



News

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

People, Places and Passages



Chapter News



Manila Annual General Meeting



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Our Cover



Above: From Morita’s *Asian Eye*.
Center: New Zealand Chapter.
Background: Taal Lake, Batangas City, Philippines.

AFE–ADB News

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AFE–ADB Updates

From the Executive Secretary

Hans-Juergen Springer (ADB 1972–2002)



Annual Meetings. The last annual AFE meeting in Manila took place 13 years ago on 29 April 1999. ADB has not held an annual meeting in Manila since then, except the reduced 1-day meeting on 30 June 2003, which was due to the cancellation of the meeting in

Istanbul, Turkey. Consequently, there was also no formal AFE meeting in 2003. Instead, AFE's annual meeting business was conducted by e-mail.

AFE members from the Philippines and abroad had great expectations for our 2012 Annual General Meeting and cocktail reception—and were not disappointed. ADB's annual meeting had the largest attendance ever—more than 4,000 participants—with 139 AFE members attending the event. The Philippine government must be congratulated for a very well-organized event at the Philippine International Convention Center, which included an attractive Accompanying Persons Program with tours in Metro Manila and surrounding areas. We are now looking forward to next year's annual meeting in New Delhi, on 2–5 May 2013.

Elections. In early 2012, the AFE Secretariat was busy organizing the election for the position of executive secretary as the term was to end on 2 May. I was elected for another term of 4 years, until 2016. The Secretariat also sent a request to members to extend the term of the deputy executive secretary, whose term was ending on 30 June. Members overwhelmingly supported the request, which was put forward to avoid the undesirable possibility that two top AFE positions could in future be taken up simultaneously by new officers.

Construction. As a result of the start of construction of a third atrium building, which covers almost the entire outside parking area facing the second atrium, parking space in the ADB compound has been drastically reduced. Priority for parking in the remaining space has been given

to ADB staff, and ADB retirees may now park only on the leased parking spaces between ADB and the Podium.

Bylaws. The work to review the AFE bylaws is progressing, albeit at a slow pace due to other pressing work such as preparations for the annual meeting in Manila and travel by AFE members involved in the review process. But it is envisioned that the revised bylaws would be approved by AFE's membership toward the end of 2012 or early 2013.

Islamic Development Bank. I met for the first time with representatives of the Islamic Development Bank from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. We exchanged views on how our respective parent organization treats their retirees, and health insurance matters figured prominently in the discussion. ■

ADF XI: ADB Secures More Than \$12 Billion to Help Asia's Poorest

Ed: Adapted from ADB's 2 May news release (<http://www.adb.org/site/adf/replenishments>)



ADB secured SDR7.9 billion (\$12.4 billion) for the next 4-year phase of its concessional Asian Development Fund (ADF) that provides critical financial support to fight poverty in the Asia and Pacific region. The contributions to the ADF, which will cover ADB operations from 2013 to 2016, represent an increase of 11.1% in SDR (9.5% in US dollar terms) from the fund's previous 4-year period.

President Kuroda noted that “ADF borrowers face significant development challenges, and have fewer resources of their own to address them. We particularly appreciate the strong support and generosity of our donor countries in view of the difficult challenges many are facing at home themselves.”

The ADF funding will

- help improve the lives of millions of Asia’s poorest through inclusive and environmentally sustainable growth, including improved access to education, social safety nets and the development of clean and renewable energy;
- seek to narrow the development gaps and rising income inequality, and help vulnerable countries cope with shocks such as rising food and fuel prices, natural disasters and conflict;
- be used to promote gender mainstreaming, good governance, food security, private sector development, and stronger regional cooperation; and
- give special attention to countries affected by conflict and smaller island states with fragile economies.

Donors agreed to establish a Disaster Response Facility under the ADF on a pilot basis to support the poorest countries in responding to natural disasters.

The ADF continues to be a critical source of finance for badly needed economic and social infrastructure improvements. Over the next 4-year period, for example, almost 16,000 kilometers of road are expected to be upgraded, opening up new economic opportunities and better access to social services for over 20 million people. More than 2.5 million students will benefit from school improvement programs or other direct support to the education sector. And many new households will be connected to electricity (over 340,000), served with water supply (560,000) and sanitation (440,000).

“ADF support will go a long way in helping countries like Bangladesh provide critically needed social services to our citizens,” said Bangladesh Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith. “We will redouble our efforts to deliver results and bring better opportunities and a brighter future to our people, especially to the poorest communities.” Bangladesh is one of the largest recipients of ADF resources and was one of six ADF recipient countries that participated in the negotiations.

ADB has adopted various measures in recent years as part of its continuing efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its development assistance, including in its ADF operations. These include a results-focused management system, more flexible business processes, improved communication and accountability of policies and enhanced gender mainstreaming in its operations. ■

ADB Avenue—The Untold Story

Jayanta Madhab (ADB 1969–1992)

Ed: This is the story of how the street fronting ADB had its name changed. Since then, another ADB Avenue has arisen. Inside ADB, the walkway fronting the cafeteria is also named “ADB Avenue,” with a link to information available on ADB’s intranet.



It was toward the end of 1990. I was, as the Director of the Office of Administrative Services (OAS), preparing to move ADB’s headquarters from Roxas Boulevard to the newly built headquarters in Mandaluyong, Manila. The late Jwala Prasad Pradhan was responsible for overseeing the construction of the new building.

When the time came for the preparation for the move, without disturbing the operations of the Bank even for a day (which itself was a difficult task), I was asking the group headed by Pradhan about the address of the new building so that we could print the stationery. He told us the new address is San Miguel Avenue, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila.

I was shocked. San Miguel Avenue is named after the best beer in the Philippines. The brewery was previously owned by the well-known Spanish-Filipino Soriano family. By the mid-1980s, the bulk of the company’s shares were owned by the Cojuangcos, with Andres Soriano III still heading the company.

I discussed this situation with my deputies and managers, and with the New HQ Building Team. All thought that changing the name of the street was an outrageous





eagerly waiting for an affirmative phone call from the mayor. Finally, around 11:45 a.m., the call came, informing me that the Mandaluyong City Council had approved renaming part of San Miguel Avenue as ADB Avenue. I then rushed to the offices of Vice-President Schulz and President Tarumizu and informed them about the generous decision of the Mandaluyong City Council. We were grateful to the commissioners and the mayor for their decision, and to Andres Soriano III for his understanding.

During my long stay in the Philippines, I found in mixing with Filipinos, from the President and other officials to the ordinary people, that they were very understanding and helpful people and if approached

idea, and should not be pursued. But one person, my government liaison officer, Pete Villa, said nothing is impossible and it was well worth a try. Without even informing Vice-President Schulz and President Tarumizu, with help of Pete Villa, I went ahead and attempted the change. Pete had some friends in the Mandaluyong Municipal Council and tried to gauge their mood on the matter. My argument was that it would be good gesture on the part of the Council to name part of the San Miguel Avenue where ADB was building its headquarters as "ADB Avenue."

While Pete was discussing the matter with the Mandaluyong City councilors, I organized a golf game with Mayor Abalos at Wack Wack golf course. He was a good golfer with low handicap, and my handicap at Canlubang was similar to his. I had nearly 5 hours with him, both on the course and at the club. I broached the subject and we discussed the pros and cons. The mayor was somewhat receptive to the idea. He, however, told me that the matter had to be discussed with the head of the San Miguel Corporation, Andres Soriano III. I fully concurred, and made an effort to meet him. Finally, I had tea with him at his office and talked about renaming part of San Miguel Avenue as ADB Avenue. As a gentleman and businessman, he understood the significance of ADB's move and the need to change the name of part of the avenue. I then had another round of golf with the mayor. Things were progressing accordingly.

Pete Villa informed me that the municipal councilors of Mandaluyong would meet to discuss the issue of renaming part of San Miguel Avenue. On the meeting day, Pete was in Mandaluyong and I was in my office

properly you can get things done. To partly reciprocate for the Mandaluyong City Council's decision, we donated some of our best furniture for their offices.

Not many people know this story of ADB Avenue, but I thought, before it is forgotten, the consideration of the Mandaluyong municipal mayor and councilors and of course the former head of San Miguel Corporation, should be put on record. ■

Chapter Coordinators

Peter Carroll—Australia
 Bruce Murray—Canada
 John Rive—Ottawa
 Nida 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
 Cheng Huat Sim—Singapore
 Ranjit Wirasinha—Sri Lanka
 Ko-Hai Sheng—Taipei, China
 Clay Wescott—Washington DC, USA
 Ruth Esmilio—New York–New Jersey, USA
 Filonila Martin—Southern California, USA

AFE–ADB Committees

Pension Council

Ivan Zimonyi—Chair	Brahm Prakash
Randolph Earman, Jr.	Antonio Quila
Jan van Heeswijk	Hans-Juergen Springer
Rene Limjoco	Jill Gale de Villa
Filologo Pante	Graham Walter
David Parker	

Health and Life Insurance Committee

Jill Gale de Villa—Head	Dang Fook Lee
Lourdes de Belen	Ferdinand Mesch
Edward Breckner	Axel Weber
Randolph Earman, Jr.	Clay Wescott
Evelyn Go	

Editorial Board

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Bylaws Committee

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Jessie Arnuco	David Parker
Amading Astudillo	Albertine Santi
Lou de Belen	Hans-Juergen Springer
Robin Boumphrey	Ricardo Tan
Edward Breckner	Victor The
Jacques Ferreira	Jill Gale de Villa
Jan van Heeswijk	Graham Walter
Julia Holz	



Solar panels on the roof of the Special Facilities Block.

Adding Space. As ADB’s capital base and operations have expanded, it needs additional office space to accommodate the growing number of staff members needed to efficiently handle its expanded operations. Indeed, in recent years, some functions (including evaluations and some services) have been “outsourced” to the Joy-Nostalg building on the other side of ADB Avenue. Construction for expanding the headquarters building has now started: a new atrium will be added to the two original atria in the current main building. This atrium will extend into the large parking lot that was in the southwest part of the ADB compound.

Parking is now confined to four distinct (and currently not connected) areas: (1) the northwest corner area, the parking garage, and a small area between EDSA and the construction; (2) a leased area in the parking lot between ADB and the Podium; (3) the underground parking, reserved for staff; and (4) part of the parking lot beside the Joy-Nostalg building. When you come to ADB, you can see how it is growing! ■

What’s New at HQ?

Going Solar. On 5 June, ADB inaugurated its solar rooftop power project—the largest roof-mounted installation in the Philippines. The panels can generate peak power of 571 kilowatts of energy and will provide approximately 3.5% of the electricity ADB headquarters needs. Thus, ADB is “walking the talk” as it espouses green energy projects and has opened a \$100 million facility for installing rooftop solar panels. The panels are mounted on the roof of the special facilities block building, and are visible from points above it.

ADB’s efforts to provide an energy-efficient and green headquarters resulted in ADB being awarded the gold certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) in 2011.



Manila 2012

Chapter Coordinators' Meeting: Minutes

Philippine International Convention Center • Manila • 3 May 2012

Present

Hans-Juergen Springer (HJS), Jill Gale de Villa (JGV), David Parker (DP)

Coordinators and coordinators' representatives: Robert Byrnes (Australia), Günter Hecker (Europe), Prateep Kumar Lahiri (India), Dimiyati Nangju (Indonesia), Tsuneaki Yoshida (Japan), Yoong–Soo Seo (Republic of Korea), Colin Pratt (New Zealand), Shahida Jaffrey (Pakistan), Gam de Armas (Philippines), and Ranjith Wirasinha (Sri Lanka)

Observers: Naseer Ahmad, Peter Hanton, Kaleemuddin Haquani, and Satish Jha

Opening

The meeting commenced at 9:10 a.m. Executive Secretary HJS welcomed the participants, and the agenda was adopted following the inclusion of an additional item proposed by D Nangju for discussion under Other Business.

DP announced for the record that HJS had been reelected as the executive secretary to serve for another 4 years until 2016. He also said that the proposal to extend the term of Deputy Executive Secretary JGV by 2 years until 2014 had been approved by the vast majority of the 220 members who had responded. The extension of JGV's term was considered necessary to avoid a possible

situation of the positions of executive secretary and deputy executive secretary being filled by newly elected officers as a result of simultaneous elections for both positions. A 2-year extension meant elections for the 2 positions can be roughly equally spaced apart in the future.

The minutes of the chapter coordinators' meeting in Ha Noi in 2011 were approved.

Executive Secretary's Report

HJS outlined the highlights of his report (pp. 15–16). In addition to the report, he said that AFE greatly appreciates the subsidy ADB provides every year for chapter reunions, officers' travel, and other costs. He also noted that a "zero draft" of the revised bylaws had recently been reviewed, and it was anticipated that a first draft would be submitted to the coordinators shortly for comments. Related discussion followed.

