Friedrich the Bitten, named for the scar his mother made with her teeth to mark him as the rightful successor to the throne, because his father, Prince Albert the Naughty, had several affairs with “consequences.”

The business meeting was well attended, but with very few newcomers. Special efforts will be required to rejuvenate our chapter and our AFE and to keep it active



Augustus the Strong himself.

and alert to defend our health insurance, pension, and other benefits that may come into focus every now and then.

For the gala dinner, the hosts organized the "Alchemist's Feast" at the Sophienkeller, a cellar where Johann Friedrich Böttger, who claimed to be able to produce gold, was

locked up by August the Strong. After much effort, the alchemist Böttger only managed to come up with "White Gold" (porcelain) at the end. This was, however, the beginning in the 1790s of the world-famous Meissen Porcelain Manufacture in the neighboring city of Meissen.

To everybody's surprise, August the Strong himself showed up and, in the florid language of his era, welcomed each of us personally and, after enquiring about each one's regional origin, gave his personal esteem or disdain for the respective contemporary ruler. That attitude could explain the many wars during his reign. However, for some of our group from very distant locations like India, he was hard put to comment.

Steaming and Partying. We started Sunday with a ride on a well-maintained 131-year-old paddle steamer. The paddle steamers on the river Elbe are said to be the forerunners of all such boats. Another first for "German ingenuity"? From Schloß Pillnitz on the river banks near the picturesque town of Pirna the river cruise (with a meal on board) went to the never conquered Fortress Königstein, which was first mentioned in 1233 and provides breathtaking views down the river Elbe. Energetic participants walked down a rocky path to the waiting bus.

Schloß Pillnitz is a fabulous castle where August the Strong kept his concubine Anna Constantina von Cosel practically in a "golden cage." Here, one of the four Camelia trees brought by the Swedish botanist Karl Peter Thunberg (1743–1828) from his trips to Japan via the Philippines still survives. Rumor is that this very tree originated from the Philippines. Today the 230-year-old and



Participants in the Dresden meeting include: Top, (L–R): Hans-Jürgen Springer, Jan Wijenberg, Peter Bodora, Steve Banta, Ingrid Holfelt, Eric van der Elst, Eva van der Elst, Hertha Escher, Siward de Vries, Peter Maertens, John Lintjer, Ulf Freiwald, Günther Schulz, Alain Dick; Middle, (L–R): Philippe Bendic, Elizabeth Reyes, Anh Benedic, Klaus Hoffarth, Marianne Wijenberg, Gisela Carstensen, Enno Carstensen, Fiona Adarkar, Arun Adarkar, Zuzu Bodora; Front, (L–R): Friederike Kantner, Monique Freiwald, Cheli Banta, Günter Hecker, Enrie Hecker, Pilar Zimonyi, Ivan Zimonyi, Jenny Lintjer; Not shown: Gertrud and PEK Köhling, Hertha and Herrman Escher, Edwige and Someth Suos, Lilo and Gerhard Kahl, Akiko and Dieter Bucher.

11-m high tree is protected in winter by a special heated glass dome 12-m tall, which moves on tracks This is how we take care of memorabilia from the Philippines.

The dinner was held at the famous “Bastei” with a breathtaking view over the rock formations, the “Saxonian Switzerland.”

The day provided ample opportunity for walking and talking and bonding among old friends, a major purpose of our reunions. Indeed, some of us had a nightcap until 2:00 a.m. in one of the nice bars around the Frauenkirche.

Industry and Culture. Monday morning we visited the world’s only glass-walled and parquet -floored factory, where the top-of-the-line Volkswagen model Phaeton is produced. This very modern factory is practically in the center of Dresden, and the parts for production are brought in on a special streetcar line during the night to avoid excessive truck traffic.

Lunch was at the very traditional “Ballhaus Watzke” with its own brewery on the riverbank on the outskirts of Dresden. Here we feasted on good, hearty, and plentiful German food at excellent prices—the platters were smaller than the schnitzel or the pig’s knuckles served on them.

As a farewell surprise and a last highlight for the ever-young and enterprising, Peter had organized a champagne cruise downriver on a sorry fleet of two rickety rafts right back into the heart of the city. For those who took the picturesque farewell to Dresden, it will remain an unforgettable experience.

The last evening was reserved for a visit to the Semper Opera House, rebuilt under the German Democratic Republic. The opulent, historic, neo-Renaissance style impressed us (although the faux marble is in fact simple plaster), as did the virtuoso performance by the Japanese–British pianist Dame Michiko Uchida, who played



Breathtaking view from the Bastei on to river Elbe.

Beethoven’s Concerto No.1. Dame Uchida is an acclaimed interpreter of the works of Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, and Chopin. Culturally enriched, we regrouped at the restaurant where we had started on Friday evening to round up yet another eventful and harmonious reunion.

All are keen to meet next year in Vienna, Austria, where Friederike Kantner has already begun to organize festivities. ■

India

Barin Ganguli (ADB 1979–1995)



The chapter’s 17th annual meeting was held in the India International Center, New Delhi on Saturday, 12 December 2010, with 16 members and spouses participating. A moment of silence was observed before the start in memory of S.P. Srivastava and J.P Pradhan, who both passed away in 2010. They were very active members of the AFE–ADB India Chapter.

Ramdass Keswani, the chapter’s president, welcomed the participants and briefly informed us about his trip to Tashkent to attend the 2010 AFE–ADB Annual Meeting. He said that his trip was very fruitful both from the point of view of obtaining AFE–ADB updates and the post-meeting travel along the Silk Road. He then requested the



Champagne sun-downer on the Elbe.

chapter coordinator to report on the two major issues on pension and health insurance matters as detailed in the TowersWatson Report.

The participants were informed that AFE's executive secretary had sent a comprehensive review of salaries and benefits in the TowersWatson Report for comments by the chapter. The report proposes (1) linking the annual increase in pension based on actual global/national inflation rates and not with a minimum of 3% as is the present practice, and (2) an age-based premium on health insurance. The coordinator informed members that the chapter has conveyed its position on the two issues as follows: (1) Linking the annual increase in pension based on actual inflation rates below 3% is not acceptable. If ADB so desires, it can make this provision applicable to future employees and retirees. (2) The effect of an age-based premium on elderly pensioners could be severe, and as such this proposal is also not acceptable. The meeting was further informed that AFE-ADB Manila has since noted that BPMSD has decided not to pursue the proposal to increase the health insurance premium based on age. The matter of the annual pension increase is still pending.

The meeting was informed by Shri V. R. Mehta that both he and his wife Bimla Mehta were honored by the Philippine Senate for their pioneering work on promoting the artificial foot in the Philippines for the last 20 years on behalf of the Mahavir Foundation (Philippines Chapter). The members congratulated him and his wife for this unique honor. The meeting ended with cocktails and dinner. The lady participants felt that the chapter annual meeting is a great forum for them to meet with old friends and recall their days in Manila. One of them wondered why the meetings cannot be held twice a year.

The chapter will again request AFE-ADB Manila to consider an increase in the chapter's annual subsidy from \$400 to \$500, a request that was made by the chapter coordinator in a previous report to the executive secretary, AFE-ADB Manila. ■

Indonesia

Dimiyati Nangju



Soeksmo B. Martokoesoemo, Dimiyati Nangju, and Jusuf Anwar.

Dimiyati Nangju will continue to serve as the chapter coordinator, Roslaini Rasuman as the deputy chapter coordinator, and Sonya Pamoedjo as the treasurer for the AFE-ADB Indonesia Chapter until 2011.

Three social and/or business meetings were held in 2010. The first was a business and social meeting held on 18 April 2010 at Dapur Sunda Restaurant in Jakarta and hosted by Benny Kosinda and his spouse. The meeting was well attended by members and their spouses. Jim Nugent, country director of the Indonesia Resident Mission, gave an interesting talk on the activities of the Indonesia Resident Mission.

Another business and social meeting was held on 10 October 2010, hosted by Ruchimat Soerakoesoemah, his spouse, and his son at their lovely home in Jalan Gaharu VI, Jakarta. The attendees enjoyed the wide variety of delicious food and discussed Mrs Soerakoesoemah's report on education support for about 30 orphans through the Indonesia Chapter grant. The attendees also discussed preparations for the annual general meeting.

The annual general meeting of the Indonesia Chapter was held on 4 December 2010 in Paregu Restaurant in Jakarta. The Annual Report for 2010, preparation of the program for 2011, and attendance of the Indonesia Chapter at the ADB Annual Meeting in Ha Noi in May 2011 were discussed.

Attendance at the Coordinators and Annual General Meetings in 2010. Dimiyati Nangju, M. Soerakoesoemah, and their spouses attended the ADB Annual Meeting and AFE-ADB Coordinators' Meeting and Annual General Meeting in Tashkent, Uzbekistan from 1 to 4 May 2010, and reported on the activities and discussions. Dimiyati Nangju noted he had raised the issue about the utilization of the income of the association from the annual dues of the members, which has reached about \$147,000. The





Seated (L-R): Roslaini Rasuman, Soegito Sastromidjojo, Nora Nangju, Soeksmono B. Martokoesomo, Emmy Gunadi, and Tuti Kaswadi. Standing (L-R): Abdullah Rasuman, Edi W. Kaswadi, Andi Budiman (IRM Officer), Normin Pakpahan, Michel De Ruffi De Ponteves, Jusuf Anwar, Edi M. Gunadi, Dimiyati Nangju, Chaya Soeksmono, Ida Ponteves, and Andi Budiman.

meeting was of the view that the accumulated fund should be maintained to meet emergency needs of the AFE-ADB.

Membership Status. During 2010, the Indonesia Chapter lost two members: Bistok Sitorus on 30 June 2010, and Soegito Sastromidjojo on 20 September 2010 after a prolonged illness. During the year, the chapter gained two members: Agus Haryanto and Ceppie Kurniadi Sumadilaga. Both are former executive directors of ADB from Indonesia.

Support to Poor Students in Bandung. The annual general meeting held on 6 December 2009 decided, for the first time, that the chapter would contribute Rp3,000,000 to 30 poor and/or orphaned students in Bandung through Keluarga Pensiunan Arcamani Endah (Retired Family of Arcamanik Endah, KPAE) headed by Anna Soerakoesomah. To support this social activity, the members of the Indonesia Chapter agreed to increase the dues from Rp150,000 to Rp300,000 per year starting 2010. In her report to the chapter on 10 October 2010, Anna indicated that the donation supported 30 primary school students in Arcamanik, Bandung through provision of school uniforms, textbooks, and writing books and equipment not provided by the local government. It is hoped that the Indonesia Chapter will continue its activities in the social sector in 2011 and beyond.

Financial Performance. The total income in 2010 amounted to Rp7,953,965 comprising dues of Rp4,750,000 and the ADB subsidy of \$347 (equivalent to Rp3,203,965). The total expenditure was Rp7,605,437, mainly for photocopying and mailing, fruit baskets or flowers to sick members in hospitals, and costs for the

annual general meeting in December 2010. The balance as of 4 December 2010 was Rp7,254,066, a small increase of Rp348,528 from December 2009.

Major Issues. (1) ADB's 44rd Annual Meeting will be held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, on 3–6 May 2011. The representative of the Indonesia Chapter to the next Chapter Coordinators' Meeting and Annual General Meeting, which will be held in conjunction with the ADB Annual Meeting, should be decided. Members are encouraged to attend the meetings in Ha Noi, because AFE plans to hold its 25th Anniversary celebration after the ADB Annual Meeting.

(2) Rejuvenation of the Indonesia Chapter. The present officers will have served for 3 years in 2011, and the chapter coordinator has served for about 9 years continuously since 2001. The 2011 AGM needs to consider this matter.

(3) Comprehensive Benefits Review. Hans Springer, executive secretary of AFE-ADB, reported that recommendations of the TowersWatson review would have far-reaching implications for retirees. A copy of the consultant's report had been distributed to members of the Indonesia Chapter for their information. He noted that ADB is not inclined to pursue the recommendation for an age-related premium for health insurance, and discussed the status of the recommendation to remove the minimum guaranteed 3% increase in the pension. Hans and his team have promised to continue to push for a properly detailed review, including analyses of costs and benefits and equity aspects, of all changes proposed by the consultant. To save money through short-sighted policies that cut back on contractually mandated benefits

to retirees who are no longer around to confront the policy makers is unfair to both current staff and retirees, and bad for the institution and its reputation. Members of the Indonesia Chapter are requested to follow up this issue closely in the internet and website of AFE-ADB.

Future Plans. The Indonesia Chapter will need to consider whether it should continue to implement the same program in 2011 as in the past years by holding social-cum-business meetings in March and/or April, and August and/or September, and an annual general meeting in December 2011 using the ADB subsidy. ■

Japan

Eiji Kobayashi



The annual get-together with Former President Masao Fujioka was held on 24 April 2010 at a hotel in the heart of Tokyo. This annual gathering is called Fuji-no-kai, named after Mr Fujioka, and this year's was its 21st meeting. Altogether 29 retirees and spouses attended.

Mr Fujioka was happy to see us once again, as he said this was now his only link with ADB. He and Mrs Fujioka are still very fit, traveling all over Japan including small islands. He said: "Since not many places are now left to visit, I now retreat to reading books. The books are interesting and resourceful, as they

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challenge my wisdom and strike me with the awesome mystery of life."

Following Dr Takase's account of his recent activities, including agricultural development in Africa, I briefly reported on my attendance at the ADB Annual Meeting in Tashkent. Mention was made that AFE-ADB will organize its 25th anniversary meeting in Manila next year, urging the members to attend. The attendees showed interest in recent activities of AFE-ADB as well as ADB affairs.

Everyone talked about their current activities with jokes and much laughter. To everybody's surprise, these included a wide range of interesting engagements. While some members are still pursuing careers in their respective fields under the current socioeconomic difficulties, others are enjoying their hobbies: traveling, hiking, angling, sporting, music, etc. After Manila, quite a few were again involved in overseas businesses in various parts of the world, but all unanimously agreed that the life in Manila was their best.

Lastly I mentioned that I intend to hand over my AFE coordinator's role to Tsuneaki Yoshida toward the end of 2010. Mr Yoshida responded and was warmly welcomed by the attendees.

Having spent a lovely and enjoyable evening in Tokyo at its best season, the members happily hurried their way home, thanking Hideo Nakajima, organizer of the gathering. ■

First row (L-R): Mrs Jun Watanabe, Mrs Ohashi, Minoru Ohashi, Mr and Mrs Masao Fujioka, Mrs Takase, and Kunio Takase. Second row: Mrs Kariya, Takatoshi Kato, Mrs Yoshida, Hiroo Fukui, Shoji Mori, Mr and Mrs Yukinori Watanabe, Mrs Ikawa, Mrs Kato, Mrs Fukui, Haruhiko Yamada, and Eiji Kobayashi. Third row: Hideo Nakajima, Jun Watanabe, Tsuneaki Yoshida, Motomu Kariya, Motomichi Ikawa, Morimitsu Inaba, Tetsuro Miyazato, Mrs Inaba, Mrs Yamada, and Yoshio Katsumata.



Korea

Yoong-Soo Seo (ADB 1983–2001)



The AFE-ADB Korea Chapter had another memorable gathering and annual meeting on the evening of 8 December 2010 at the Grand Hyatt Seoul, with 29 members and spouses. The attendance of Hans-Juergen Springer, executive secretary of AFE-ADB, and his wife Elizabeth Reyes made the event more meaningful. After welcoming

cocktails and snacks, an official business meeting followed, with a minute of silence in tribute to the late Hi Young Kim, former president and coordinator of the Korea Chapter, who exerted great effort to make the chapter a lively and active one.

In my address as officer-in-charge in the absence of the chapter president, I reported on the chapter's activities in 2010, stressing the improvement in fostering and strengthening friendship and interaction among members through monthly luncheons and other events. I also reported the actions taken by the Korea Chapter regarding the recommendations of the TowersWatson study, on the guaranteed minimum 3% increase in pension and the change to the age-related health insurance premium, among others.

Many members are still very active in various areas, as chief executive officers, professors, consultants, and government officials. The activities of Mr Jeung Hyun Yoon, Minister of Strategy and Finance (former Director on

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the ADB Board) during the G-20 Meeting were hailed and applauded by many members of the chapter during the meeting.

Next on the agenda was an election to fill the vacancy in the position of president of the Korea Chapter. The meeting unanimously elected Mr Yoong-Soo Seo as the president-cum-chapter coordinator, and Messrs Yun Hwan Kim and Kyun Tai Seol as vice presidents for 2-year terms. After the election process, AFE-ADB President Bong-Suh Lee congratulated the new team and requested all members for their active participation and support.

Last, Mr Springer took the podium to deliver his holiday season greetings and to report on the current developments in ADB as to the recommendations of the TowersWatson study, specifically on the two issues mentioned above. He emphasized the importance of the 25th AFE-ADB annual meeting, which will be held in Ha Noi, Viet Nam, in May 2011, and of reunion events in Manila right after the annual meeting, and he requested active participation by Korean members.

After the official business, a delightful dinner party followed, with fine food and wines. A wonderful performance by the charming Filipino singing group during the dinner made the event a really memorable one for all participants. ■



Seated (L-R, all Mrs): Kyun Tai Seol, Dong Suk Park, Myung Ho Shin, Hwa Jin Youn, Dal Hyun Kim, Elizabeth Reyes, Bong Suh Lee, Yoong Soo Seo, Yun Hwan Kim, Moon Soo Chung, Chang Huh. Standing (L-R, all Mr): Chang Huh, Moon Soo Chung, Dong Ho Park, Kyung Ho Kim, Dong Suk Park, Chong Serp Chung, Dal Hyun Kim, Hans Springer, Bong-Suh Lee, Hwa Jin Youn, Myung Ho Shin, Yun Hwan Kim, Young Hoi Lee, Sun Ho Lee, Kyun Tai Seol. Not shown: Mr & Mrs Kyung Woo Kim, Mr Tai Yong Yoon, Mr Seung Yong Um, Mr Yoong Soo Seo.

New York–New Jersey

Elenita Vizcarra Mignini (ADB 1979–1988)



The AFE–ADB New York–New Jersey Chapter held its 2010 annual reunion on 30 October 2010 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Secaucus, New Jersey. The reunion was organized by the 2010 Committee comprising Elenita Mignini (chairperson); Angel Calilap (deputy chairperson and secretary); Oscar Colmenar (treasurer); Lourdes

Almazora (assistant treasurer); Ruth Esmilio (souvenir program coordinator); and Irmina Jose, Margie Baccay, Vivian Villanueva, Nena Villena-Tañedo, Florecita Flores, and Ditas Miranda (program and member coordinators).

The event attracted more than 70 AFE–ADB members and their families and guests. Several members from

other chapters attended—some flew in from Manila (including deputy executive secretary Jill Gale de Villa from HQ and Anissa Romero from Zamboanga), California, Florida, North Carolina, and Chicago, to name a few.

The theme of the reunion was the '70s. Several members wore attractive costumes from the '70s, and there was a contest for the best costume and a raffle, with bottles of wine and other prizes for the best dressed and for the lucky ones.