Review of the Bylaws. Responding to D Nangju's suggestion that the coordinators be involved in reviewing the first draft of the revised bylaws as early as possible, HJS explained that the first draft was being finalized, and as the Bylaws Review Committee was involved in the review from the beginning, it was important that it look at the



Standing (L–R): Yoong–Soo Seo, Gamaliel de Armas, Günter Hecker, Colin Pratt, Ranjith Wirasinha, Tsuneaki Yoshida. Seated: David Parker, Jill Gale de Villa, Hans-Juergen Springer, Shahida Jaffrey, Dimiyati Nangju, Robert Byrnes, and Prateep Kumar Lahiri.

draft again and possibly make further revisions. He expected that the draft would then be circulated to coordinators for comments around the end of May. After further revisions if necessary, another draft would be sent for comments to all members, and once any further comments are taken into account all members will be sent a final draft for approval.

HJS also noted that the review must be undertaken in accordance with the existing bylaws, and that therefore the new bylaws must be approved by the entire membership. The involvement of the entire membership is also in line with the procedures for approving membership fees and electing officers. R Byrnes strongly agreed that all AFE members should be given the opportunity to be democratically involved in the acceptance of any revisions. He stressed that the bylaws are an important document that should be carefully prepared to meet future requirements for the effective management and operation of AFE. It is therefore essential that they be accepted by the membership as a whole.

Commenting on D Nangju's suggestion that if the draft is submitted to the entire membership for approval, there might be few responses, HJS said that in the previous comprehensive review of the bylaws, when comments were requested from all members the number of responses was overwhelming, and a committee was formed to review them. He added that the current review was being undertaken due to the growth in AFE's membership and the increased number of officers handling the work.

As to whether there should be a board of directors above the AFE officers, which was a matter the bylaws review committee had already considered, G Hecker stressed that the organizational arrangements should be kept as simple as possible. C Pratt added that he could not see a role for a board. It would be just another layer, which would add to the bureaucratic process.

AFE Website. G de Armas explained that AFE is migrating to a more robust and secure website with basically the same contents. It will have a password-protected section for confidential information such as the membership directory that will be open only to members. Members will be advised about how to access this section.

He also noted that no progress had been made on an earlier suggestion to include an interactive chat room, where members' views could be freely exchanged



without being seen by the public. G Hecker thought a chat room would be preferable to a Facebook approach, where more control is needed over what could be shown to the public. JGV cautioned that the views of members would in any case have to be carefully monitored to avoid legal problems, and this would be time-consuming.

G de Armas noted that the number of "hits" on the website has grown, and is especially high when many pictures are posted after a special event, such as the 25th Anniversary celebrations in 2011.

Membership Directory. HJS explained that AFE's membership directory will be posted in the password-protected section of the website, and a much smaller number will be printed for members who have signified they want to receive a hard copy.

Alumni Associations of International Organizations.

S Jha observed that AFE members as a group seem to have a greater sense of fraternity than the Washington-based associations. K Haquani, S Jaffrey, and T Yoshida all expressed a sense of connection to ADB that maintains their interest in AFE. C Pratt suggested that one of AFE's strengths is that many members spent much of their careers with ADB, which has resulted in them maintaining a commitment to ADB afterwards.

Membership List. D Nangju expressed concern that members without an e-mail address are difficult to contact for any needed approvals, and that the membership list should be "cleaned up" to avoid wasting time trying to contact inactive members. HJS commented that it would be unusual to expel a member who is not active. In principle, anyone who pays dues must be considered a member, whether active or not.

He added that the question then is what to do about members in good standing who cannot be contacted because AFE does not have their address. G Hecker added that another problem is whether to remove from the membership list members who took up life memberships (before October 2000) but now state they are no longer interested in AFE. HJS commented that life members are not necessarily inactive. Many who are not active for some time become active later.

Chapter Membership. PK Lahiri commented that until now, to join the India chapter, members have been asked to pay a nominal amount. As a result, of the 83 AFE members in India only about half are members of the chapter. HJS explained that this approach is not really correct, since everyone automatically becomes a member of a chapter on joining AFE, and every quarter, each coordinator is sent an updated list of the AFE members in the chapter. G Hecker observed that if a chapter were to introduce annual dues,



such dues could only be voluntary. An AFE member who does not pay the chapter dues cannot be prevented from joining the chapter, and all AFE members in the chapter should be invited to participate in the chapter's activities. Noting those points, PK Lahiri said he would sort this matter out with the chapter coordinator when he returned to India.

JGV added that chapter coordinators in countries such as India have the opportunity to encourage local staff in the resident mission to join AFE when they retire and be members of the chapter. D Nangju said that he has tried to encourage former staff at the Indonesia Resident Mission to join AFE, but has found they are not interested. Members of the Indonesia chapter pay dues, but the dues are not compulsory. Members who do not pay dues are still invited to chapter meetings. However, many are not interested in AFE and do not attend—especially (1) former ADB staff who are not retirees, having worked in ADB for only a few years; and (2) members who have lost their spouses. In response to a related question, HJS said that a surviving spouse continues to be a member of AFE but does not have to pay dues.

Financial Matters

The Treasurer's report is attached (p. 16). Referring to the deficit in AFE's resources in 2011 of about \$3,400, Treasurer DP added that altogether, general and administrative expenses, which included expenses on AFE's 25th Anniversary celebrations from AFE's own resources, totaled about \$25,000, about \$7,000 more than in 2010. He also said that a small surplus of over \$1,500 is possible for AFE resources in 2012. While the administrative assistant's salary will probably continue to rise gradually, unlike in 2011 there would be no anniversary celebrations to be financed from AFE resources in 2012 and, with the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in 2012 being in Manila, business travel expenses incurred by AFE officers would likely be lower than in 2011.

DP also noted the gratitude of members for the financial support AFE receives through the ADB subsidy. The total subsidy allocation for AFE for 2011 was \$29,000, including a special one-time allocation of \$8,000 for the 25th Anniversary celebrations. ADB agreed to AFE's requests for

part of the subsidies earmarked for website maintenance and the audit fee to be reallocated to business travel, where additional funds were required. Also, with some chapters not requiring the entire amounts allocated to them for their chapter reunions, some of the unused amounts were reallocated to other chapters as needed. AFE used all except about \$350 of the total subsidy allocation of \$29,000.

Noting the decline in AFE's net assets in 2011, D Nangju asked whether some of the accumulated annual dues from members in the past had been used to finance part of the expenses. HJS said that expenses from AFE's own resources increased in 2011 due in particular to some expenses for the much-appreciated Anniversary celebrations. Consequently there was a net loss and also a decline in net assets, which meant it was necessary to use some of the annual dues collected in the past. G Hecker cautioned that the assets should be kept as a reserve for unforeseen situations.

With regard to the matter of some chapters not fully using their ADB subsidy allocation, G Hecker said that sometimes the European chapter could not fully use its allocation because the amount each member is charged depends to some extent on the number of participants, which is not known in advance. Thus, if an allocation is not fully used this does not indicate that the entire allocation will not be needed in future years. HJS said that it is sometimes difficult to reallocate unused amounts to other chapters, especially if the unused amounts pertain to chapter reunions held late in the year.

R Wirasinha noted that the India and Sri Lanka chapters are considering having a joint meeting toward the end of 2012, and he hoped the Sri Lanka chapter will be entitled to receive part of any unused amounts for the meeting.



PK Lahiri drew attention to the India chapter’s request earlier in the year for an increase in its allocation for chapters in 2013. HJS responded that while attempts have been made to find better methods for determining the allocations to chapters, these were not successful. Many factors make it difficult to allocate the subsidy, including the much lower costs in some countries than in others. Also, the number of chapters requesting allocations from the subsidy is increasing. It would therefore be difficult to increase the allocation for any chapter, even for next year.

YS Seo queried the differences in the audit fees paid in 2011 and those budgeted for 2012 (as seen in the statements relating to AFE’s own resources and the ADB subsidy). HJS provided a detailed explanation. G Hecker commented that such things should be explained in a footnote.

Pension Matters

The pension report (p. 17). In addition, HJS noted that following AFE’s intervention, ADB decided that the 3% annual pension increases will continue for existing staff and pensioners. New staff would in future receive only an inflation-rate adjustment. Also approved in 2011 was that the Deputy Executive Secretary would be the alternate to the Executive Secretary as the pensioners’ representative on the ADB Pension Committee.

HJS also noted that in light of the relatively low proportion of new staff contributing to the pension fund after October 2006 when it became optional for them to contribute, ADB decided that new staff should instead be automatically enrolled but that, as with the Group Medical Insurance Plan, they could opt out if they wish.

In related discussion, PK Lahiri raised the matter of whether pensioners could have their pension fully restored at the end of a “commutation period.” In response, HJS explained that ADB’s Administrative Tribunal had recently decided that this would not be permissible because the commutation benefit allows for an up-front lump sum payment in exchange for reduced pension payments for life and does not provide for any subsequent restoration of the full pension.

G Hecker noted that the new changes in the pension scheme, whereby a new staff member does not contribute to the pension fund but ADB does, would have tax implications. He therefore suggested that someone in ADB should check the tax implications for the retirees in their home countries. HJS said that BPMSD would not be able to do this for some 25 disbursement currencies and the relevant countries’ very complex tax regimes.

Responding to a question from PK Lahiri as to whether pensioners can request a change in the currency in which they receive their pension, HJS noted that BPMSD had already written to a pensioner in the India chapter on that subject, indicating that for ADB to do so would not be in the interest of the pension plan. The currency can, however, be changed if a pensioner moves to a country with a different currency, but in such cases the currency can be changed only once.

Health Matters

The insurance report (pp. 17–18). In addition to the report, JGV noted that Randy Earman, who is knowledgeable about life insurance, has agreed to join the Insurance Committee.

G Hecker asked if the monthly premium that members pay could be broken down into the portions below and above the stop-loss, to determine whether the premium for stop-loss insurance shows an increasing trend. However, noting JGV’s response that retirees have been fully funding the portion of the premium applicable to the stop-loss insurance since 2006, he said that this again raises the issue of discrimination against retirees. JGV explained that unfortunately when a case was brought to the Administrative Tribunal on this matter, the Tribunal ruled in favor of ADB.

AFE News

JGV encouraged coordinators to send articles on their chapters’ activities, and to ask members to send articles on personal activities for the next issue of AFE News.



Other Business

D Nangju expressed the view that the AGM is not the appropriate body for making final decisions for AFE, because (1) very few members attend it because of the high cost of transport and accommodation, and (2) the time available for discussing issues of interest to members is very limited. He thought the final decision-making body should be the chapter coordinators' meeting because

- more time for discussing the issues is available in that meeting;
- the meeting is attended by the coordinators, who are elected to represent the chapters;
- the coordinators often meet with their chapter members to discuss relevant issues and know their chapters well; and
- the coordinators know the issues discussed at coordinators' meetings in the past.

D Nangju added that the coordinators' meeting is really where issues are normally discussed and decided on, and the AGM is like a rubber stamp, where motions are approved without much discussion.

HJS said that

- the coordinators' meeting and the AGM are both allotted the same time of 3 hours;
- the coordinators' attendance in the past 5 years has also been low, at 53%; and
- only 1 or 2 coordinators have actually been elected and could thus be considered as representative of their chapters.

HJS said that he therefore believed the AGM should remain as the decision-making body. He noted that in Bali in 2009, three resolutions were in fact approved at the AGM after being fully discussed at the coordinators' meeting. To diminish the importance of the AGM and hold only the coordinators' meeting would likely be counterproductive as it is principally in recognition of the AGM and its significance that ADB is providing the financial and administrative assistance that enables AFE to hold its meetings and cocktail reception in conjunction with the ADB Annual Meeting.

C Pratt said that while he agreed that the coordinators' meeting provides an opportunity for real discussion of issues, he certainly does not have a mandate from members of his chapter to make decisions on their behalf—a comment echoed soon after by R Wirasinha and PK Lahiri. Being appointed rather than elected, C Pratt found his role was mainly like a conduit between the coordinators' meeting and his chapter members. He agreed with HJS that, as with AGMs, coordinators' meetings are not well attended. And the many members who do not belong to a chapter would therefore be disenfranchised if coordinators' meetings became the decision-making body. Although AGMs are not well attended, they at least give all members the opportunity to attend if they so desire. He therefore felt

that AGMs are essential for the formality of legalizing AFE's decision-making process. He also stressed that any changes to the bylaws such as removing the AGM, would have to be acceptable to ADB, and that AFE must continue to receive the good support ADB has always given it.

G de Armas suggested that chapters might be able to set up procedures whereby (1) members could periodically elect their coordinators to give them a mandate, and (2) members could use their chapter meetings to discuss any important issues likely to be brought up at the coordinators' meeting (provided these issues are indicated to them early enough) so that the coordinator would then have the mandate of the entire chapter to discuss such issues. Regarding attendance at the coordinators' meetings, he said that traveling to the meetings year after year is costly, and he recalled a proposal several years earlier that coordinators be partially subsidized for such travel. With these changes, coordinators attending coordinators' meetings could say that they have consulted with their chapter members and represent their views. HJS, however, noted that in many cases such suggestions would not be easy to put into practice. While certain chapters hold business meetings where issues are seriously discussed for 1–2 hours, the gatherings of other chapters consist almost entirely of social activities.

G Hecker stated that he too did not think he really represented his entire chapter. When he discusses issues at his chapter reunions, not all members are there and it is difficult to get the views of all members of the chapter. He therefore suggested that in the new bylaws the AGM be retained as the main decision-making body for AFE. That would also be consistent with the principle of keeping any changes in the bylaws as simple as possible. He also suggested that something be included in the bylaws on the role of coordinators.