The highlight of the event was the excellent dance performance by Nena Villena-Tañedo, together with the dance instructors. Everybody enjoyed the evening of dining, wining, dancing, and reminiscing about their ADB experience. Almost everyone managed to get to the dance floor, with couples rocking and the whole group line dancing.

Ruth Esmilio was unanimously elected as the chairperson of the 2011 organizing committee of the AFE–ADB New York–New Jersey Chapter annual reunion. ■



Rehearsing for a special number.



Jill Gale de Villa, Mario Mignini, Elenita Mignini, and Nena Villena-Tañedo.



At the 2010 New York–New Jersey chapter reunion.

Philippines

Gam de Armas (ADB 1981–2000)



A dance contest featuring dances from AFE member countries highlighted the 2010 annual get-together of the Philippines Chapter held at the EDR, ADB on 28 November. A record number of members watched the East, South, and North groups perform amazingly well dances from Spain, Japan, and the US.

First to take the stage was the North Group with Andy Carlos singing “With a Song in My Heart” followed by a medley of Broadway hits danced by Olga Agbayani, Peter Aguilar, Meng Dimayuga, Leony Francisco, Marie Galura, Vangie Mendoza, Pines Ngini, Oskee Nuñez, Odette Reyes, and Chit Salvador wearing white tops, black miniskirts, and black stockings.



The South Group then hushed the crowd with their interpretation of a Japanese dance “Hanagasa Odori.” Wearing authentic kimonos, Tek Ablaza, Yoly Asuncion, Ellen Batistil, Connie Baylon, Carmen Bontia, Lina Cadorniga, Nieves Callanta, Baby Girl Cruz, Lita Gamboa,



Meg Lim, Rosie Luistro, Lilia Malaqui, Ched Rana, and Liza Vitangcol glided gracefully in unison to the tune of Japanese music.

Then it was the West Group’s turn. The group provided an innovative and hilarious digital video entitled “The ADB Hot Ladies” featuring the faces of Eva Barcelona, Julie Guevara, Mirla Limpo, Tess Rivera, and Emy Taylor in animated bodies.

Last to perform was the host, the East Group, with an elegant interpretation of Spain’s Paloma Blanca. Dancing in attractive black and red flamenco costumes were Naty Alvarez, Marissa del Castillo, Eva Perez, Tess Salazar, Malu San Diego, and Ada Santos.



While the judges were deliberating, the East Group provided a special number, with its 67 members waving the flags of ADB’s 67 member countries and singing “We Are the World.”



The judges—Ed Alvarez, Vicki de Armas, Bill Bilar, Aggie Cabugao, Don O’Buckley, Nino Santi, Souphanh Savady, and Jennifer Silverman—with scoring based on set criteria, announced and awarded the prizes to the West and North Groups as second runners up, East Group as first runner up, and South Group as the winner.

Business Meeting. As chapter coordinator, I opened the meeting and Cecille Montino gave a stirring invocation. AFE–ADB executive secretary Hans-Juergen Springer gave his address and update on important AFE matters



First row (L–R): Loline Reyes, Eva Perez, Malu San Diego, Josie Cataluna, BJ Elizaga, Chato O’ Buckley, Linda Santos, Bing Vigo, Ben Hombre, Ada Santos. Second row (L–R): Shirley Dulla, Cita dela Rama, Milet Cruz, Linda Jacinto, Enya Ylagan, Jo Arana, Stella Torres, Ely Fuentes, Cecile Montino, Edna Austria, Yollie Laurel. Third row (L–R): Nandy Pacheco, Jill de Villa, Naty Alvarez, Tina Asilom, Aida Lizarondo, Marie Tordecillas, Linda Panopio, Tess Salazar, Mila Garcia. Fourth row (L–R): Margie Enriquez, France Arceo, Nigna Colayco, Reggie Newport, Vee Bernardo, Mon Reyes, Ely Carpio, Emma Banaria, Nil Ocampo, Luz Sanchez, Josie Flores, Midi Kawashima, Susan Padolina, Hans-Juergen Springer, Raquel Cabiles, Gam de Armas, Florence Galang, Ed Bernardo, Nanette Medina, Zeny de Villa, Marissa del Castillo, Fe Sebastian. Partly hidden are Centes Torres, Mike Punay, Arnold Jalandoni.

including the latest stand of BPMSD on the TowersWatson recommendations affecting retirees. Deputy executive secretary Jill Gale de Villa gave a brief account of the meeting she attended in Washington, DC of international retiree organizations and the invaluable insights she gained.

I gave a special welcome to AFE members from abroad (Aggie Cabugao, Milet Cruz, Yolly Laurel, Reggie Newport, and Chato and Don O’ Buckley) and newly retired ADB employees who joined the chapter in 2010 (Arnold Jalandoni, Cita de la Rama, Tess Redito, Loline Reyes, and Fe Sebastian). The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. I reported on happenings for the year, including the early formation and excellent work of the get-together organizing committee from the East Group, chaired by Raquel Cabiles. I also gave the results of a mini satisfaction survey on benefits conducted among some members, and summarized the feedback from members regarding the TowersWatson recommendations.

To close the business meeting, Leslie Manlapig sang a capella “Let There Be Peace on Earth” as everyone stood and joined hands to dramatize the night’s theme, “World Peace.” Then it was time for picture taking.

Dinner, Games, and Dancing. During and after the ample dinner, members enjoyed catching up on each other’s exploits. All tables were full—172 people

attended—a testament to the efforts of Raquel and her committee members in organizing the affair and following up by phone.

For Part 2, Florence Galang and Marie Tordesillas were emcees. Raquel introduced and acknowledged the people responsible for preparing the affair, and the inspiration she got from the South Group in planning it. France Arceo got special mention for the concept design.

Also acknowledged were members who came from the provinces: Ed and Vee Bernardo from Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija; Leony Francisco from Sta. Maria, Bulacan; Vangie Relato from Calaca, Batangas; Loline Reyes from Mataas Na Kahoy, Lipa, Batangas; and Malou and Jennifer Silverman from Olongapo City, Zambales. A special welcome was given to Andy Eugenio, who came in a wheelchair with his caregiver, and to Ophie Sta. Ana, who had bravely overcome aneurism surgery and attended with husband Jack.

Then we enjoyed games led by Zeny de Villa and Josie Flores. More than half of the attendees went home with a raffle prize solicited by energetic Eva Perez and Susan Padolina. The major prize, a painting donated by Peter Wallum, went to Vivian Quiroz. Meanwhile, all enjoyed the line dancing, and a swing dance number by Aggie Cabugao and Lita Gamboa with their instructors. With so many wanting to stay longer, how about starting the business meeting next year at 4 pm? ■

Toronto

Nida Rodrigo (ADB 1976–1996)

Ed: Toronto AFE held not one but two gatherings this year—one to celebrate the end of summer and the next to celebrate the coming of Christmas—year-round spirit!



September Satiation. Torontonians always find an excuse to meet—"for friends or for food" (your choice)—impromptu breakfast of *danggit*, *sinangag*, and *itlog* running until midafternoon, and last Saturday an impromptu *halo-halo* following the potluck lunch!

Thanks to Linda Vilchez Trabulsi for hosting the end of summer blitz on September 18!

Mother Nature blessed us with a sunny afternoon to enjoy each others' company, a hearty mix of healthy and deliciously will-kill-you-softly entrees, self-serve *halo-halo*, and a plant exchange.

Yes Virginia, real *kaskas*/crushed ice, *bote-botelyang minatamis na macapuno* balls and strings, three kinds of beans, *buko* meat, *langka*, *kaong*, etc. - *walang sinabi ang digman at razon*.

Attendees were Linda ; Guia Estabillo; Lea Gojo (who was returning to Manila in October); Lounggay Trasporto; Leah Flores; Neil, Janet, and Nathalie Huab; Nida and Tito Jugo; Fred and Nymia Meneses; Ed and Paz Ravadilla; and Helen Duenas.

Ed: For those who have forgotten their Tagalog: danggit = a special dried fish; sinangag = fried rice with meat and veggies; itlog = egg; halo-halo = a sweet concoction of ice and ... (but you MUST remember this one); bote = bottle, minatamis = sweetened; macapuno = a mutant coconut; buko = young

Front row (L-R): Neil, Nathalie, and Janeth Huab, Helen Duenas, and Nida Rodrigo. Second row (L-R): Guia Esbillo, Tito Jugo, Leah Flores, Paz and Ed Ravadilla, Linda Trabulsi, Fred Meneses, Malou Trasporto, Nymia Meneses, and Lea Gojo.



coconut (where do you get this in Toronto?); langka = jackfruit; kaong = fruit of the sugar palm; walang sinabi ang digman at razon = better than the comparators.

Christmas in Casablanca. Maybe not today, maybe not tomorrow, but soon and for the rest of your life.

Louie, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

Are the lines familiar ?

Torontonians walked the memory lane of one of the greatest films of all time, *Casablanca*, when we celebrated the Toronto Christmas and year-end dinner at the Sultan's Tent on 27 November 2010.

Attendees included first timers Eileen Woods; Rebecca Aza; Annie Delfin; Lutgarda, Pacia, and Carmela Santiago; plus old timers (not necessarily old) —2 ADB husband and wife teams Rey and Ellen Ballares, Ernie and Leah Flores with Guia Estabillo, Paz and Ed Ravadilla, Nida and Tito Jugo, Linda and Mike Trabulsi, and Helen and Rolly Duenas.

Just like in the movie, sometimes it all just comes together—the people, the dialog (ADB memories), a relaxing evening of delightful entertainment, superb food, the ambience, the thrill, the fun in a traditional Moroccan experience among good ADB family—a get-together that may stand the test of time.....What more could we want?

Are we dramatic? We were charmed during dinner by the belly dancers and were ecstatic when one of our very own belly danced to the delight of everybody! Linda, game as ever, was the toast of the night. Who knows, she might even start an ADB Dance Guild-Toronto edition.

We had fun and everybody is looking forward to another one very soon! ■

People, Places, and Passages

From ADB to the World

Elenita Vizcarra Mignini (formerly Teves)



I worked for the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for 10 years (1979–1988) in the Administrative Expense Division of the Controller's Department. My last job title was assistant.

In search of a greener pasture, I went to the United States in 1988, where I landed a job as an accountant for a company that owns several supermarkets in New York. I was happy working in the private sector, but somehow something was missing. I realized after a while that I wanted to be an international civil servant, so I applied for a job at the United Nations (UN). More than a year later, in September 1989, I finally started work at the UN as a benefits assistant in the UN Joint Staff Pension Fund. At the UN, I met several friends who used to work in ADB as well, and it seemed like I was again in ADB, because in the UN we shared our ADB experiences, and most of us are active members of the AFE–ADB.

Still searching for more adventure, in 1996, I joined the UN Peacekeeping Operations and worked in three different missions (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Liberia, and Syria). Switching jobs from finance to budget, I worked in the Peacekeeping Operations for 11 years. Then in 2007 I decided to go back to and be with my family in the United States, so I applied for a job in New York. After several interviews, in early 2008, I was selected as programme budget officer in the Budget Division of the Department of Management.

I give credit to ADB for the experience I gained there. I still remember the first interview I had with the UN: the person who interviewed me was more interested in hearing about ADB than in listening to my credentials. It is amazing to me that working for ADB and the lessons I learned while at ADB probably were one reason for my current situation, my achievements and success. ■

Ed: The job titles and experience Elenita notes above don't show well that during her career, and due to her efforts, she has risen through the ranks. She hurdled the fence to become what at ADB was, until recently, called "professional staff" and has recently been renamed "international staff."

Hayashi Scores

John Cole



Alan Armour and Lewis Hayashi.

Last year was an unbelievable one for Lewis Hayashi (right) and his tennis partner, Alan Armour, who are club players at the Jericho Tennis Club in Vancouver. In June the unranked pair surprised the establishment by winning the 2010 British Columbia Tennis Championship (age 75 and over) by beating the No. 2 seeds in the semi-finals and the No. 1 seeds in the finals.

Then, in August, they reached the finals of the 2010 Canadian National Championship (age 75 and over) beating the No. 2 seeds in the quarter-finals and the No. 3 seeds in the semifinals before losing in the finals to the No. 1 seeds.

At the end of 2010, the pair were ranked No. 2 nationally by Tennis Canada in their age category. ■

The Walk

Eveline Fischer (ADB 1988–2010)



The idea was born about a year before my retirement—the day after closing the doors at ADB behind me, I was going to undertake the famous pilgrims’ walk to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. As it turned out, it took a little longer to get under way, early autumn being my period of choice to do this. Meanwhile, friend and fellow OGC retiree Bobbi Thami

(ADB 2002–2008) and her husband Yogi decided to join what we came to refer to as The Walk.

So it was on a sunny morning in late August that our train from Amsterdam set course to a little town on the French border of the Pyrenees, St. Jean Pied de Port. Bobbi was well prepared, having spent entirely too many hours in the gym during the preceding 3 months and sporting the latest edition of an excellent little guidebook. I was definitely less organized, no physical preparation other than the daily exercise of an Amsterdam citizen—walking and bicycling as the mode of transportation—and a weekly game of tennis. I also had spent no time on logistics, except booking the train and a lovely little hotel in France for our first two nights before the start of the adventure. Only on the morning of our departure from St. Jean did the magnitude of this undertaking start to sink in—we were setting off on a walking tour that would take us across the Pyrenees and all of northern Spain, 790 km in total.

While it was not religious fervor that set us on this path, the fact that we were about to follow the footsteps



of hundreds of thousands of pilgrims who had walked this road since the Middle Ages certainly provided food for thought. The prospect of visiting numerous churches, from the humblest of village churches to the grandest cathedrals, was a major draw for us, as was the prospect of immersing

ourselves in the Spanish landscape—the vineyards of Rioja, the endless yellow rolling hills of the high plains, and the forests and mountain streams of Galicia.

And then of course the physical and mental challenge—can I really do this? The first day immediately posed the biggest challenge. Not only was it one of the longest days (with 27 km to cover), it also required a climb of more than 1,200 m to scale the Pyrenees, with a steep descent into Roncesvalles at the end of the day.

The good news was that, once we had that challenge under our belt, we knew the following days should be easier. But were they? Before the second day was over, the sole of one boot had come off completely. A pair of worn-out sneakers, left behind at an inn by another pilgrim, tided me over to the city of Pamplona, where I could buy a new pair of boots.



Eveline Fischer, Yogi, and Bobbi Thami.



The newness unfortunately resulted in a couple of blisters that accompanied me on the rest of the walk. More serious, however, were the injuries suffered by the other members of our little band: after 5 days Yogi was in severe pain—tendinitis in the ankle. That meant he was relegated to bus transport to the next larger towns until he was ready to join the walk again for the final 2 weeks. A few days later Bobbi developed a frozen muscle in her back, sending her off to the infirmary as well. In her case, it literally meant the end of the road—and a firm intention to finish another time from where she left off.

The towns we walked through, or collapsed in, at the end of a day's journey were lovely, having preserved much of their original medieval character, with narrow pedestrian-only streets and flowers in all the window boxes. For once, tourism, in the form of pilgrimages, has had a positive effect. The number of pilgrims (the Spanish people along the way refer to all who travel the route as peregrinos, regardless of their motive for walking) has swelled in recent years. The route's increasing popularity reflects that, in addition to the many who walk for religious reasons, even more people are now undertaking the trek for fitness, health, and cultural benefits. This increase in numbers has increased opportunities and income for the towns' lodging facilities and restaurants, which has also resulted in local people being able to make a living in their home areas rather than being forced to migrate to cities.

Disappointing as it was to miss my friends' companionship part of the way, for me the actual walking was a solitary activity in any event. Keeping one's own pace is least tiring. Moreover, the solitude allowed me to disengage my brain and just to absorb the beauty of the scenery, the sounds of the birds, and the rhythm of my feet, one step after another. For 35 days, this was my life—getting up at 6 am, on the road shortly after 7, by mid-September by the light of the moon and the stars, the glorious daybreak with the golden morning light, a coffee and a sandwich in a little café, walk, walk, walk, perhaps another



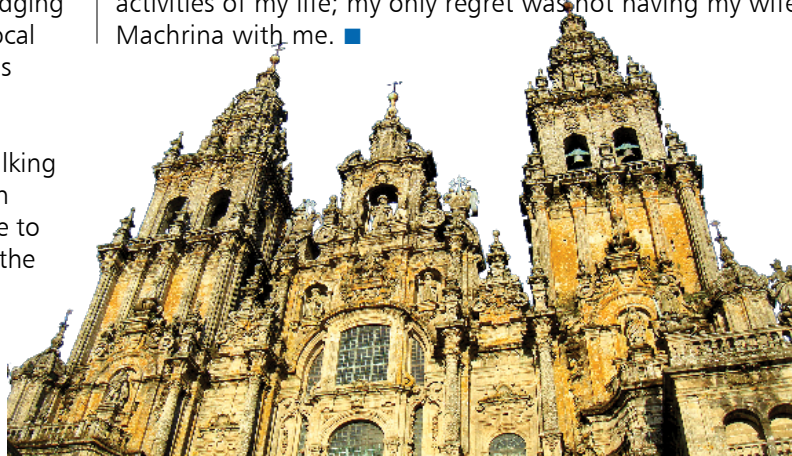
coffee, walk, walk, walk, arrival at destination, lunch, shower, crash, explore the town, dinner, sleep.... Life can be so simple and so beautiful; retirement has just opened a whole new world! ■

The Pilgrim

Fred Mesch (ADB 1988–2010)



I did Compostela with my daughter Teresa, 2 weeks behind Eveline, finishing on 12 October. I did not find it difficult at all: no blisters, no soreness, ready to go after a night's sleep to remove the tiredness. Teresa found it more difficult but had unreserved drive and intent: finish it. I did the pilgrimage for traditional reasons, especially as a walking prayer, but most do it for an assortment of other reasons. It was one of the most joyous times and activities of my life; my only regret was not having my wife Machrina with me. ■



Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela.

The Inn at Gray's Landing

Lynette Mallery (ADB 1996–2006)



I left ADB in 2007 and purchased a bed and breakfast in Windsor, North Carolina—from external relations specialist to inn keeper. I have been busy ever since hosting guests (including many satisfied customers from among former and current ADB staff) and running a restaurant. The Inn at Gray's Landing,

built circa 1790, has five guest rooms, a 55 seat restaurant, and a 25 seat back porch bar. Recent guests at the Inn have included Henry Tucker, Barbara Holloway, Jackie Tucker (Henry's daughter), Julie Rogers, Anne Sweetser, and Sharon Henry.

For more information, go online (<http://www.grayslanding.com/index.html>). "The Inn at Grays Landing is one of the oldest houses in Windsor, and has been occupied by some of the town's most famous families. John Johnson, attorney-at-law, was the first owner. Other residents include Elisha Rhodes, appointed by President Van Buren as US Consul to the Port of Galveston, Republic of Texas, and his son William Henry, one of the first science fiction writers. The house was also occupied by David Outlaw, a pro-Unionist Congressman before the Civil War."