D Nangju pointed out that his proposal that the coordinators' meeting be made the main decision-making body was intended to ensure that AFE would become sustainable. Few of AFE's 2,500 members actually participate in the discussion process or respond when members are sent requests to approve something. He therefore thought that a 2-tier system is needed. The coordinators' meeting could be the second tier, acting like a parliament or senate, with each chapter having one vote in discussing issues outlined by the executive secretary.

HJS expressed appreciation for D Nangju's effort in making this proposal, undoubtedly with AFE's best interests in mind. He added, however, that the views of other coordinators have also to be taken into account, and in the end we have to accept the majority-based decision that has been reached.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon. ■

AFE–ADB 26th Annual General Meeting

Philippine International Convention Center • Manila • 3 May 2012



Minutes

AFE President Bong–Suh Lee (BSL) called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. The meeting agenda was adopted.

BSL announced for the record that Hans-Juergen Springer (HJS) had been reelected as the executive secretary to serve for another 4 years until 2016. He also announced that the proposal to extend the term of Deputy Executive Secretary Jill Gale de Villa (JGV), by 2 years until 2014, was approved by the vast majority of the 220 members who responded. The extension of JGV's term was considered necessary to avoid a possible situation of the positions of executive secretary and deputy executive secretary being filled by newly elected officers as a result of simultaneous elections for the 2 positions. A 2-year extension meant elections for the positions could be roughly equally spaced apart in the future.

AFE–ADB President's Address

BSL's address to the meeting is on p. 14.

Minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting in Ha Noi in 2011 were approved.

Executive Secretary's Report

The full report of Executive Secretary HJS is on pp. 15–16. In addition to the report, HJS thanked the ladies, led by Raquel Cabiles, who had worked hard in helping with arrangements for AFE's 25th Anniversary celebrations. He also expressed appreciation to Cesar Juan and Andrea Carlos who regularly go to the office to help with much time-consuming work, including the work that needs to be done when large batches of letters are sent out to members.

Treasurer's Report

The full report of Treasurer David Parker (DP) appears on p. 16. The financial statements were approved.

Pension Report

HJS presented the pension report, which appears in full on p. 17. In addition, he noted that members sometimes

ask whether their pensions are safe. He explained that the Staff Retirement Plan (SRP) is a defined benefits scheme, which requires that the part of the cost and expenses of the SRP not provided by participants' contributions and income on the retirement fund will be covered by ADB, and in this respect ADB has lived up well to its responsibilities.

He also referred to the new pension scheme ADB introduced for new staff members in October 2006. Although such staff members belong to the same pension fund, they are no longer required to contribute to the fund. After the scheme was introduced, many new staff members did not see the need or forgot to contribute to the fund, even though this would result in their pensions being relatively low. This had a negative impact on the fund. ADB has therefore introduced automatic enrollment in the SRP for all new staff members, initially deducting 10% of their salary for their contribution, but they have the option to request a higher or lower percentage.

HJS mentioned ADB's decision during 2011 to maintain the guaranteed annual pension increase of 3% for all existing pensioners and existing staff. Staff joining ADB after 1 October 2012 will receive only an inflation-based annual increase. The new regulations followed AFE's strong intervention when it seemed likely ADB wanted to discontinue the guaranteed 3% annual pension increase. He had pointed out that such a change was not permissible under the Board-approved pension fund regulations.

Finally, HJS informed members that AFE's proposal to have an alternate on the Pension Committee was accepted. Deputy Executive Secretary JGV was accepted as the alternate.

Medical Insurance Report

The full report, as presented by JGV, appears on pp. 17–18. In addition to the report, JGV noted that Randy Earman, who is knowledgeable about life insurance, has agreed to join the Health Insurance Committee, now renamed the Insurance Committee.

BPMSD Statements on Staff Retirement and Post-Retirement Insurance Plans

As staff members from BPMSD involved in these matters were unable to attend the meeting, the statements, which appear in full on p. 18, were read out by JGV.

AFE News

JGV encouraged members to send articles on their personal activities for the next issue of AFE News.

Members' Comments

G Hecker noted that the stop-loss provision, which was reintroduced after being taken away, is a separate item in the health insurance package and is not subsidized by ADB. It is financed solely by the retirees. As such, it could become



extremely expensive for a retiree, just when it might be needed at a crucial time. He therefore asked if AFE could raise the issue again and request that retirees and staff be considered as one group, with all being treated equally, particularly with regard to the stop-loss provision.

In response, HJS noted that in the case brought to the Tribunal, it had decided that within the same health insurance plans, retirees and active staff could be treated differently. While that decision cannot be changed, he felt that any similar attempt now to make retirees pay more than active staff would not succeed because there would be many objections. He noted, as an example, that while the increase in the health insurance premium for pensioners as a result of structural changes was 10%, the increase for active staff was much higher. This indicated possible recognition of the greater difficulty pensioners might have with an increase in the premium. He hoped he could present a similar case for pensioners in the pension fund. AFE remains vigilant and is watching developments in this matter.

G Hecker wished to have a breakdown of the health insurance premium into regular health insurance and the stop-loss portion. He said that since the stop-loss portion is financed solely by retirees, it is important to know the extent to which its cost has increased since it was introduced. Further he thought that the decision of



the Administrative Tribunal regrettably did not entirely restore the original stop-loss benefit for retirees. He expressed concern that the present stop-loss benefit, which is financed by retirees without a subsidy from ADB, could cause problems again for retirees in the future.

E Pernia asked whether during the next 10 years any increase was foreseen in the annual dues members pay

to AFE. HJS responded that the subject of increasing the annual dues has not been discussed in recent years, and he saw no reason to consider an increase at present. In accordance with the bylaws, if any increase in the dues is needed, it will have to be approved by the membership.



J Rockett noted that while there were 2,155 retirees in the Group Medical Insurance Plan (GMIP) at the end of 2011, only 468 participants were in the Post Retirement Group Life Insurance Plan (PRGLIP). He said the large difference in these numbers indicates that the PRGLIP is less attractive as an insurance option for staff retiring from ADB, and he suggested that AFE and BPMSD look into the reasons for that. He

thought it is possibly due to the rather large reductions in life-cover that kick in when the insured reaches age 65 or 70 (depending on the option purchased), when many retirees need life cover most.

Adjournment

There being no further business, President Lee adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m. ■

Address by the President

Bong-Suh Lee (ADB 1993–1998)



Good afternoon, AFE Members, Ladies, and Gentlemen.

As President of the Association of Former Employees of the ADB, I extend a very cordial welcome to all of you. I also extend our thanks to our host, the Government of the Philippines, for

inviting ADB and our Association to join ADB’s 2012 Annual Meeting. This country that has been a home for many of us who have traveled to this meeting from near and far, and is still home for the many of us who have always lived here and for those of us who have decided to retire here rather than returning to our countries of origin.

Sadly, several of our members passed on in the year behind us. Among them is Gene Owens who established

the Greater Washington, DC chapter and who ran it for several years. May all their souls rest in peace. Let us pause for a moment of silence in honor of their contributions to ADB and AFE.

The year behind us was a very special one for AFE, with a good meeting in Ha Noi followed by successful celebrations of our 25th anniversary in Manila, with golf, a Manila city walking tour, briefing and a walk-about by ADB staff, and two wonderfully lively parties. I am sure many of you who were at the anniversary events have fond memories.

During the last year, AFE has continued to grow in number and strength as an organization representing former staff of all ages. We have maintained a close relationship with ADB departments and offices, several of which are especially important to us former employees. We have discussed matters of mutual interest with the Staff Council, and we have individually contributed time and money to the Staff Community Fund. AFE participated again actively in the annual meeting of the alumni associations of the international organizations in Washington, DC in October last year. Clay Wescott, our Washington, DC chapter coordinator, facilitated the meeting’s workshop on health insurance issues. Our participation provides us with information and knowledge about comparator organizations’ actions and trends in handling pension and insurance matters.

Looking forward, we will continue to actively liaise with ADB on matters of interest and urgency. The review of our bylaws is ongoing. The process has been longer than anticipated, to accommodate discussions of many viewpoints and avoid acting in undue haste that could result in an inferior outcome. We anticipate the process will be over in the next few months. A new membership directory—somewhat overdue—will be put on our website, password protected, and will be updated frequently. It may also be sent as hard copy to members who requested it. We will continue to replace print communication with electronic communication and explore to what extent social networks may serve our needs. We are looking forward to continuing good relations with ADB, ADB’s Staff Council, the Staff Community Fund, and the alumni associations of other international organizations.

Let me thank our office bearers and staff for their hard work and another productive year. I also thank the many dedicated committee members and volunteers whose valued contributions are most important to AFE’s continued functioning.

In closing, may we all have a very informative and pleasant time at this annual meeting, and I look forward to seeing you at our cocktail reception later this afternoon, at the West Banquet Hall.

Thank you. ■

Executive Secretary's Report

Hans-Juergen Springer

25th Anniversary

Last year's outstanding event was our 25th anniversary, which 175 members attended and celebrated. Some braced the inclement weather and played golf, while others went on a walking tour of Intramuros. ADB staff gave us a guided tour of new parts of the building complex, and updated us on ADB policies and Philippine development. To start the festivities off, there was a grand Bienvenida Cocktail reception on the first day and we ended them with a very lively Despedida Cocktail reception on the third.

I am sure that those of you who were there will agree that the anniversary celebrations were a memorable success. And these celebrations would not have been possible without ADB's generous special financial contribution for the event, for which we are very grateful. Appreciation must also go to ADB for the logistical and personnel support that we received, from the guards that let the golfers through the gates at 5:30 in the morning to the senior staff who briefed us on ADB affairs.

Bylaws, Website, and Directory

The bylaws review committee chaired by Bruce Purdue started work in July. We do not want to hurry the committee's work as there are no urgent issues to be resolved. Instead we feel that a thorough and thoughtful review is needed to best achieve updated bylaws appropriate for AFE's present membership structure and organization. During the review period, committee members also had travel schedules. Following its initial meeting in July last year, the committee has held further meetings to discuss revisions to the current bylaws. We plan to submit a draft to members for comment in the second half of the year.

Thanks to the ongoing efforts of Gam de Armas, it is envisaged that the website will have a password-protected section that will contain a directory of members, among other items. In the second half of 2012 we should be ready to inform members about the change of access to a part of our website.

In the meantime we are also working to issue a new membership directory, in print to members who have requested a hard copy.

Alumni Associations Meeting

At the meeting of the alumni associations of the international organizations in Washington, DC in October



last year, in which Jill and I participated, the topics of discussion were health insurance and governance matters of the associations. As a result of hiring policy changes at the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), International Monetary Fund (IMF), United Nations (UN), and World Bank, which have done away with permanent employment contracts, the alumni associations expect changes for and in their membership. For example, future members may not necessarily be retirees and consequently pension and insurance matters may decline in importance for them. Renewed and different efforts may therefore be required to entice them to join the association. ADB's hiring policy has not changed, and AFE does not yet face this issue.

Membership and Chapter

Regarding membership matters, AFE's membership increased by 130 to 2,591 in the year to 31 March 2012. We are communicating with all members who have a valid address with us, including 470 members to whom we send information by post as they do not have an e-mail address. Of the total number of members, 59% are pensioners or deferred pensioners, 1,532 are former international staff, and 1,055 are former national and administrative staff. Of the 173 staff who left ADB last year, 75% became AFE members.

The number of AFE chapters has increased from 15 to 16, with Singapore forming a new chapter under the leadership of Cheng Huat Sim. Bruce Murray has taken over as Canada's chapter coordinator from John Cole, whom we hereby thank for his active involvement in AFE affairs over many years. Sri Lanka under Ranjit Wiransinha rejoined the group of active chapters holding its first annual get-together in June 2011.

We will continue to focus our efforts on pension and insurance matters. We will also focus on the equally important social and communications aspects of our



association, which form the primary interest for those who are not ADB pensioners.

Closing

On behalf of the entire AFE, I would like to thank our volunteers, especially those who worked hard during the 25th anniversary. I could mention several names, but I would like to mention especially Cesar Juan and Andy Carlos who come to our office regularly to help us with a lot of time consuming work. Thanks also to ADB staff in various departments for always lending us a helping hand when we need it. And finally, thank you for coming to this annual meeting from near and far. I wish you a pleasant stay. ■

Treasurer's Report

David Parker (ADB 1976–2004)



AFE's financial statements for 2011 were audited by Manabat Delgado Amper & Co., an affiliate of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, the same independent auditors as we had for the 2009 and 2010 audits, and the same as engaged by ADB.

As shown in the financial statements, at the end of 2011 AFE's assets totaled over \$165,000 compared with about \$163,000 at the end of 2010. However, net assets declined from \$151,500 to about \$148,100 as expenses in 2011 exceeded revenues by about \$3,400. The excess of expenses over revenues in 2011 is a turnaround from the small annual net revenues in the previous 2 years and annual net revenues of over \$15,000 in other recent years.