To contact the Inn (and Lynette), call 1-877-794-3501 or 1-252-794-2255 or e-mail innkeepers@grayslanding.com. ■



Brunch at the Inn: Ann Sweetser, Sharon Henry, Lynette Mallery, Henry Tucker, Barbara Holloway, Jackie Tucker, and Julie Rogers.

ADBers at IMF

Graham Dwyer (ADB 2003–2009)



Ed: Many ex-ADB staff work in and around Washington, DC, but comparatively few at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). IMF External Relations Officer Graham Dwyer, formerly of ADB's Department of External Relations, talks to some of them to find out why.

A couple of times a year, an email is sent out to a few dozen people across the Washington, DC international community to attend a social get-together. They may be of disparate nationalities and institutions, but one thing unites them—they all have at some point worked for ADB.

Most former ADB staffers in Washington seem to be at the World Bank. And the transition is easy to see—the bread-and-butter work of both institutions is financing development projects to fight poverty. In the case of my own organization, IMF, however, fewer ADBers seem to join. And those who do tend to be in the general career stream rather than economists.

"Most ADB staff have deep expertise in development issues and project/program financing," explained Naoyuki Shinohara, who joined IMF as deputy managing director last year, having served as Japanese executive director at ADB from 1998 to 2001. "IMF is basically a group of macroeconomists. I encourage more ADB staff to work at IMF, or vice versa, but I have to admit that the expertise required is a little different in many cases."

Not surprisingly then, the small, hardy band of former ADB staff at IMF tend to occupy roles that are most readily transferable, including human resources, security, external relations, information resources, IT, and administrative positions.

"For specialized career staff, often the work is very similar, so it is easier to move between organizations," said Roger Burston, now an IMF advisor in the Human Resources Department, who also worked in a senior HR role at ADB and was subsequently the assistant secretary. "One major difference is that ADB has a tendency to rotate staff among positions. This approach benefits the organization in terms of developing well-rounded professionals, but perhaps makes the individual less competitive when applying for positions outside the organization."

Warren Young took over as IMF's security chief in 2006, having served in the deputy role at ADB for 3 years. He found the work quite similar. "I think that some of the differences relate to the cultures that exist in the two institutions," he said. He noted the "culture of security



ADBers at IMF: Anne Scanlon, Roger Burston, Rowena Peñaranda, Glicerio Mulato Jr., Gilda Ordoñez-Baric, Naoyuki Shinohara, Tita Gunio, Bobbie Montesa, Graham Dwyer, Elenita Dee, and Warren Young.

awareness and the generally more overt recognition, here at the IMF, of the need for a much more active and encompassing security program.”

If for Young, it was a case of “move out to move up,” the same applied to Bobbie Montesa, one of the handful of ADB’s Filipino staff who have moved to IMF. For 12 years, Montesa was a local staff member in the ADB library, but made the jump to professional staff when joining IMF about 4 years ago and is now senior archives/records officer. “I had been looking outside ADB for some time, as I felt ‘plateaued’ in my position and unable to jump as a professional staff due to country representation restrictions,” she said. “I also felt that moving to another international organization would afford me the opportunity to learn more and be exposed to newer technologies, which I plan to bring back to the Philippines.”

Other Filipinos among the IMF staff have moved from ADB at the administrative level. One is Rowena Peñaranda, who moved to Washington, DC in August 2008 to join her husband, who was posted here. Having worked in administrative positions at ADB from 1998 to 2001, she naturally looked toward international organizations like IMF. “ADB and IMF have similar professional working environments,” she said. “Staff members in both institutions are highly qualified, driven, and have a strong work ethic.”

But most have faced some adjustment challenge transitioning from Manila to the DC area. “Moving from Manila to Washington was definitely somewhat of a culture shock for me,” Young said. “In DC I found that it takes a little more effort to establish the sort of close ties I had created so easily in Asia.”

For Burston, DC offers its own advantages but cannot compare to living in a place like Manila. “The experiences I had in the Philippines are irreplaceable—getting to know another culture, opportunities to travel in the country and in the region—and seeing at first hand how the people benefit directly from the work of the organization,” he said.

Shinohara offered this succinct comment: “Manila is a far better place to play golf and eat good Japanese food!” ■

Lion at Large

Peter Wallum (ADB 1982–2009)



I have been a “roving” Lion for 30 years. Imagine my delight when I learned that my fellow members of the Morpeth (England) Lions Club and I had been awarded the Queen’s Award for voluntary service to the community. This is a new award begun in 2002 to mark Queen Elizabeth’s 50th year on the

British throne, given for outstanding group voluntary service and equivalent to the reward for individuals known as the MBE (Member of the British Empire). It was awarded to my Morpeth Lions Club for spearheading grassroots aid and long-term recovery work following devastating floods in Morpeth town in September 2008.

Morpeth is my second home. It is an ancient market town in northeast England that was once burned to the ground rather than pay taxes to the hated King John.

I am certain the Aeta of the Philippines will always be grateful for the help Morpeth Lions gave them by teamwork with the Entrepreneur Volunteer Assistance Charity Foundation (EVACF) to help fund the construction of two traditional origins ethnic education schools for Aeta children affected by the Mt. Pinatubo super-eruption in 1991.

My wife, Jenny (Jennifer Wallum



The Queen’s award.

MBE), attended school in Morpeth; founded EVACF in 1991 after the eruption; and continues helping, having just handed over the 43rd school. See details on <www.evacf.org>. This is my role as a “roving” Lion for the Morpeth Lions Club.

I managed to be part of the Morpeth flood relief effort over the miles by lending my dry home in Morpeth to people displaced by the overflowing River Wansbeck, which burst its banks after heavy rains broke a dam upstream, sending a wall of water surging through the heart of the town. I also helped raise funds and source donated items. This is how I managed to be in two places at once!

Now Jenny with her MBE and I with a group equivalent are at par! AFE–ADB encourages everyone to get out and about to help other people—we seem to have done just that with surprisingly happy results all around! ■

Changes Everywhere

Yves Bellekens (ADB 1976–2001)



Here are answers to requests as to how blessed I’ve been with a new lease on life and the recall of a memorable event. When joining ADB in 1976 I was privileged to meet with a wise man who regrettably passed away last year at 95. He was President Inoue, who, after inviting the young man of

30 I then was to express his views, had words resembling the following: “Oil crisis..?, crisis or opportunity..?, for whom..?” Ever since then Asia has surged; the world is turning round; major changes inspire some but boggle most minds.

Turning to mundane things, Sylvie and I have happily settled in Montpellier, a Mediterranean medieval city filled with history and testimonies of past religious wars, set in the midst of the world’s largest vineyard between sea and snow tops in the western Riviera. What I now do has some link to that and 1976 questionings. The lesson then learned has been reinforced: it is people that matter.

Upon settling here I first established with friends an association “Café-philo” (cafes-philo.com). Like ancient Greeks millennia ago—during times of rapid change, opportunities, and disarray similar to ours today—we elected for our weekly debates a garden profuse with flowers, scents, and the generous shade of olive trees under blue skies. You couldn’t blame us if in 801 weeks we never missed a single gathering, nor

if people and youngsters of all countries, ages, and walks of life together sit and think on topics democratically selected.

The simple rules are free admission but for a drink, no phones nor cacophony. It’s amazing how people gradually learn to think with enthusiasm, daring to talk in public and building friendship. Contributions help those in need and occasionally fund local food and wine parties. Together these are valuable services to all and oneself. Realizing this has led to launching philosophy workshops with pupils in schools. They are astoundingly good at it.

We also established a “Zetetic (search) Forum” that refutes myths (money is one such myth; few except bankers know it now exists mostly as private debt with interest). We then created a “university for all” where knowledge and experience—gained during my work on four continents and at ADB mostly in operations and policy evaluation—feed lectures, conferences, workshops, and debates on contemporary issues.

In cooperation with universities in Bali, Sylvie and I started in 2005 designing and extending training on intercultural ecotourism to help sustain Balinese environments and culture and direct profits strictly to communities. In 2010, we initiated a similar venture in Sri Lanka.

Summing up, one realizes that we are but what we do and what others enable us to become. One becomes human through relating. Riches originate from us and those we’ll relate to in the future. Independent thinking is key in that it helps secure what matters most, ethics in all we do. ■



Moving UP

Ed: From Rhodina Villanueva, "Former UP Alumni Regent Elected New UP President," The Philippine Star, 4 December 2010; and Maui A. Hermitano, "Alumni Regent Alfredo Pascual is UP's 20th President, Philippine Online Chronicles, 3 December 2010, <http://www.thepoc.net/breaking-news/local/10458-alumni-regent-alfredo-pascual-elected-as-ups-20th-president.html> [accessed 29 December 2010].



Alfredo Pascual.

The board of regents of the University of the Philippines (UP) elected Alumni Regent Alfredo (Fred) E. Pascual (ADB 1989–2008) as its new president. He will serve as UP president for 6 years, starting on 9 February 2011. He graduated from UP with a BS in chemistry and with an MBA, and is UP's 20th president.

The Philippine Star's Rhodina Villanueva noted "Commission on Higher Education Chairperson Patricia Licuanan [widow of Timothy Peterson (ADB 1970–1999)], also a member of the UP board of regents, said it did not take long for the board to pick the next UP president."

"The 62-year-old Pascual said he was elated after learning he was elected as the new UP president. 'This is a big challenge for me. Once I officially assume office, I will look into the issue of budget cut that involves UP. We will seek audience with concerned government officials so that we can look for appropriate solutions. We need to work together and we will see what can be done,' Pascual told the gathering of students, teachers and university officials.... Pascual said he would aim for a zero tuition increase under his administration...."

Maui Hermitano noted that "In his vision statement for the selection process, Pascual said there is a need and opportunity to remake UP as a great university in the 21st century.