General and administrative expenses in 2011 were significantly higher than in 2010, reflecting increases in (1) business travel expenses; (2) the salary of the second administrative assistant; and (3) miscellaneous expenses (in particular, one-off expenses on the 25th anniversary celebration). Revenue from annual association fees (the main source of AFE's revenues) totaled about \$18,900, slightly more than in 2010. Revenue of \$1,749 from admission fees in 2011 was \$535 more than in 2010, mainly because of the much larger number

of new members in 2011 (115) than in 2010 (74). Interest income in 2011 totaled \$1,270, or \$386 less than that earned in 2010, reflecting the lower rates of interest on our time deposits.

AFE members greatly appreciate the financial support the Association receives through the ADB subsidy. ADB provides this subsidy in recognition of the important role AFE plays in fostering ADB's development mission and in order to help the Association defray its administrative costs in carrying out its activities. This support is vital to AFE's work and objectives. For 2011, ADB provided a subsidy of \$29,000, including a one-time allocation of \$8,000 to help cover expenses for AFE's 25th Anniversary celebration in Manila. A subsidy of \$21,955 has been provided for 2012. This includes allocations of (1) \$7,455 for business travel and accommodation (\$355 more than provided for 2011); (2) \$10,000 for chapters' annual reunions (\$500 more than for 2011); and (3) \$3,000 for other costs, including the cost of further development and maintenance of the AFE website (the same as for 2011).

The AFE chapters provide an effective means for members of a country or area to maintain contact with one another and remain interested in ADB and AFE. It is therefore important that the chapters be assisted to develop and become increasingly active in bringing their members together. Chapter reunions have a major role in this regard. The ADB subsidy allocated to chapters is vital in making the reunions more attractive and affordable, thereby encouraging members to attend. With this in mind, we will continue to review the subsidy allocation among chapters, as well as the principles the chapters follow in availing of the subsidy, to ensure that it is used most effectively in meeting their development needs.

Finally, I would like to express our appreciation for the excellent support given by the two administrative assistants at the AFE-ADB office in maintaining our financial records. ■

Pension Report

Hans-Juergen Springer

As I mentioned in my report to the annual general meeting last year, the Staff Retirement Plan (SRP) annual report was going to be issued much earlier than in previous years as a result of procedural changes in ADB's audit process. The SRP annual report for the year ending 30 September 2010 was available online to retirees in June last year. Hard copies were made available to those retirees who requested them.

As of 30 September 2011, active participants in the SRP, i.e., staff, numbered 2,952, while retirees, including deferred pensioners and spouse and children pensioners, numbered 1,813. The ratio of pensioners as a percentage of active participants increased from 53.2% in 2006 to 61.4% in 2011. Pensioners from the group of international staff were receiving pensions in 25 currencies, and two-thirds of those were receiving pensions in US dollars. Ninety percent of pensioners who are former national and administrative staff were receiving pensions in Philippine pesos.

The underfunding of the SRP's past service liability increased from 6.8% in 2010 to 14.1% in 2011. This was largely because of actuarial changes that were introduced during the year (among others, the discount rate was lowered and the actuarial life span was increased), but was also because of the negative return on investments of -0.8% in 2011.

In light of the advice received from ADB's actuarial consultants, Towers Watson, Hong Kong, and the uncertainty and volatility of financial markets at present, ADB is considering to (1) gradually increase the budgeted contribution rate (i.e., as a percentage of annual salary); (2) continue to contribute savings from the annual administrative budget; and (3) inject additional lump sum funding. It should be noted that as a result of the additional contributions from budget savings and ordinary capital resource (OCR) transfers, ADB's total contributions to the



SRP reached \$109.6 million in 2010 and \$91.5 million in 2011, equivalent of 69.1% and 49.7% of salary payments.

In line with the above, the Pension Committee on 6 March 2012 approved (1) a budgeted contribution rate of 21% of salary, (2) an additional contribution of \$9.751 million from savings of the 2011 administrative budget, and (3) an additional lump sum funding of \$58.994 million through a transfer from OCR. These measures are designed to reduce the funding gap between the SRP's actuarial liability and the investment funds available to fund such liability. ■

Insurance Report

Jill Gale de Villa (ADB 1993–2005)



Our Group Medical Insurance Plan (GMIP) continues to serve us well, by and large. The premiums, which were increased by 10% last year, remain level this year, and the stop loss ceiling has increased as usual by 5%. Members need to be aware that medical inflation continues to outstrip the general inflation,

especially for the upper age groups, and we need to plan our personal finances accordingly.

Claims on the GMIP increased again in 2011, as may be expected given the increasing number and share of retirees enrolled. Among retirees, approximately 10% of expenses were covered by other plans (e.g., Medicare), and we continue to encourage retirees to enroll in national health plans where appropriate, to help keep all our premiums down. As in 2010, the amount attributable to "peak files" (cases costing over PHP2 million) is high. Vanbreda is working with the new US partner, Cigna, to rationalize expenses by assuring that charges from hospitals etc. are within acceptable limits, without however, impacting the quality of services provided. Vanbreda's presentation on the 2011 health insurance is available at www.afe-adb.org.

ADB is slowly issuing new health insurance (Vanbreda) cards to replace the old ones—do send ADB new pictures for the new cards, but do not send in your old cards—keep them until the replacement arrives. Those who travel to or live in the United States should request cards that include the Cigna logo. Send the images as e-mail attachments to insurance@adb.org, or send hard copies to Insurance Unit, Staff Development and Benefits Division, BPMSD, Asian Development Bank, Mandaluyong City 1550, Metro Manila, Philippines.

ADB's Long-Term Care Insurance Plan continues to serve those who are enrolled. As premiums escalate with age, members may wish to evaluate the costs and benefits of

continuing to participate beyond a specific age, and this will depend on each individual's means.

ADB will hold another health and wellness fair on October 17-19, details to be announced later. Retirees who are in the Manila area at the time are welcome to attend. Those who wish to bring spouses should contact the AFE office for assistance with access for them. ■

BPMSD Statements on the Staff Retirement and Post-Retirement Insurance Plans

Staff Retirement Plan (SRP)

The Pension Committee met on 25 March 2011 and noted ADB's additional contribution (\$6.004 million) from the 2010 internal administrative expense budget surplus to the SRP Fund account in addition to the 21% contribution rate budgeted for the 2010 plan year. The Committee also endorsed an ad hoc transfer of \$44.703 million from the ordinary capital resources to the Fund resulting in a total ADB contribution of \$91.475 million to the SRP and an effective contribution rate to 49.7% of participants' salary for the plan year ending September 2010. The ad hoc transfer represents the accrued pension cost of the SRP and is the cumulative difference as of 31 December 2010 of the Net Periodic Pension Costs calculated under the required annual accounting valuation and actual contributions made to the SRP.

Towers Watson Hong Kong Limited was engaged to conduct the review of actuarial assumptions in 2010 based on the experience of the SRP for the period 2005–2009. This year's valuation as of 30 September 2011 is based on the revised actuarial assumptions and funding methodology adopted by the Pension Committee in January 2011 and a further strengthening of the key actuarial economic assumptions, namely the long-term discount rate and the long-term salary increase assumption.

The actuarial valuation as of 30 September 2011 reveals that the SRP is in a contingent deficit position, which reflects partly the negative rate of return, -0.8%, on a market value basis and partly the strengthening of the key economic actuarial assumptions. The valuation results will be published in the SRP Annual Report and will be made

available online in mid-2012 to all staff through the Staff Development and Benefits online and to retired participants via the ADB Alumni Portal and in hard copy on request.

ADB's budgeted contribution rate to the SRP is 21% of participants' salaries for 2012. ADB also contributed a lump sum of \$9.751 million at the beginning of 2012 which increases ADB's pension contribution to 25.8% of participants' salaries for the current Plan year. As in the past couple of years, ADB's board has approved a further transfer from the OCR to the pension fund of \$58.994 million.

In October 2011, the ADB Self-Service Retiree & Pensioner facility was enhanced to enable retired participants and beneficiaries to view the details of their accounts receivables that are being deducted from their gross pension and to view the status of their discretionary benefits and further to simulate the value of their discretionary benefits based on an assumed payment date. Also an email notification advising payment of monthly pension was implemented in May 2011. The email contains the amount of monthly pension remittance and links to access the online pay slip. This information is similar to notices issued by some commercial banks who have adopted "paperless" statements.

The Budget, Personnel, and Management Systems Department (BPMSD) and Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST) are working to streamline the pension administration procedures for retirees and beneficiaries and improve the timeliness and level of service.

Group Medical Insurance Plan (GMIP)

There were 8,263 staff and 2,155 retirees including dependents enrolled in the GMIP at end 2011. In view of the GMIP's overall premium increase of 33.2% in 2011, premiums payable by retired participants were increased effective 1 July 2011. The last premium increase for retirees was in January 2006. Stop-loss limits increased from \$3,310 (international staff) and P42,930 (national and administrative staff) to \$3,475 and P45,075, respectively, based on the 5% annual indexation.

Medical insurance reimbursements increased from P547.3 million in 2010 to P596.4 million in 2011, or an increase of 9%. Of these totals, reimbursements to retirees and dependents amounted to P321.2 million in 2010 and P344.9 million in 2011.

Post Retirement Group Life Insurance Plan (PRGLIP)

A total of 468 participants were covered in 2011, including 41% of the year's 63 retirees. As of 31 December 2011, there were 442 participants in the PRGLIP.

Long-Term Care Insurance Plan (LTCP)

As of year-end, 730 staff and 328 retirees were enrolled in LTCP, for a total of 1,058 including spouses. ■

Manila Reunion

Meetings, Cocktails, and Tours

Meetings and Cocktails

AFE-ADB's 2012 Annual General Meeting (AGM) activities took place at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) on 2 May, the first day of ADB's Annual Meeting. The Chapter Coordinators' Meeting included much good discussion. The AGM in the afternoon was well-attended, thanks to the participation of many AFE members living in Manila and other members from abroad keen to revisit the city and life they knew before.



The festive part of AFE’s AGM activities was the AFE Cocktail Reception in the evening. The cocktails were held on the 4th floor of the PICC, in a large room with adequate space for the larger-than-usual crowd and a good selection of food and drink to keep everyone present well fed, well hydrated, and happy. ADB President and Mrs Kuroda joined us for about an hour. Mr Kuroda and AFE President Bong-Suh Lee shared a toast and then President Kuroda spoke extemporaneously, thanking AFE members for their continued support of ADB and for acting as global ambassadors, spreading news, information, and awareness about ADB. AFE’s cocktail event was relaxed and most enjoyable, and we are happy that the left-over food was donated to Elsie Gaches Village, which cares for abandoned children who have mental development issues.





The Kurodas then went to Philippine Vice President Binay's cocktails. Having the two cocktails simultaneously caused just a bit of confusion, as some AFE members ended up at the other party instead.

On the following evening, President Kuroda hosted cocktails at the Sofitel (formerly the Philippine Plaza) in a sumptuous setting with lots of good food, including sushi, native favorites and a wide selection of other delicious options. Many AFE members were dressed in Filipinana, proud that the country was again host to the ADB Annual Meeting.



And on the evening of 4 May, the Philippines hosted cocktails, this time at the SMX Convention Center at the SM Mall of Asia. The evening’s centerpiece was a spectacular Ramon Obusan inspired presentation that was brilliantly choreographed and showcased the country’s vast range of talent, from many diverse song and dance genres to stylized representations of the country’s ethnic dances and fiestas, and a parade of models at the end of the show.



Rediscovering the Philippines

Gam de Armas, David Parker, Elizabeth Reyes, and Hans Springer share their views of four very different faces of the Philippines, which they experienced on four of the five tours the Philippine government offered to annual meeting participants and their “accompanying persons.”

The “Quaint Old Town” (David Parker). The Taal tour was billed on the host government’s website as “Panorama and the Quaint Old Town: Viewing of the Taal Volcano and Visit to Taal Town, Batangas.” I became curious, wanting to see what made this a “quaint old town.”

Assembly time at the Philippine International Convention Center was 6:30 am. Around 7 am the coach was on its way, loaded with a mix of Annual Meeting participants, AFE members, and accompanying persons. Taal Vista Hotel, perched on Tagaytay ridge, was our first stop. With its magnificent view over Taal Lake and the volcano, it brought memories to many of the AFE members. Some remembered it from earlier days as Taal Vista Lodge, a far cry from the present luxury hotel. Many on our tour could not resist

the photo opportunities, with the lake in the background.

Leaving Tagaytay ridge, the coach proceeded along the Diokno Highway, a curvy road to the lowlands, passing through several small towns. On the way, our guide told us about Taal’s rich history. The town was moved to its present site following an eruption of the Taal Volcano in 1754. During the Spanish regime, it was the capital of the province now called Batangas. Taal has many houses, churches, and buildings that were erected between the late 1500s and early 1900s.

The coach pulled up near the massive Basilica of St Martin de Tours, the largest church in Asia. Prominent local officials and many smiling faces welcomed us, and a group





of girls in colorful dresses delighted us with a spectacular dance performance before we began a guided tour through the church's magnificent interior.