"A university takes a leadership role in the educational, cultural, social, and economic development of the country it serves. UP as the national university must give paramount consideration to national concerns. UP should pursue its teaching, research, and extension service functions not only within the framework of its many academic disciplines but more so in the context of national development needs that are ever changing and becoming increasingly complex. UP has a historic commitment of service to the Filipino nation. In the 21st century, this must include efforts to help the country become a significant and positive player in global society," he said.

Hermitano noted that, prior to joining ADB, "Pascual ... was among the pioneers of investment banking in the Philippines and held senior executive positions in Bancom Development Corporation, Philippine Pacific Capital (now RCBC Capital), and First Metro Investment. He also taught at the Asian Institute of Management, UP, and Ateneo."

After retiring from ADB in late 2008, Fred engaged in consulting and public service. He is also the lead convener of the Automated Election System Watch, an independent coalition that sought to monitor the preparation for and conduct of the country's first automated nationwide poll. ■

The Kawit Medical Mission with Ethel Luzario

Raquel Cabiles (ADB 1971–1997)



Sunday, 30 January. Ex-ADBer Ethel Luzario and the Phoenix, Arizona Lions' Club held a medical mission to Kawit, Cavite from 30 January to 8 February 2011. Activities included performing cataract surgeries that restored vision and providing prescription glasses to help the needy see better. A few

members from the AFE–ADB East Group—Marissa del Castillo, Midi Kawashima, Aida Lizarondo, Leo Saet, Luz Sanchez, and I—with Katie Blanco and Baby Bolaño from the South Group, volunteered to help get the work started on 30 January.

The first day started with a mass on the hospital grounds. The team of doctors and nurses then prepared the hospital for the 10 patients scheduled for surgery on that day.

Ethel met us and gave us a quick tour of the hospital premises. We were then introduced to Dr Janette Russell, optometrist. At the hospital's ultrasound room, which was housed in another building, Janette briefed us on our task for the day, which was to sort 5,000 pairs of prescription eyeglasses according to their grades. She showed us the boxes and bags full of eyeglasses they had brought from Phoenix. We were told to place the eyeglasses on the tables, which were labeled accordingly. She asked if the group could finish the task, and if we were prepared to go home at 1:00 am!

The group immediately set to work, seriously but cheerfully, and determined to finish the work as early as possible. Marissa, Midi, Luz, and Leo sorted the reading glasses. Katie and Baby sorted the bifocals. Aida and I sorted the single vision glasses + and - from 0.25 to 900. Janette took care of the eyeglasses for schoolchildren. Three members from the Phoenix Lions Club—Ludy Federis, Ric Torno, and Henry Ong—plus five local volunteers helped us. Snacks and lunch were provided by the local Lions Club.

While working on the eyeglasses, I noticed that Ric was wearing the Phoenix Lions Club T-shirt with printing that included "Sagip-Ondoy." I then realized that we, the East Group members, were recipients of their donation during



The medical mission team. The photo includes AFE members Katie Blanco, Baby Bolaño, Raquel Cabiles, Aida Lizarondo, Marissa del Castillo, Leo Saet, Midi Kawashima, Luz Sanchez. In front are Ethel Luzario and Janette Russell.



Aida Lizarondo and Leo Saet sorting out the reading glasses.

Typhoon Ondoy. I heartily thanked them for their help. All this was possible through Ethel Luzario's initiative—a lady with a huge heart!

By 2:30 pm we were asked to stop sorting, as there was not enough space to place all the eyeglasses. There were three more boxes of unsorted eyeglasses. The current president of the Phoenix Lions Club, Dr Loberna Monzon-Dinglasan, thanked the group for our assistance. Leo, Midi, Aida, and I agreed to return on Tuesday, 1 February, to assist Dr Janette in distributing the eyeglasses to patients.

As we had the rest of the afternoon off, we went up to Tagaytay to round out a lovely Sunday in Cavite.

Tuesday 1 February. Leo, Midi, Aida, and I set off at 6:30 am in Leo's car, but arrived at 9 because we were lost for part of the way. We went straight to the ultrasound room, where we were advised to wait for another assignment. Later, Dr Janette welcomed us. There was a queue of 10 patients in the room.

We found the eyeglasses we had sorted on Sunday in disarray, and put them back in order.

On Wednesday, Dr Janette visited schools to examine schoolchildren and provide eyeglasses to them. Ric informed us unofficially that the Phoenix Lions Club might be back next year for another medical mission to Binangonan, Rizal. We readily offered to help, as Binangonan is an East Group town.

With our task finished, we left for the Cove Island Resort for another mission—a reconnaissance mission. On the way home, we stopped to buy some mussels, oysters, and watermelon. ■

Christian in Mindanao

Christian Perez (ADB 1980–2006)



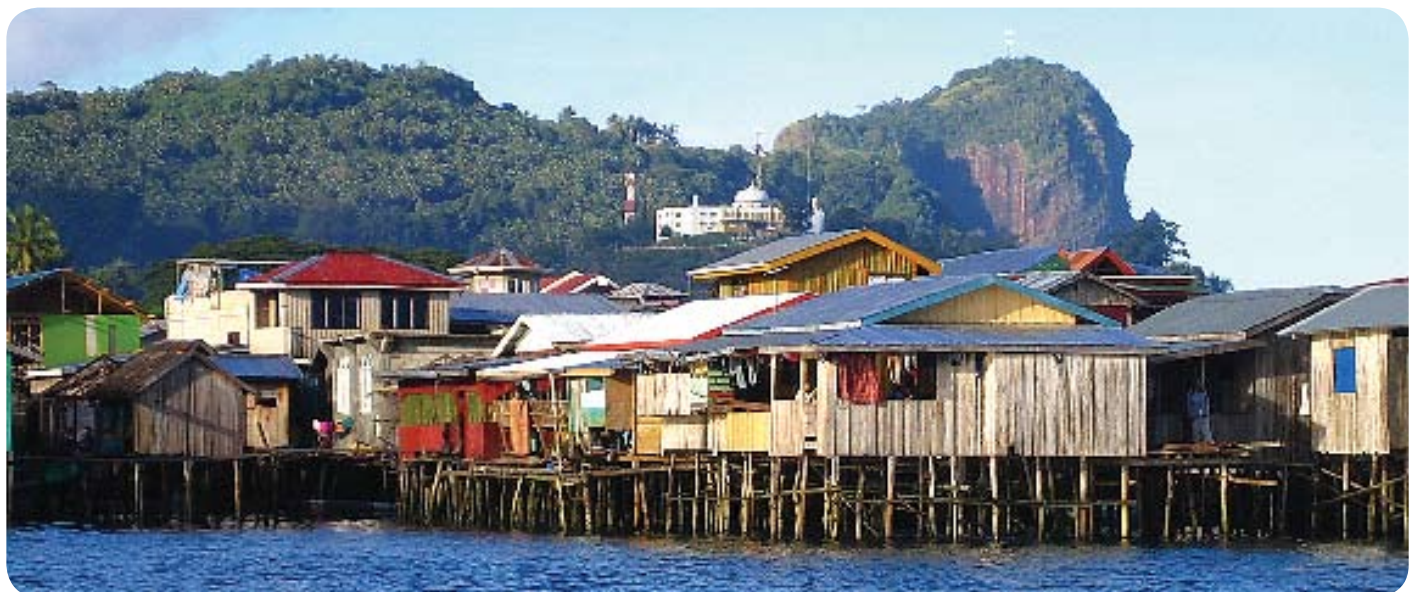
Ed: The information here is excerpted from Christian's website.

Christian Perez continues his peregrinations, well off the beaten track. His latest adventures were in the southern Philippines, to Tawi-Tawi in

November and from Cotabato to Balut Island in December.

Tawi-Tawi is the Philippines' southernmost province, with some fabulous out-of-the-way beaches and islands to visit. On Simunul are the remains of the country's first mosque, built in about 1380. The four remaining pillars are now inside a newer, and attractively simple structure. Bongao itself is a bustling and interesting town with friendly people.

Christian's road trip from Cotabato makes very interesting reading, as he progresses through General Santos and new towns and old ones, and past the site of the Ampatuan massacre. He continues past the fine old houses of Glan, and on to a beach resort where a boat is procured to Balut Island—2.5 hours away, rustic, and unfrequented by visitors. ■



Top l: one of the pillars of the first mosque in the Philippines, built circa 1380 on Simunul Island, Tawi-Tawi; top r: Sultan Kudarat (1581–1671), Maguindanao ruler who successfully opposed Spanish colonization; center: house in Glan; below: Bongao, Tawi-Tawi's capital, with the capitol building in the background, seen from the harbor.

Around the World

Gunter Rametsteiner (ADB 1982–1999)



The year began with great fireworks all around our peninsula in the South China Sea. Back in Manila in the second week of the New Year, there were also delightful happenings like an enchanted evening in the German Club, an informal monthly get-together of Austrians in the Philippines, and the regular meeting of the Cheese Club offering a wide selection of cheeses and free-flowing wines from all over the world.

We combined a visit to the World Exposition in Shanghai in May with a tour to Beijing and Xi’an and a cruise on the Yangtze. We sailed through the Three Gorges, the most beautiful part of its run. At the end of the trip was a visit to the Three Gorges Dam Project, which is in the final stage of construction.

Vienna was my usual destination in mid-June, where this time the summer had really begun with temperatures up to 35°C. It was quite pleasant to visit Bad Aussee and its surrounding area in the center of the Alps – it was cooler there!

We saw the best of Ireland during a circular bus tour starting in Dublin, then proceeding to Belfast. On the way we stopped at Monasterboice, a convent abandoned in 1097. Driving along the northern coast, we passed the tranquil and beautiful village of Carnlough, then came to the Giant’s Causeway, a stone formation of hexagonal basalt columns with a height of up to 12 m. The crossing of the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge—I got a certificate for my

heroic deed—was exciting, as it spans 20 m at a height of 30 m over the water connecting the small island of Carrick with the mainland.

We then passed Derry; Drumdiffes, a place of Christian pilgrimage for over 1500 years; Kylemore Abbey with its Victorian walled garden; Clifden; Killarney; the Cliffs of Moher, which rise to 214 m; and Kilkenny. The excursion, after having covered 1,707 km by bus, ended at the storehouse of the Guinness beer brewery, with a complementary pint.

We had booked a tour of the “Treasures of the Baltic Sea” that was supposed to bring us from Amsterdam to St. Petersburg and back, but due to visa complications we had to leave the ship in Helsinki after stopovers in Copenhagen and Stockholm. Staying an extra 2 days in Helsinki allowed us to take extensive tours around the city, after which a fast catamaran ferry took us in less than 2 hours across the Baltic to Tallinn, a town with a long and fascinating history that is like an open-air museum. We rejoined our cruise ship for the 2-day voyage back to Amsterdam.

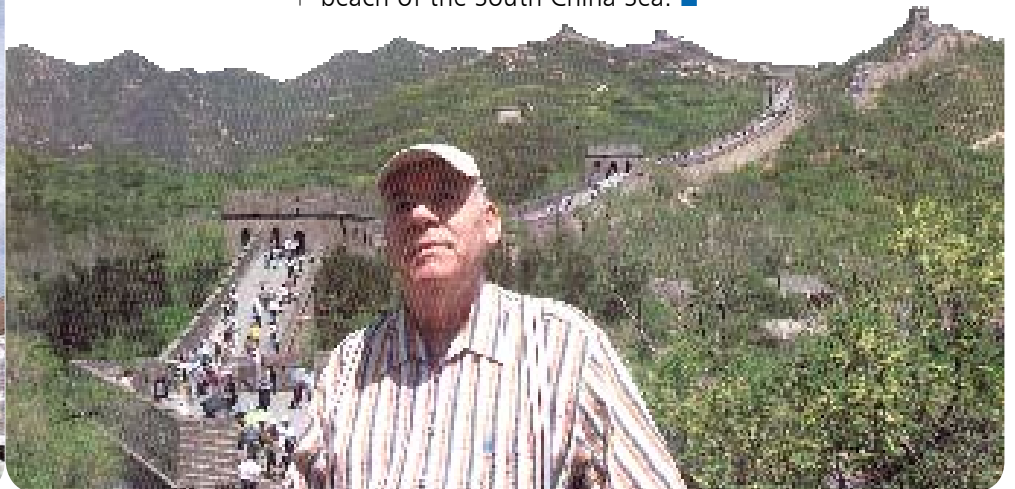
Back in Manila, the Austrian National Day, 26 October, reunited many countrymen at the reception given by the ambassador. It was a great idea to hold the monthly dinner meeting of the Austrians at the garden restaurant Chateau Hestia near Tagaytay City. The Austrian dishes prepared by Johannes, a dedicated Austrian cook and food lover, were excellent. The remaining days of this active year were spent at my preferred quiet spot on the beach of the South China Sea. ■



Oscar Wilde in Dublin (statue).



Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, Tallinn, Estonia.



The Great Wall, China.

The Mehtas— Making a Mega Difference

Ed: From "Congress Honors Indian Couple," Philippine Star, 12 December 2010.

During the 14 years at ADB, Veerendra Raj and Vimla Mehta spent much time and effort "making a difference" in the Philippines. During 1985–1988 they brought "teams of highly trained Indian doctors and technicians to Manila" to fit poor Filipino amputees with the Jaipur Foot or Mahaveer Limb. In 1989 the Mehtas, together with former Manila Mayor Ramon Bagatsing and other people, and with assistance from the Mahaveer Vikalang Sahayata Samiti, Jaipur,

India, established the Mahaveer Philippines Foundation Inc. (MPFI) at the Philippine Orthopedic Center in Manila. Veerendra Raj Mehta was the founding president and is now MPFI's president emeritus and permanent international director.

MPFI has expanded, and now has two additional centers—at Philippine General Hospital in Manila and Zamboanga City Medical Center. "MPFI's 3 centers have so far fitted about 7,000 people in the Philippines and helped them stand on their own two feet with dignity and again become self-reliant members of society. The Year 2010 is the silver jubilee year of the first footprint of Jaipur Foot in the Philippines."

In recognition of the Mehtas' humanitarian efforts, "the Philippine congress has introduced a resolution commending the 25-year effort." In 1993, the City of Manila recognized their contribution by making them adopted son and daughter of the city and presenting them with the Key of the city of Manila.

Since leaving ADB, Veerendra Raj has worked in the private sector in India and consults for the World Bank and the African Development Bank. Vimla has authored 13 books and numerous articles. ■



Rep. Amado Bagatsing presents the Congressional Resolution to Mr and Mrs V R Mehta last 3 December 2010 at Azuthai Restaurant in Makati.

(L–R): Mahaveer Philippine Foundation Inc. members: Peter Gaisano, Felix Espiritu, Atty Elpidio Jamora, Ratna Esra, V R Mehta, Rep Bagatsing, Vinla Mehta, Mr Mahiswari of Indo-Phil., Delia Reyes, Dr Josephine Bondoc of PGH, Rowena Gaisano, and Mr Baso of Indo-Phil.

Wedding in Manila, Honeymoon in New Zealand

David Parker

A chapel in Cubao with an ornate white floral arrangement inside was the setting for our wedding on 29 September 2010. Arnie, the bride, looked a picture in her veil and gown with a long train behind. The bridesmaids and flower girls, all dressed in lime green, added to the spectacle. AFE member Jim Rockett was one of the *ninongs* (sponsors), while Peter Hanton and Bruce Purdue were among the groomsmen.

Afterwards more than 90 guests attended a lively reception in Pasig City. They included AFE deputy executive secretary Jill de Villa (who gave an inspiring address as a well-wisher), John Boyd and Cesar Juan (both AFE members), Simon Baily-Gibson (a staff member who in recent years has played a vital role organizing the AFE cocktail receptions at ADB's annual meetings), and Jo Aquino and Malou Magalued (the able assistants in the AFE office).



David and Arnie Parker.

Just 3 days after the wedding, Arnie and I flew off to New Zealand for the annual reunion and business meeting of the AFE Australia Chapter on 5–8 October in picturesque Queenstown. From there, we flew to Christchurch to embark on a long and fascinating coach tour through New Zealand's South and North Islands. The tour featured many of the country's amazing highlights, including the glow-worm caves at Te Anau, a cruise along the magnificent fiord at Milford Sound, the boiling mud pools and geysers at Rotorua, a boat trip on the Bay of Islands, and a sample of Maori culture. On the way, we passed by high, snow-capped mountains; enormous lakes; swiftly flowing rivers; and endless green hills and paddocks dotted with cattle, deer, and countless white sheep.

Auckland, the City of Sails, in the north was the tour's final destination, where Arnie and I spent a few extra days. We took a scenic bus trip around Waiheke Island (a 40 minute boat ride away), spent time on some beaches nearby, and went up the gigantic Sky Tower from where we looked down on the city and surroundings far below. ■

**For information
on pension contact
pension@adb.org**

New Members

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

August 2010

Malik, Urooj (Philippines)

September 2010

Baricante, Melanie B. (Philippines)
del Mundo, Elizabeth (Philippines)
Lee, Jong-Wha (Korea)
Ong, Wooi Thuan (Malaysia)
Redito, Teresita S. (Philippines)
Zentgraf, Bernhard R. (Philippines)

October 2010

Atangan, Edna M. (Philippines)
Bigtacion, Sonia D. (Philippines)
Chatterjee, Shiladitya (Philippines)
Chin, Curtis S. (United States)
Guzman, Ma. Cristina S. (Philippines)
Jimenez, Marita M. (Philippines)
Reyes, Plebian S. (Philippines)
Sanhi, Snimer K. (India)
Sim, Benson Soon Seng (Singapore)
Takebayashi, Kiyoshi (Japan)
Verbiest, Jean-Pierre A. (Thailand)

November 2010

Castro, Emma Lu (United Kingdom)
De Guzman, Conrado M., Jr. (Philippines)
Dooley, Christopher J. (Philippines)
Espiritu, Marissa P. (Philippines)
Kawada, Hideta (Japan)
Lazaro, Ma. Lourdes P. (Philippines)
Leonard, Richard Keith (New Zealand)
Mendoza, Evangeline (Philippines)
Rehman, Manzoorur (United States)
Tabangay, Marilou N. (Philippines)

December 2010

De Soysa, Minoli C. (Sri Lanka)
Elvambuena, Benedicto G. (Philippines)
Ferguson, William D. (Philippines)
Francisco, Susan I. (Philippines)
Rajendran, S.R. (India)

January 2011

Budiman, Ronny (Indonesia)
Gamaathige, Amarasena (Sri Lanka)

Katusich, Alicia B. (United States)
 San Juan, Evangeline (United States)
 Stanbury, John (United Kingdom)

February 2011

Babijes, Sonia C. (Philippines)
 Bouaphim, Nopakane (Lao PDR)
 Brotoisworo, Edy (Indonesia)
 Dwyer, Graham J. (United States)
 Egloff, Andre M. (Switzerland)
 Loh, Ai Tee (Australia)
 Tuameiapi, Kilisitina Tiane M. (Tonga)
 Van Bellinghen, Gregory (PRC)

March 2011

Baltao, Celia R. (Philippines)
 Pangilinan, Ma. Theresa G. (Philippines)
 Elerude, Carl Mats R. (Sweden)

Senior Appointments in ADB

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

Joji Takeshi, appointed Country Director, Tajikistan Resident Mission (TJRM), effective 23 September 2010.