We then moved on to the Agoncillo Museum, a house built in the late 17th century. There, Marcela Agoncillo hand sewed the first Philippine flag, which was displayed during the proclamation of Philippine Independence on 12 June 1898 in Kawit, Cavite. A short walk away was the Apacible Museum, where we viewed a fascinating collection of memorabilia belonging to Leon and Matilde Apacible—Leon's brother was a propagandist of the Philippine Revolution of 1896.

Nearby is Villa Tortuga, a well-preserved Spanish colonial house built in the late 1800s. On entering the house, we watched some local ladies doing beautiful hand embroidery. Further inside, we noted the original planks in the floors, chandeliers, the solid wooden staircase, and the capiz-shell windows. Upstairs we enjoyed a huge lunch of delicious local specialties. The last stop was the Taal Public Market, where we found many stalls offering hand-embroidered clothes, barongs, curtains, tablecloths, and bed linen.

During the journey home, I reflected on Taal's heritage and its splendid heydays.

Villa Escudero and Ugu's Ceramics (Gam de Armas). Our group of 29 plus our tour guide and government representatives left at about 7:30 am to visit Villa Escudero Plantations and Resort and Ugu Bigyan's pottery. As we passed through the Southern Luzon Expressway (SLEX) Skyway, our guide pointed to Laguna de Bay, and informed us it is the biggest lake in the country and is bigger than



Singapore. In between narrating historical events and describing landmarks, he injected jokes that kept us awake.

We reached Villa Escudero at about 9 am and were greeted by the three grandchildren of the founder-owner, led by Don Ado Escudero, who gave us fresh welcome drinks and posed for pictures with us. Founded in the 1880s by Don Placido Escudero, the Villa was originally planted to sugarcane. In the early 1900s, his son Don Arsenio converted the land into a self-contained working coconut plantation. In 1981, his children opened the estate to the public, having developed a portion as a beautiful resort.

Six years later the AERA Memorial Museum, founded by spouses Arsenio and Rosario, was opened for viewing. Our party broke up into three groups, each led by a young guide inside the museum to see the silver altars, gilded carrozas (carriages), ivory saints, embroidered vestments and carved images and bas-reliefs, most dating to the Spanish colonial era. These are still being used in processions today. There were also collections of Oriental ceramics, natural history and ethnographic dioramas, costumes, household furniture, artifacts, weaponry, and other items of interest collected in the couples' travels around the world. We boarded a carabao-drawn cart passing through WW II planes and tanks and a small portion of the sprawling 800 hectare hacienda that spans three municipalities on the way to the Waterfalls Restaurant. After removing our shoes we stepped on the cement floor where 3–4 inches of spring water from the falls cooled and massaged our tired feet. With the





waterfalls as backdrop, we enjoyed native dishes with fresh juice from young coconuts and sweet ripe mangoes. After a little rest, we were treated to ethnic and colonial dances recreated by the late National Artist Ramon Obusan and performed by resort employees.

Then it was time to visit Ugu Bigyan Potter’s Garden—here one can see beautiful pottery, enjoy good food in a Zen-like garden, and even spend the night. The garden is in a remote barrio in Tiaong, and cooking and pottery making sessions are occasionally given. Some of us bought beautiful pottery after meeting the potter artist, Ugu, and before returning to Manila, tired but happy.



Sacrifice, Heroism, and Freedom—Corregidor Island

(Elizabeth Reyes and Hans-Juergen Springer). For the Visit to Corregidor Island, we were required to assemble shortly after sunrise for the 75-minute boat ride to Corregidor Island across Manila Bay’s smooth waters. On the way, most of us slept, took photos of fishermen’s outrigger boats, or just settled for coffee and junk food.

The sun of a late tropical summer was beating down on us when we arrived at Corregidor Island (“the Rock”) and immediately transferred to Corregidor’s “naturally air-

conditioned” tour buses. The first of many photo stops was right by the knee of the towering statue of American war hero General Douglas McArthur.

Farther on were the bombed-out ruins of the military barracks. These hoary ruins, standing against the barren skies, starkly symbolize the terror of war. The natural beauty of trees now encroaching on the ruins and the spacious grasslands beyond cannot make up for the feeling of horror still entrenched on the Rock. Up by the high west point, a life-size bronze sculpture of a Filipino soldier helping his injured American comrade limp away from battle shows sacrifice and heroism alike.

The highlight of all Corregidor tours is the light and sound show within the darkened Malinta tunnel complex. The famous main tunnel is 250 meters long and 7 meters wide, and has numerous smaller side tunnels. The light and sound show takes place at the alternating entrances to the branch tunnels. Realistic stage settings with life-sized figures depict the war-time life on the Rock, while a documentary slide show and dramatic narration reenact the story of the American and Filipino defenders. We are reminded of wartime history: of the Japanese surprise attack that came from the land, not from the sea...of the cramped living conditions in these hot and humid tunnels, which eventually forced the ailing Filipino President, Manuel Quezon, to leave by submarine and seek treatment in the United States...of the final decisions of the generals...of General Wainwright signing the surrender of the heroic Rock. An eerie atmosphere engulfs Malinta tunnel, lifting only when daylight appears at the end.

The Corregidor tour then continues, giving more photo “ops” in front of the huge guns that now lie quietly in



the tropical sun. The Filipino Heroes Memorial, with its 14 murals depicting historical battles of the Filipino people; the Pacific War Memorial, with its steel sculpture depicting a soaring eternal flame; and the Japanese Garden of Peace in the form of a towering Goddess of Mercy, honor the dead of many wars.

Having been confronted with the horrors of war, we—the fatigued tourists—sat down to a relaxing, enjoyable lunch at the Rock’s breezy restaurant, before boarding our air-conditioned Hovercraft for the return trip across Manila Bay.

Craftsmanship, Cuisine, and Industry in Pampanga (Elizabeth Reyes and Hans-Juergen Springer). After an early start, we had a comfortable 2-hour bus ride north to our first stop in Pampanga: Bacolor.

Bacolor was one of the towns most badly affected in the aftermath of the 1991 eruption of Mt Pinatubo. While 20 years have done much to heal nature’s wounds—grasses and other hardy plants are growing again in the lahar-



devastated lands—other wounds have not and never will be healed. But Pampanga’s resourceful people have managed to live with their earth-heaving legacy. One graphic example lies in the San Guillermo parish church, the “sunken church” that was flooded 6 meters deep with lahar that came pouring down from Mt Pinatubo during the monsoon season of 1995. As a result of these massive lahar flows (which have now solidified into rock and mass), we entered the parish church through what were once the second-floor windows! The elaborately carved main and side altars were painstakingly excavated and restored to flawless condition; wooden pews were added, and the church, albeit low-ceilinged, is now again in use.

We, the visitors who came to see this unique monument of the Mt. Pinatubo tragedy, were received with music from a brass band and young boys and girls dancing joyfully in front of the church. Inside, the parish priest and Bacolor’s



vice mayor gave us a briefing on the San Guillermo church history, from its beginning in 1576 when Augustinian friars built it, to its renaissance life in the present day. As there's no visit in the Philippines without a merienda, we had a generous picnic of Pampanga specialties served in thatched huts near the sunken church grounds.

From Bacolor we proceeded to Betis, a small town famous for its wood carvers. There we met Willy Layug and experienced his unique craftsmanship: very intricate wood carvings, small and large, mostly of a religious nature: statues of Christ and a retinue of saints. Willy Layug is known for using the age-old and complex "estafado" polychrome painting technique that dates back to the Middle Ages. But Layug has his modern side: he also does modern portrait carvings from clay models. Lynn Gordevich,

one of our art-aficionado tourists and ebullient wife of AFE-member Alex Gordevich, volunteered for a portrait session. She sat patiently for a good half hour, while Layug expertly used his chisels to carve a likeness of Lynn's head in clay.

There was more wood carving to come from a well-known furniture manufacturer in Guagua that produces ornate high-end furniture with beautiful wood inlay work done with different types and colors of wood. This enterprise, successfully managed by a charming team of mother and two daughters, also produces parol, the famous Filipino Christmas lantern symbolizing the Star of Bethlehem.

And again there's no gathering without music, dances, and food. Boys and girls in traditional Filipino costumes entertained us before a sumptuous lunch that capped our day before heading back to Manila. ■



Participants in the AFE–ADB 26th Annual Meeting and Social Functions

Guests of Honor: ADB President Haruhiko Kuroda and Mrs. Kumiko Kuroda

AFE–ADB Members

Australia

Robert and Rohun Byrnes
Sylvio Cattonar
Rosario Coloma
Alex and Lynne Gordevich
Louis Wong

China, People's Republic of

Benhua Wei

Finland

Erkki Jappinen

France

Sylvia and Alain Dick
Someth Suos

Germany

Dieter and Ursula Bornhöft
Günter and Enriqueta Hecker
Uwe Henrich
Wolf and Ursula Preuss

India

Satish and Kalyani Jha
Prateep Kumar Lahiri
Jayanta Madhab
Devinder and Savindar Singh

Indonesia

Dimiyati Nangju
Agustinus and Grace Rumansara

Japan

Noritada Morita
Naoyuki Shinohara
Tsuneaki Yoshida

Korea, Republic of

Bong-Suh Lee
Yoong-Soo Seo

Malaysia

Sam Chwoon Chin and Lyndia S.
F. Yoong
Dang Fook Lee
Raveendranath Rajan

New Zealand

Francis Narayan
John Colin Pratt

Norway

Hans and Ingerd Forberg

Pakistan

Naseer Ahmad
Shahida Jaffrey

Philippines

Pedro Aguilar
Cecille Alcantara
Nihal Amerasinghe
Caesar Antonio
Jocelyn Arana
Agustina Asilom
Amador Astudillo
Stephen and Rose Marie Banta
Evangeline Barcelona
Salvador Bautista
Felix Bilar
Rufo Bituin
Catalina Blanco
Divina Bolano
John Boyd
Raquel Cabiles
Andrea Carlos
Maria Dolores Colayco
Gamaliel and Victoria de Armas
Jill Gale de Villa
Marissa del Castillo
Cynthia Diaz
Carmen Dimayuga
Marietta Domingo
Rodolfo Dulay
Ma. Grace Dy
Mergita Enriquez
Marissa Espiritu
Manuel Lino Faelnar
Gloria Ferry
Susan Francisco
Marina Galura
Estrelita Gamboa
Ian Gill
Asuncion Gochangco

Stephen Groff
Julieta Guevara
Ma. Cristina Guzman
Modesta Hain
Peter and Emerita Hanton
Wilhemina Jacinto
Cesar and Gemma Juan
Midi Diel Kawashima
Victoria Lacio
Penny Laquindanum
Renato Limjoco
Zenaida Lizarondo
Grace Magnaye
Lilia Malaqui
Marietta and Federico
Marasigan
Robert and Cecilia May
Natividad Medina
Evangeline Mendoza
Rosemarie Misa
Oscar Nuñez
Editha Okada
Reynaldo Pacheco
Susana Padolina
Mila Pampolina
David and Arnie Parker
Alfredo and Carmen Pascual
Ernesto Pernia
Bruce Purdue
Teresita Redito
Ma. Imelda Reyes
Joven Roberto
James and Diana Rockett
Edna Mae Ronas
Leodegario Saet and Jocelyn
Trespacios
Conchita Salvador
Albertine Santi
Ma. Fe Sebastian
Benigno Serafica
Alfonso Sia
Larry Sim
Hans-Juergen Springer and
Elizabeth Reyes
Ofelia and Jacinto Sta. Ana
Ricardo Tan
Homer and Emelita Taylor

Victor and Lily The
Inocentes and Stella Torres
Eufracia Vicalar
Graham Walter
Emiel Wegelin
Enya Ylagan
Cheng Yong

Singapore

Tony Wan
Siew Fing Wong

Sri Lanka

Ranjith Wirasinha

The Netherlands

Jan van Heeswijck

United Kingdom

M. Kaleemuddin and M.
Viqar Haquani
Daud Ilyas
William Thomson
Richard Vokes

United States

Priscila Andrews and Jordan
Mallari
Oscar Colmenar
Guillerma and Almira Mae
Dumalag
Graham Dwyer
Rosario Francisco and
Felicidad Nadres
Erlinda Lizarondo
Flordeliza Marcial
Normita Tricia Marquez
and Lyra Dumalag
Barry Metzger
Y-Chie Primo and Lourdes Flores
Evangeline San Juan

Chapter News

Indonesia

Michel de Ruffi de Ponteves (ADB 1979–1992)



Our first meeting in 2012 was held on Sunday 8 April 2012 on the terrace of our house in South Jakarta Cilandak area—a luncheon as usual in a warm and friendly atmosphere. Ida de Ponteves had prepared a delicious buffet of very traditional Indonesian food, with a number of delicacies from Makassar

such as fish, “pastel” (called jalkot in Makassar), a kind of vegetable puffed pastry, and many others. Ida was born in Makassar and loves to cook Makassar delicacies.

The conversation at the meeting went from family news, particularly about our children and grandchildren, to news of our members who had unfortunately canceled attending the meeting at the last minute, to happy news about our ADB experiences in Manila as well as Indonesian news and news from around the world.

Chapter Coordinator Dimiyati Nangju later held a more formal part of our meeting, with agenda items including our chapter attendance at the ADB Annual Meeting in early May 2012, the charities that we are helping in a modest way, and other matters.

The event was also a farewell party to Roslaini (Nini) and Abdullah Rasuman, just before their departure back to Manila. Abdullah had completed his 4-year assignment at Jakarta’s Philippine Embassy and therefore had to return to Manila. Nini had been a great help to our chapter as deputy coordinator/secretary during their time in Jakarta. A big thanks to her! We will miss both of them, but for sure we will see them again in Jakarta from time to time because their only son lives in Sentul, near Jakarta, where Nini and Abdullah have recently built a beautiful house for their retirement.

We were also lucky to have Zsi Zsi Rachman and her husband, Philip Daltrop, who live in London but were visiting Zsi Zsi’s mother in Jakarta, just as they did at the time of our Annual General meeting in December 2012. We hope to see them again in our next meeting because Zsi Zsi and Philip plan to return to Jakarta from time to time. ■



Standing (L–R): Abdullah Rasuman, Sri Pamoedjo Rahardjo, Dimiyati Nangju, Philip Daltrop, M.M. Soerakoesoemah, Margono Halimoen, Michel de Ponteves, and Eddie Gunadi. Seated: Zsi Zsi Rachman, Nini Rasuman, Ida de Ponteves, Nora Nangju, Ana Soerakoesoemah, Ratna Halimoen, Emmy Gunadi, and Sonya Rahardjo.

Japan

Satoshi Inoue (ADB 1980–1983)



Barrio Fiesta 2012 in Tokyo On 8 January 2012, Japanese ADB retirees got together with Former President Taroichi Yoshida. This annual gathering, named “Barrio Fiesta” (or Baryo Fiesta in Filipino), celebrated its 30th anniversary this year.

At the opening, former President Yoshida delivered his new year message to the 50 participants (including the members’ spouses). As usual, his message was full of humor. Next, Yuzo Akatsuka talked about his recently published book on infrastructure projects in developing countries, and presented a copy to the President. He also talked about a series of his visits to coastal

areas devastated by the Great East Japan Earthquake last year, including affected areas near his home town. Then Reiko Tsusaka recalled her final days with Akira Tsusaka, and spoke about her recent life in Manila as well as Tokyo following the demise of her beloved husband. Her calm and sometimes even smiling talk relieved all the members.

Takashi Kobayashi, president of the Palace Hotel, Tokyo was excited to announce that in “May this year, my hotel will make a grand opening after 3 years of reconstruction.” In fact, it has been customary for the Barrio Fiesta to be held at his hotel over the years. Lastly, Makoto Sunagawa was requested to give the participants some updates on life in Manila while talking about his recent involvement in a JICA-funded project for the Philippines.

Over lunch with sake and wine, all the participants enjoyed the reunion and amicable conversation. Before closing, they all cheerfully sang in chorus, led by Kunio Takase, two of their favorite songs: “New Year Song” and “Coconut.” They decided to meet again on 6 January next year. ■



First row (L-R): Takashi Kobayashi, Yuzo Akatsuka, Mr and Mrs Isao Kanamoto, Mr and Mrs Haruhisa Segawa, Mr and Mrs Taroichi Yoshida, Mr and Mrs Kunio Takase, Mr and Mrs Yukinori Watanabe, Mrs Akira Tsusaka and Mrs. Hiroshi Hida. Second row: Mrs Inoue, Mrs Yajima, Mrs Fujimoto, Mrs Kobayasi, Mrs Abe, Mrs Murakami, Mrs Sugizaki, Mrs Eiichi Watanabe, Mrs Shibuya, Mrs Yoshitomi, Mrs Nakagawa, Mrs Kariya, Mrs Sunagawa and Mrs Shoji Takahashi. Third row: Satoshi Inoue, Motomu Kariya, Moriyasu Furuki, Shoji Takahashi, Takashi Yajima, Makoto Sunagawa, Eiichi Watanabe, Masataka Yoshitomi, Shinichi Nomoto, Takeshi Shibuya and Takashi Taniguchi. Fourth row: Arao Abe, Masaaki Kushida, Shigemitsu Sugizaki, Susumu Fujimoto, Yorio Murakami, Hirosumi Takahashi, Yasuhide Nakagawa, Tomohiro Ishiguro, Isao Kawahara and Shinichiro Mitsuhashi.

New York–New Jersey

A representative group from AFE-ADB NY/NJ chapter on their way to attend the annual picnic sponsored by the Washington, D.C. ex-ADBers on 9 June 2012 at Fairfax, Virginia. They went to personally invite the Washingtonians to their yearly reunion party on 27 October 2012 at Secaucus, New Jersey. ■



New Zealand

Ron Hamilton (ADB 1981–1986)



The New Zealand Chapter held its first meeting Nelson, New Zealand on 12–15 March, 2012. After initial strong support, 17 people joined a well-conceived program. Present were Colin (Chapter Coordinator) and Marian Bond; Ron Hamilton (ably assisting Colin); Gordon (who agreed to be “acting”

treasurer going forward) and Rosemary Fox; Gaye Andrews; Tim Hutton and Carola Molitor; Francis Narayan; Ann and Andrew Proctor (from Australia); Mike Ryan; Catherine and Frank Sharpley; and the Manila contingent of Elizabeth Reyes, Hans-Juergen Springer, and Jill Gale de Villa. Two couples had to withdraw on health grounds, and much concern was expressed for their recovery.

As someone observed, it was the quality group, not the quantity group, that met at the Leisure Lodge near the center of Nelson. This small city is in the Golden Bay region of the South Island. Besides being famous for its equitable climate, Nelson is known for its artists —painters, potters, and those practicing in other media. Golden Bay is a fruit-growing region and is famous for its vineyards. Colin, who did the final organizing, ensured that the gathering experienced all facets of Nelson’s charms.



The program commenced with the traditional welcome drinks, at which the bonhomie that was evident throughout the gathering, was first displayed. There was much interest in ensuring that Hans, Liz, and Jill saw the best parts of the South Island in their post-AFE travels.

Day two started with an official chapter meeting and then the group commenced touring the Nelson area. First we attended a demonstration of pottery making by Royce McGlashen, master potter—and quite a few parcels of his work were sneaked aboard the bus. The second stop was at Höglund Glass, famous for its avant garde artefacts. Sadly, the furnace was closed for repair.

Lunch was much enjoyed at The Playhouse, a restaurant in the country known for its food and, in the evenings, small theater entertainment. The members clearly appreciated the chance to wander in the gardens of this lovely venue. The trip back to the city involved tasting and information sessions at the Siefried and Waimea vineyards.

Standing (L-R): Frank Sharpley, Hans-Juergen Springer, Mike Ryan, Colin Pratt, Andrew proctor, Francis Narayan, Gordon Fox, Tim Hutton, Ron Hamilton; Seated: Catherine Sharpley, Gaye Andrews, Marian Bond, Rosemary Fox, Elizabeth Reyes, Jill Gale de Villa, Ann Proctor, Carola Molitor.





Colin surpassed himself with his choice of restaurant for Tuesday evening. Sitting on a covered deck built out over the waters of the harbor, the group was treated to an extensive selection of wonderful marine dishes—fish cooked superbly, oysters, whitebait, and more. And the wines were every much as great as the food.

On Wednesday the group visited the World of Wearable Arts Museum—the WOW Museum (www.wowcars.co.nz). The museum had its origin as an annual display of the wonderful and weird. Initially sourced from New Zealand clothing designers and artists, there is now a strong international contribution. The annual WOW show is now held in Wellington, but Nelson continues to display many of the garments. The men could only wonder how many of the “frocks” could be worn; some women observers noticeably shuddered!

The adjacent car museum was almost as interesting. Not just for petrol-heads, the museum houses a display of exotic cars, some of which members of the group thought were too recent—in their memories—to warrant being in a museum.

Lunch was convened at The Grape Escape, where great but simple food met everyone’s taste. After that, a small

group of golfers was dropped at the Nelson links. The scores were never actually conveyed!

The formal dinner was held at the Petite Fleur Restaurant at the Siefried Winery. A private room allowed for less inhibited speeches. A toast was drunk in honor of absent friends, and (almost) coincidentally a text message was received from John and Beth Thorpe, expressing best wishes and the hope that their absence did not diminish the singing. (It did!)

Everyone went their ways on Thursday morning. Much good will was expressed for the Sharpleys and Mike Ryan as they drove back to “Earthquake Center;” to the AFE representatives, Hans, Liz, and Jill, as they set off to explore the South Island; and to the Proctors as they departed for Australia.

It is hoped that the turnout for the Napier gathering in February or March 2013 will be at least as large. It can surely be said, even now, that it will be happy! ■



A NZ\$4,000 vase at Höglund.

Pakistan

Shahida Jaffrey (spouse of Tarik Jaffrey left ADB in 1989)



The AFE-ADB Pakistan Chapter has become active again, and the first get-together event took place in Islamabad, Pakistan. Shahid Mirza, the Chapter Coordinator, called all former ADB staff members, and a get-together was planned for brunch at the Islamabad Club for Sunday, 2 June. Everyone was very excited; although some were out of town or even out of the country, 10 attended.

Mr and Mrs Sibtian came the previous night driving from Lahore only for the gathering and to meet old friends, returning to Lahore the same evening.

The effort to hold the meeting was appreciated and decisions for a "way forward" taken. Get-togethers will be organized on the last Sunday every 2 months. Different venues could be chosen. Due to long distances between Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad, small subchapters could be created in each. Hopefully, in future more members will attend the next get-togethers, as June is summer time—travel time to visit children abroad. ■



Philippines

Ofelia R. Sta. Ana (ADB 1967-1996)



The South Group had a reunion at the Vue Room of the Bellevue Hotel on 26 April 2012 with 29 people in attendance. It was a moonlit night and everybody enjoyed the music, good food, and dancing. Dancing the night away were Yoly and Roger Asuncion, Lou de Belen, Danny Muñoz, Liza Vitangcol, Lita

Gamboa, Rosie Luistro, Linda Lapid, and Carmen and Ike Bontia. Also present were AFE-ADB Deputy Executive Secretary Jill de Villa, who had to leave early for another appointment; Babygirl Cruz; Medy Reantazo; Beth Cabuay; Lina Cadorniga; Lilia Malaqui; and Ched Raña.

A nice time was had by all and the night would have gone on and on were it not for the Cinderella-like beauties of the AFE South Group ladies who felt drowsy from drinking a glass of juice. The Vue Room is a nice venue for a rendezvous and the Southern Belles and Boys are planning to have another enjoyable evening—probably there again. ■



Singapore

Willy Lim (ADB 1981–2004)



On 7 April 2012, the AFE Singapore Chapter held its first meeting and a buffet lunch. Attending were Cheng Huat Sim (Chapter Coordinator), Suay Bah Chua (Secretary-Treasurer), Siew Juan Aw, Willy Lim, Omkar Shrestha, Paul Teng, Amarjit Wasan, and Siew Fing Wong.

**For information
on membership contact**
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During the meeting, the benefits and health schemes for ADB retirees were briefly discussed. Suay Bah Chua tendered his resignation as chapter secretary-treasurer, which was accepted by the country coordinator. I was nominated to assume the post and its responsibilities, and accepted. ■



Seated (L–R): Suay Bah Chua, Amarjit Wasan, Siew Fing Wong, Cheng Huat Sim, Siew Juan Aw. Standing: Omkar Shrestha, Paul Teng, Willy Lim.

Southern California

Filonila “Vhee” Martin (ADB 1987-2001)



The AFE–ADB Southern California (SoCal) Chapter welcomed the summer at Frank Bonelli Park in San Dimas, California. Bert Gesmundo, one of the organizers, picked the East Shore Fishing area as our picnic site. The spot showcased the beautiful view of the lake. The weather was perfectly set for fun games, a sumptuous array of Filipino cuisine, photo sessions, and wonderful families and friends; plus a mini fashion show to parade Pinoy attire and adornment to remember Philippine Freedom (Independence) Day.

Thirty-four joined the picnic, including 13 ExADB staff: Arturo “Art” Aquino, Ben “Baggy/Jun” Bagaoisan, Delilah “Bing” Bagaoisan, Yolanda “Laurie” Bravo, Robert “Bert”





Gesmundo, Leticia "Letty" Gomez, Yolanda Laurel "Yollie" Houtby, Orlie Lacanlale, Nelia "Nel" Kalagayan, Danny Panopio, Eva "Yev" Perez, May "Maymay" Seron-Tigas, and Filonila "Vhee" Martin.

Here are comments from some SoCal members:
 Baggy Bagaoisan. "It is so wonderful to see friends from ADB once again; it is like during our high school days (40 or 50 years ago) that you always remember those names, always the beginning and it will never end..... ADB experience, love you guys."

Letty Gomez. "I hope that everybody based in California would join the SoCal Chapter."

May Santos Seron-Tigas. "I am excited to be with ADB family, no matter what circumstance. I hope that someday former ADB employees around the world, including those from the East Coast, would come together in SoCal."

Yollie Laurel Houtby. "We could have had a bigger group if not for the Pacquiao fight."

Art Aquino. "This event is a sign of continuing closeness of ex-ADBians in SoCal."