Juzhong Zhuang, appointed Deputy Chief Economist, Economics and Research Department (ERD), concurrently appointed as Assistant Chief Economist, Economic Analysis and Operations Support Division (EREA), ERD, effective 1 October 2010.

Rosario Abad Santos, appointed Director, Staff Development and Benefits Division (BPDB), Budget, Personnel, and Management Systems Department (BPMSD), effective 1 October 2010.

Sekhar Bonu, appointed Director, Country Coordination and Regional Cooperation Division (SAOC), South Asia Department (SARD) effective 5 November 2010.

Martin Kroll, appointed Advisor (Operational Risk), Office of Risk Management (ORM), effective 2 November 2010.

Olly Norojono, appointed Resident Representative, Azerbaijan Resident Mission (AZRM), effective 19 November 2010.

Robert Guild, appointed Director, Pacific Strategy and Special Operations, Pacific Operations Division (PAHQ), Pacific Department (PARD), effective 21 November 2010.

Robert Gordon Rinker, appointed Country Director, Afghanistan Resident Mission (AFRM), effective 28 November 2010.

Craig Steffensen, appointed Country Director, Thailand Resident Mission (TRM), effective 9 December 2010.

Abid Hussain, Lead Operations Coordination Specialist, SAOC, effective 17 December 2010.

David McCauley, Lead Climate Change Specialist, RSDD-CC, effective 17 December 2010.

Henrike Feig, Lead Evaluation Specialist (Financial Sector Operations), IED1, effective 17 December 2010.

Jesus Felipe, Lead Economist, CWOC, effective 17 December 2010.

Kathie Julian, Lead Urban Development Specialist (PPP), CWUS, effective 17 December 2010.

Liping Zheng, Lead Urban Development Specialist (Municipal Services), CWUS, effective 17 December 2010.

Lourdes Adriano, Lead Agriculture Sector Specialist, RSDD-AR, effective 17 December 2010.

Manju Senapaty, Lead Planning and Policy Specialist (Development Effectiveness and Partnerships), SPPI, effective 17 December 2010.

Wendy Duncan, Lead Education Specialist, SESS, effective 17 December 2010.

Yue-Lang Feng, Lead Natural Resources Management Specialist, EAAE, effective 17 December 2010.

Jouko Sarvi, appointed Advisor, Office of the Director General (RSOD), concurrently Practice Leader (Education), Poverty Reduction, Gender, and Social Development Division (RSGS), effective 1 January 2011.

Katsuji Matsunami, appointed Senior Advisor, Office of the Director General (RSOD), concurrently Practice Leader (Agriculture, Food Security and Rural Development), Agriculture, Rural Development and Food Security Unit (RSDD-AR), effective 1 January 2011.

Avonechith Siackachanh, appointed Senior Advisor, concurrently Practice Leader (Financial Sector), Office of the Regional Economic Integration (OREI), effective 1 January 2011.

Edgar A. Cua, appointed Deputy Director General, East Asia Department (EARD), effective 1 January 2011.

Makoto Ojira, appointed Director, Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division (CWER), Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), effective 1 January 2011.

Sungsup Ra, appointed Director, Human and Social Development Division (SAHS), South Asia Department (SARD), effective 1 January 2011.

Cecile L.H.F. Gregory, appointed Deputy Director General, Pacific Department (PARD), effective 1 January 2011.

Arjun Goswami, appointed Director, Regional Cooperation and Operations Coordination Division (SERC), effective 1 January 2011.

Adrian Ruthenberg, appointed Regional Director, Pacific Subregional Office (SPSO), and assumed office on 12 January 2011.

Rie Hiraoka, appointed Country Director, Kyrgyz Resident Mission (KYRM), and assumed office on 12 January 2011.

Lan Wu, appointed Advisor, Almaty Office, effective 12 January 2011.

Benjamin Lee, appointed Principal Director, Office of Administrative Services (OAS), effective 27 January 2011.

Christopher MacCormac, appointed Senior Advisor, Office of the President (OPR), and assumed office on 2 February 2011.

Visit AFE online at
www.afe-adb.org

See also ADB's alumni portal
www.adbalumni.org

Obituaries

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

Soegito Sastromidjojo, former Executive Director for Cook Islands, Fiji Islands, Indonesia, New Zealand, Samoa, and Tonga, passed away on 21 September 2010 at the age of 77. Condolences may be sent to his wife Wisnusari Soegito Sastromidjojo at Jl Flamingo VII/JC 8, No. 14 Sektor IX, Bintaro Jaya, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Gordon Wilkinson, former Senior External Relations specialist in the former Office of External Relations, passed away on 12 December 2010 at age 57. Condolences may be sent to his wife Marguerite Wilkinson at 11 Emily Lane, Chapel Hill, NC 27516, United States of America.

Soeksomono B. Martokoesoemo, former Director of the former Agriculture and Rural Development Department, passed away on 28 December 2010 at the age of 81. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Chaya Soeksomono at Jalan Liliana No. D27 Prapanca, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Andrew Chan, former Port Operations Specialist in the former Infrastructure Department, passed away on 3 January 2011 at the age of 82. Condolences may be sent to his wife Annie Chin at Saville Suites 19-1, Lrg 4, Jin Sherip, Masahor, 93300 Kuching Sarawak, Malaysia.



Ronnie Elefaño, Communications Assistant (Publishing) in Department of External Relations, passed away on 16 February at the age of 45. Ronnie has been very helpful with producing the *AFE-ADB News*. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Ma. Theresa Elefaño, at 9 Huntington Street, Lot 9, Block 15, Park Place, Executive Village, Cainta, Rizal, Philippines.

Chapter Coordinators

Peter Carroll—Australia
 John Cole—Canada West
 John Rive—Ottawa
 Fraternidad Rodrigo—Toronto
 Günter Hecker—Europe
 Barindra Ganguli—India
 Dimiyati Nangju—Indonesia
 Tsuneaki Yoshida—Japan
 Yoong-Soo Seo—Republic of Korea
 John Colin Pratt—New Zealand
 Shahid Mirza—Pakistan
 Gamaliel de Armas—Philippines
 Ko-Hai Sheng—Taipei, China
 Clay Wescott—Washington DC, USA
 Ruth Esmilio—New York–New Jersey, USA
 Benjamin Bagaoisan—California, USA

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Pension Council Members

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Randy Earman	Antonio Quila
Jan van Heeswijk	Hans-Juergen Springer
Rene Limjoco	Jill Gale de Villa
Filologo Pante	Graham Walter
David Parker	

Health Committee

Jill Gale de Villa—Head	Dang Fook Lee
Lourdes de Belen	Ferdinand Mesch
Edward Breckner	Axel Weber
Evelyn Go	

25th Anniversary Committee

Stephen J. Banta—Chair
 Ofelia R. Sta. Ana—Accommodation
 Lourdes B. de Belen—Transport
 Raquel Cabiles—Registration/entertainment
 Robustiano L. Espiritu Jr.—Golf
 Larry Ramos—Photo coverage
 Gamaliel T. de Armas, Jr.
 Peter Darjes
 Gunther Hecker
 David Parker
 Jill Gale de Villa
 Hans-Juergen Springer

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- 2) Articles that are accepted will be edited for language, content, and length that the Editorial Board deems appropriate for the readership. Images must be of print quality (at least 280kb or 600dpi is preferred).
- 3) Any photograph that was not taken by the sender should be sent with the photographer's permission for AFE–ADB to publish it. Please identify all people shown in photographs so we can include adequate captions.
- 4) Authors and photographers will be acknowledged and retain ownership of any material submitted for publication.

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

Articles for publication may be sent in MS Word as e-mail attachments to afe-adb@adb.org. Articles will preferably be 250–500 words. Please send images in a separate file. Comments that will help improve *AFE–ADB News* are most welcome.

Acknowledgements

Josephine J. Aquino, AFE–ADB's able former assistant, provided invaluable help, including gathering materials and typesetting and layout. Malou Magalued proofread and, with Andy Carlos and Cesar Juan, prepared the magazine for mailing. AFE–ADB sincerely appreciates ADB's assistance with publishing the magazine, especially Robert Davis, Vic Angeles, Ronnie Elefaño, Keech Hidalgo, and Tony Victoria of the publications unit; and Alexander Tarnoff, Anna Juico, Vic Lo, Greg Garcia, and Judy Yniguez of the printing unit.

Announcements

2011 Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors

The Forty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank will be held on 3–6 May 2011 at the National Convention Center, Ha Noi, Viet Nam.

AFE–ADB's 25th Anniversary

Mark your calendar: AFE's annual meeting is in Ha Noi on 3 May, and our 25th anniversary celebrations are in Manila during 9–11 May.

Chapter Events

The **Australia Chapter** reunion will take place in the first week of October, 2011, in the Sydney region. Details will be announced when available. Contact Peter Carroll if you are interested in attending.

The **Europe Chapter** will hold its annual reunion in Vienna on 23-26 September, hosted by Friederike Kantner. The very attractive program includes wining and dining, sightseeing and culture, and a bit of business is available at <http://afe-adb.org>. If you would like to join the fun, please fill out and send the response sheet--also on the website. Members of other chapters are very much welcome to attend.

AFE–ADB News No. 39 (September 2011)

Please send, by July, articles, photos, updates, or comments for publication in our next newsletter.

Annual Association Dues

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

Keep Your Address Updated with AFE–ADB

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

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