Eva Perez, with her family, came to join for the first time. She was ushered into the Chapter with a style. Uhuh! She got the "Best in Pinoy Costume."

The meeting was concluded with planning for the Christmas Party in

December. Again, this is an event we all look forward to. This team is uniquely cohesive. Despite the busyness and rarity of meeting together, the members who are also leaders in themselves, are proactive and are committed to share their time and resources when called upon. As chair for 2012, I envision another great get-together for Christmas. If you are around the Southern California area on 1 December, make sure to send a word to anyone of the members. AFE-ADB SoCal Chapter is also on Facebook. ■

Washington DC

Clay Wescott (ADB 1998-2006)



The DC chapter had a get-together on 12 June at Christine Wallich's home in McLean, Virginia. Along with lots of good conversation and fun, there were two short presentations.

Graham Dwyer briefly described the ADB Annual Meeting in Manila. He was there representing the IMF, and attended the AFE-ADB reception. He commented that amid record Annual Meeting attendance in Manila and the shadows cast by the global economy, some of the key messages of ADB and Philippine Government resonated in the media and with delegates. Hitting the headlines were the ADF replenishment, calls for more inclusive growth, the Philippine President's anticorruption drive, and the doubled firepower of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralization to \$240 billion.

North American Resident Office (NARO) Resident Representative Sandro Pio provided some remarks.

- He emphasized the importance of the successful ADF replenishment (\$12.4 billion) given the difficult economic climate.
- He mentioned that the reform momentum at ADB continues, with adoption of the new Accountability Mechanism, revision of the Public Communication Policy, and establishment of an ombuds function.
- Challenges remain due to the European debt crisis and the potential internal and external contagion effects.
- ADB is considering how to maximize the efficiency with which it uses its capital, which is becoming a constraint to expanding lending expansion in the face of continuing strong demand from developing member countries.

NARO is now fully staffed, and has carried out intensive outreach with congressional staff, think tanks, civil society organizations, US and Canadian private sector actors, and relevant government departments. Visits by President Kuroda and Senior Management and the Asian Development Outlook launch by Chief Economist Changyong Rhee have also provided good visibility. ■

People, Places, and Passages

Asian Eye

Noritada Morita (ADB 1978–1997)



Ed: Morita-san is well-known to many as a former ADB project officer and senior staff member. He is also a gifted and avid photographer and musician. He is currently

supporting and working with an NGO to assist children and communities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. This article features some of the images in a book of his photographs published in 2011, with funding from friends and proceeds going to charity. Asian Eye is available from Asia Books, Ltd., 221 Sukhumvit Road, Klongtoey Nua, Wattana, Bangkok 10110 Thailand; e-mail: information@asiabooks.com; tel: (662)651-0429-30 Fax: (662) 2251-6042; website https://www.asiabooks.com/Book_Detail/9789743506772/ ASIAN-EYE. Shipping is free within Thailand. The book is published by the Mekong Organization for Mankind.

We are the guests on the earth, which invited us to live here. The nature is our mother, which cuddles us in her arms.

Nature provides us with all we need.... soil, water, air, sunshine, food..... even happiness.

Nature teaches us lessons and uses hardships to make us find wisdom. Asian wisdom is based on tradition and emphasizes discipline, modesty and humility. Modesty provides a common home for Asia's diversified culture and ensures peace in the community.

Culture is our shelter and the children are our hope. They are our friends too, main actors in our community and the playground of our lives.

I visited Asian countries over the last 37 years. The hopes and aspirations shared by my friends in governments and the smells of farms and villages have put my eyes on the same level as their own. These were the source of my energy.

Asia has given me many friends.

My friends extended their warm hands to me. They offered me a place to live.

We shared wonderful and exciting times together.

The pictures shown [in the *Asian Eye*] are part of my memories of the Asian community that I have come to know and admire. ■



Open air class.



Plowing the clouds.



Legacy of Romance (Taj Mahal).

South Island, New Zealand

Prior to the delightful gathering of the New Zealand Chapter at Nelson, Liz Reyes and Hans Springer had dinner with Paul Dickie and Annella Munroe in Wellington, while Jill had 3 days with friends who had immigrated to New Zealand about 8 years earlier. After the Nelson gathering, Jill headed out to explore the north end of the south island, getting in as much walking as possible, and Liz and Hans went south.

Top of the South: Wandering and Exploring

Jill Gale de Villa



My first exploration was to Abel-Tasman National Park, where I spent 2 days walking while still based at my delightful backpacker's hotel (the Palace) in Nelson. The Abel-Tas scenery was delightful, the trails well maintained, and the boat schedules allowed me to be dropped off for a walk to another

point for pick-up, so back-tracking wasn't necessary—although it would have been beautiful. The trails I selected always skirted the shore, sometimes dipping to a small white-sand beach, sometimes rising far above to vistas through the forest to the azure waters below. New Zealanders are real walkers—they all passed me at a good clip. And back at the Palace, the "kids" (I was the most "senior" guest) would invite me to their night-time parties, which usually meant we shared a couple of glasses of wine or beer before I sneaked out and went to bed.

Then it was on to Collingwood, where I ventured out to Farewell Spit—a 35-km long sand bar that is nesting grounds for thousands of migratory birds—black swans, oystercatchers, and much more. Here I chose to walk on the hills above the spit, and then spend a day at Wharariki



Beach—the most beautiful beach I've ever experienced. Miles of golden and white sands, fabulous rock formations, seal pups playing in pools, and if I'd had a plastic bag I could have picked mussels for dinner. But much of this is under water at high tide. Back at my lodge (an immaculate place: British owner, Japanese wife) 2 Japanese ladies shared some superb New Zealand wine with others, and a couple (my age) who were soon to embark on a 7-day trek invited me to go out to dinner with them at the Mussel Inn.

Then it was on to Kaikoura. En route I stopped at the Yealands Winery—source of that delicious wine in Collingwood—for a couple of bottles. The next morning I walked around the Kaikoura Peninsula. To start, the walk went beside a fat log, which on closer inspection had a whiskered nose at one end, testicles at the other, and was snoring a bit—a sleeping seal. Then up to more vistas to die for, with the sea usually well below, and always that impossible azure color.

Next stop was Christchurch, where the Sharpleys kindly hosted me ("no place at the inns—completely booked by reconstruction activities"), and breakfast on the way out with the Clendons. Some walls on



Frank and Catherine's house are braced with 2x4s, and most paintings and vases are on the floor. A few vases were still atop furniture—Frank explained that bluetac holds them steadfastly in place. Good tip for those of us who live around the ring of fire! Breakfast on the way out was at the Clendons, who showed me their damage and still do not know if their house is rehabilitable. The whole thing gives "unsettling" a much deeper meaning.

I then had a day at Nelson Lakes National Park, and a walk in the drizzle. During the walk, a beautiful black-and-green robin hopped up onto my hiking pole and investigated my sleeve. "No natural enemies" explained the ranger.

For my last day I was going to potter around Nelson, but the weather was spectacular so I set off for the Marlboro Sounds and Queen Charlotte Track, for another fabulous walk. Then mussel pie before packing to go back... wondering how 3 weeks could have gone so fast!

Rest of the South Island: Salmon, Wine, and Glaciers

Elizabeth Reyes and Hans-Juergen Springer



Our 9-day road trip around the South Island was a most delightful discovery of New Zealand's isle of salmon, wine, and glaciers. After the NZ Chapter annual meeting, we tucked into our rental cars, took new road maps in hand, and followed the touring advice of favorite Newzies like Colin

Pratt and Ron Hamilton. Straightaway a major aspect of the adventure was the winding New Zealand roads rolling across the island. Most days we saw more sheep than motor vehicles. We headed west-southwest for the coast, and made our first stop in Greymouth, with its quiet motel and stern innkeeper. Across the road, the restaurant with a most difficult name—Bucclough's on High—served up a wonderful wild salmon, hinting of New Zealand's fine cuisine to follow.

Onto Thick Ice. Day 2's 5-hour drive landed us in Franz Josef Glacier Township, the tiny resort village at the foot of one of the world's lowest lying glaciers, at 900 meters (m) above sea level. A community of hikers and eco-tourists wandered about clad in colored jackets and hiking boots.

We all found our way to the Franz Josef Glacier Guides Center.

What an amazing experience was the half-day trek on the glacier! We showed up at 10 am, togged up in rubberized jacket, chunky hiking boots, socks, gloves and wooly cap, plus a waist pack to carry crampons. A



quick bus ride took us to the dry, rough land of the glacier; and a winding 2-kilometer (km) walk across the terminal moraine took us to the edge of the ice.

The glacier appeared in a vast wrinkled coat of blue and gray ice. At the bottom of the ice mountain, we donned our crampons. New Zealand's most spectacular glacier, with dramatic, rugged terrain, was discovered by Austrian explorer Julius Haast in 1865, who named it after the then reigning Austrian Emperor Franz Josef.

Single file, we hit the trodden ice-paths and the glacier took us into its folds. Our guide Ray led the way, lecturing with enthusiasm, while chopping steps in the ice with his pick. The several stops made the trek a most interesting experience. First, we followed our hardy leader through a narrow "valley" and then crawled up through a 4-foot diameter hole through the glacier ice. Then, we sidled through a tight, diagonal crevice and entered deep into a glacier cave. Finally, we climbed steep ice staircases with cavernous drop-offs on either side, while hanging onto loose rope-rails pegged by the steps.

Lake Wakatipu. Our next stop was Queenstown and Milford Sound (Could they equal the glacier experience? Yes—and how!). Queenstown was a fresh and friendly resort town on the shore of Lake Wakatipu, with all the cafes, shops, and water-borne activities a tourist could want. Every day we tried a new restaurant and souvenir shop, and watched open air musical entertainment on the wharf. Our sole purchase was a furry hood of 'possum (in Australia, opossums are protected; in New Zealand they are a pest, damaging the ecology!) When we took the Million Dollar Cruise around the lake—and were regaled (and windblown) by the cheerful captain's accounts of the million dollar homes of celebrities by the water—the 'possum hood kept Liz warm.



Magnificent Milford. The apex of our holiday was the high-flying tour of Milford Sound, the 4-hour Fly-Cruise-Fly adventure to explore the wondrous sound, a 13-km ice-carved fjord on the western coast. The ancient glacier called Piopiotahi had flowed down to the sea, slicing through the high mountain range with peaks up to 1,600 m, flooded its own deep gorge, and formed the fjord called Milford Sound.

At the Queenstown airfield, nine passengers boarded a twin-engine Norman Islander and set off on an awesome scenic 35-minute flight across the Southern Alps, over the rugged, untamed backcountry lands of Fjordland and out to the rugged coastline of the Tasman sea. The awesome flight was followed by a motor cruise around the Sound—2 hours observing the geological diversity on a breathtaking scale, and watching seals on the rocks, dolphins in the fjord, and rainbows in the waterfalls. The flight back from Milford Sound was as awesome; and worth a thousand words and memories.

Mt Cook. Back on the NZ road, we crossed the south island eastward and went chasing up another glacier lake in Mount Cook National Park. We passed varied landscapes: rolling hills and great wall hedges, forested hills and bare savannahs, scenic routes passing small chalet-villages with flower gardens and white picket fences. In North Canterbury we chanced upon the folksy Brew Moon Café, and had a great meal of “vegetable stacks” in wheat wrappers.

On Day 7, we ascended the higher altitudes toward Mt Cook Village, at 750 m. We were stunned by the blazing turquoise waters of Lake Pukaki. After a lengthy photo stop, we drove on to the village and settled into our cozy lodge in the mountain station. Mt Cook (Aoraki in Maori—“Cloud Piercer”) was clearly visible in the sunny, cloudless sky.

An eco-tour of Lake Tasman was meant to take us in a rubber dingy around the small deep lake to the edge of the glacier. But on the next drizzly morning under ominous gray skies and low-hanging clouds, we decided to forego touching the glacier, for now...

Back on the road, our last destination was Kaikoura, the east coast beach village 180 km north of Christchurch. Here

is a picture-perfect peninsula town backed by snowcapped peaks hovering close over the sea; and a long beach shelf that harbors sleepy crayfish under the rolling waves. On our walk along Kaikoura’s shoreline, we learned that Kai means food and koura means crayfish. We stayed just long enough to discover not the wildlife but the next best thing—the crayfish—in the restaurant Green Dolphin, a few doors down from our beach motel. There we had the finest crayfish you can get; and Hans had his favorite Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc. All made a delicious cap on a week’s delightful journey on the South Island. ■

A Toronto Olympian

Helena Jacinto-Duenas (ADB 1969–1977)



Rolly and I would like to take this opportunity to convey our appreciation to those who extended congratulations, best wishes, and thoughtful prayers to Crispin, our son, for qualifying to compete in Archery representing Canada in the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

Crispin is Canada’s top ranked archer, and has achieved world ranking status unprecedented (by far) in Canada. This is his second Olympic games; the first was at the 2008 Olympic Games held in Beijing.

Through self-discipline, countless hours of practice and participation in international competitions held in Asia, Europe, and the Americas, Crispin was able to earn for Canada respect and recognition from the international archery community. Archery is not a popular sport in Canada, hence funding was limited (at times nonexistent) up and until the medals and top placing in world rankings became evident. During world competitions, Rolly and I would have to content ourselves with checking the results on the World Archery website (archery.org), with great anticipation while we were on the job at the office. It has been our reward, as parents, to hear Crispin’s voice over the telephone right after each competition—be it a top 16 or 10 finish or winning a medal.

The climb is not over for Crispin, and Rolly and I will be there beside him until he reaches his goal—be it in archery or his professional career.

As Rolly and I are now retired, for the first time, we shall watch the archery competition (in person) in London at the Lord’s Cricket Grounds during July–August 2012.

Crispin lives by this creed: “The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well.” ■



Crispin Duenas and His Royal Highness.

The Eyes and the Aetas

Raquel Cabiles (ADB 1971–1997)



All Eyes on Antipolo. On Monday, 23 April 2012, six AFE–ADB volunteers—Ben Hombre, Midi Diel Kawashima, Aida Lizarondo, Oskee Nunez, Nini Tibay, and I—plus one ADB staff member, Vagie Collanto-Leon, trooped to the Soriano-Leyble Medical and Maternity Hospital in Antipolo for the Yonkers Millennium Lions Club First Philippine Medical Mission.

We volunteered because the president of the Yonkers Millennium Lions Club is Emma Dumalag, current treasurer of the New York–New Jersey AFE–ADB chapter; she hails from Antipolo and is also part of the East Group of the AFE Philippine Chapter.

We arrived at 7 am and were met by the owner, Dr Divina Soriano-Leyble, She was also the Mission’s overall coordinator and member of the Antipolo Host Lions Club. The Yonkers Millennium Lions Club members arrived shortly thereafter, and we began the serious work.

Midi and Vagie were at the registration table. At the releasing section, Ben, Oskee, and Aida sorted the eyeglasses by grade while Nini minded the logbook that

beneficiaries signed. I gave the prescreened beneficiaries their prescriptions for presentation to the releasing section, with two other AFE–ADB volunteers, Aida Mortell, who is an Antipolo Lion, and California-based Normita Marquez.

Beneficiaries came in droves.

The volunteers were given white T-shirts with the logo AFE–ADB Yonkers Millennium Lions Club. That evening we were invited to the Twinning Ceremony at which the Antipolo Host Lions Club and the Yonkers Millennium Lions Club formed an alliance. At the ceremony, the two clubs exchanged banners, and certificates of recognition were given, including to us volunteers.

Vision in Virac. On the April 25–28 mission to Virac, Catanduanes, I was the lone AFE–ADB Manila volunteer in the 19-person mission. In Virac, we went to the Catanduanes Eye Center and witnessed a cataract operation by Dr Joselito Urgel. The 20 patients who had cataract operations during January to March 2012 participated in a short program organized by Dr Urgel and thanked the Lions. Dr Urgel awarded certificates of appreciation to the Lions. I was also given a certificate and a purple Lions T-shirt for being a volunteer.

Then we went off to Viga to distribute eyeglasses to the townsfolk and on to Panganiban, where Mayor Robert Fernandez met the mission and led the distribution of eyeglasses.



Midi Diel Kawashima at the Registration.



Ben Hombre, Oskee Nunez & Aida Lizarondo at the Releasing Section.



In Catanduanes Island, left to right: Emma Dumalag, Etchie Angos, Raquel Cabiles, Lina Villaluna (Host), Bles Punzalan and Normita Marquez.



Raquel & NCIP staff in 4x4 vehicle to go to Sitio Flora.

I drove alone to San Fernando, Pampanga, to the NCIP Office and spent the night there. The next day, Marta, Ms. Jones Conception Binwag (a geodetic

engineer with NCIP), and I drove to Capas, Tarlac. In Capas, we picked up Juliana Manalili, head of the NCIP Technical Division and implementer of the school project. We brought bags of school supplies for the children and the teachers. In Patling we changed to a 4-wheel-drive vehicle for the journey to Sitio Flora. Gilbert Cuero joined our team. Gilbert was the first EVACF indigenous person scholar and now works with NCIP as a clerk in the NCIP office in Tarlac.

We then proceeded to the house of Lion Jocelyn Archimedes for snacks. I felt weak. Luckily I was with a number of nurses. They all agreed I was dehydrated. With water and paracetamol, I felt better. Then we went to an island for the night. The whole mission doted on me. I was embarrassed because, as a volunteer, I should be the one assisting them.

The next morning, Mayor Odilon Pascua and several people awaited the mission at Bagamanoc. Again, Emma Dumalag distributed eyeglasses to the townsfolk. That was the end of the mission, and Mrs Lina Villaluna, Virac Overall Coordinator, gave us yellow Lions T-shirts before we rested at Twin Rock Resort.

The trip back was by ferry to Tabaco City, where we had a good view of Mt Mayon. We had lunch with my sister Beng and her husband Bayani Rodriguez, then continued via Naga City to Manila—a long but enjoyable journey in the company of many good Lions.

A Schoolhouse for the Aeta. Jennifer Wallum, who is the founder and president of the Entrepreneurs Volunteer Assistance Charity Foundation (EVACF—see www.evacf.org) and wife of an AFE–ADB member, asked me to represent EVACF and the MacKenzie Ross family at the inauguration of a new school. Funding for the school was provided in memory of the late barrister David MacKenzie Ross (DMR), who died in Hong Kong in 2008. I was very pleased to agree, as am a volunteer member of EVACF and had been the personal secretary cum caregiver of DMR.

The DMR Memorial School was inaugurated in Sitio Flora, Maruglo, Capas, Tarlac, at 10 am on 17 May 2012—it is the 45th school EVACF has built for the Aeta children.

First Time Experiences. The first time I met Marta Pangan, Planning Officer and EVACF Project Coordinator and Josephine David, Tribal Affairs Assistant of the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP), was at the EVACF annual general meeting on 15 May, where we discussed the logistics of the inauguration.

For the next 1-1/2 hours we negotiated 10 kilometers of rough dirt roads, including 13 river crossings and driving along stony riverbeds. Driver Weng was very competent with the roads, as he drives to and from Sitio Flora picking up farm produce for selling in Patling. He had also delivered the materials used for constructing the DMR Memorial School.

Inauguration. At Sitio Flora, we met the tribal chieftain, Andres Victoria, to whom we turned over the school. The Honorable Kennedy Molina, the first indigenous person representative to the Municipal Council of Capas, Tarlac, and staff also attended the inauguration. Unfortunately, no representative came from the Department of Education (DepEd). DepEd was to provide two teachers, chairs, and tables to the school.



Turnover of school to Sitio Flora Chieftain Andres Victoria.

The children received their school supplies and will all start at preparatory or grade 1 level until DepEd evaluates them and categorizes them into grade levels. (As of this writing, the school is operating with two teachers and 60 pupils: 30 in preparatory level and 30 in grade 1.)

Gilbert emceed the simple inaugural ceremony. He translated the message from Bernadette MacKenzie Ross into Pilipino, which I read. The Aetas, who have their own language, also understood Pilipino. Then Juliana read the message from NCIP Commissioner Conchita C. Calzado and NCIP Regional Director Atty. Ronaldo M. Daquiaoag, who were very grateful for the donation by the MacKenzie Ross Family through EVACF. The Aeta children then serenaded the group.

Returning home. Shortly after lunch served by our Aeta hosts, we left Sitio Flora for the 1-1/2 hour drive back to Patling. Then I drove to Capas, and, after a night in San Fernando, Pampanga, returned home to Cainta.

It was a tiring but a great adventure and an interesting experience. I thank the NCIP team for their kindness and hospitality and Jenny Wallum and the MacKenzie Ross family for giving me the privilege to be their representative. ■

Letter from the Roof of the World

Shahida Jaffrey



Up to the Roof. 21 years ago, on 8 December 1989, I was on the Aga Khan Foundation Helicopter accompanying Shoaib Sultan Khan, General Manager of an innovative rural development program up in high mountains—the Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (AKRSP). Later he received the Magsaysay Award and was nominated for the

Nobel Peace Prize for the AKRSP. He began the AKRSP in 1982, to improve the quality of life of Pakistan's most disadvantaged people—the mountain people of the Northern Area, now Gilgit Baltistan.

Soon after my husband's sudden passing in October 1989, I decided to live and work in remote Gilgit, taking an arduous and hazardous route in life. The region has more than 68 peaks over 7,000 meters, including some of the

world's highest mountain peaks—K2, Nanga Parbat, and Rakaposhi. Here the world's greatest mountain ranges meet—the Himalayas, Karakoram, and Hindu Kush.



Helicopter in Skardu that we use to travel in Gilgit Baltistan, this is in Skardu, in stormy weather

Moving Along. 21 years later, again on 8 December, life has taken a full circle and I am back in Gilgit. I have done some very exciting work with people during the past many years. The Gilgit of today is very different. The Northern Areas have provincial status and a new name—Gilgit Baltistan; everyone has a cell phone; and most homes have Internet, wifi, and cable TV. A four-star hotel serves western style food. Two decades ago, all the vehicles were jeeps that belonged to "projects;" today traffic is bumper-to-bumper.

The Hunza people are reknown for their good health and longevity. Most lived beyond 100 years because they lived simple lives; ate all organic food—vegetables, fruits, grains, and nuts; lived in a pollution free environment; and walked and climbed mountains. However, the opening of the Karakoram Highway and food brought from "down country" have changed their eating habits, impacting their health and lives.

Shoaib Sultan Khan's work in the area has changed the lives of the people, and I was part of that. Remotest villages generate and manage their own electricity by tapping snow melt from waterfalls. Every child goes to school—most attend private community-established English medium schools; literacy is more than 90%. The economy has more than doubled. Construction of the Karakoram Highway and trade with the People's Republic of China (PRC) are instrumental in this too; thousands of miles of farm-to-market roads and many bridges over rivers and streams



Shahida Jaffrey's Gilgit house.

have been built. Varieties of fruits and crops have improved. Large expanses of barren mountain land have been brought under cultivation and millions of trees planted, with irrigation channels carved on mountain slopes. Tons of dried apricots and other fruits are exported. "All organic" Hunza dried apricots and mulberries are sold in Whole Foods stores in California!

Facilitating Knowledge. This major transformation has come about through education. Local communities began English medium schools for their children in 1990. Today's generation has acquired quality education and scores have qualified from institutions such as Harvard, Oxford, and Yale.

What gives me immense satisfaction is that 10 young women from Hunza are at the Asian University for Women in Chittagong, Bangladesh, established by Kamal Ahmed a former ADB staff member, and the women come from schools that I partially funded over the years. One of the students was at Stanford University in 2011. The transformation of the Northern Areas has been brought about by the people themselves, with vision, support, and direction by Shoab Sultan Khan.

Avalanche. In January of 2010, a major natural disaster struck Attabad, a village beyond Hunza, in Gulmit. A large part of the mountain, two and a half miles of it, came down into the Hunza River creating a huge dam, burying Attabad village and scores of its residents. Water gradually began collecting and rose to the top of the blockage, burying 22 villages with scores of hotels, businesses, shops, schools, farm lands, and orchards. The resulting lake is 100 meters deep and 21 kilometers (km) long. About 22 km

of the Karakoram Highway (and part of the old Silk Road) went under water. Boats have been brought from "down country" to ferry residents across the lake.

Winters are severe, and over 25,000 residents on the other side of the lake do not have food and fuel. Emergency supplies are brought from the PRC. Displaced people are still living in school compounds. But floods elsewhere in Pakistan have diverted attention from this remote area.

Homes and businesses are visible under the lake's crystal clear waters, and today's devastation will one day become an opportunity for the land and its people. The majestic snow covered Rakaposhi mountain continues to glisten and glow with the sun and moon, seeming like heaven on earth from the government helicopter I rode to meet with effected residents.

A New Page. Today, December 11, I am in Gilgit. It is cold, with night temperatures at -5 Centigrade; the sun goes behind the mountain at 2.30 pm and sets for the day for me. I have built myself a beautiful hand-chiseled white marble house, and planted hundreds of trees, that became a forest. My home forest provides wood to fuel the steel stove for heating—all natural! I also own an antique 1964 Commando American jeep, which needs constant attention from the mechanic and keeps me mobile. My home is full of memories from Belgium and Manila, the International School and ADB Women's Club. Power is available only for half of the day—the water that feeds the hydropower stations is frozen. No problem as I have other lighting equipment.

My third career in life begins now—writing, for which I like to be in the peace and tranquility of beautiful Gilgit. ■

Gupis valley and mountain range.



New Members

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

January 2012

Duncan, Wendy A. (Philippines)
Goffeau, Alain J. (Philippines)

February

Balbago, Rebecca Bersamina
Fano, Katrina M. (Philippines)
Gazo, Dorotea (Australia)
Idris, Adiwarman (Indonesia)
Jung, Hong-Sang (Korea)
Kazandjian, Ara Yeremia (Finland)
Klein, Johanna L. (United States)
Subroto, Meriaty (Netherlands)
Ventura, Cesar M. (Philippines)
Ventura, Ma. Luisa G. (Philippines)

March

Absalon, Josephine T. (Philippines)
Acosta, Socorro O. (Philippines)
Ahmad, Raza (Pakistan)
Antonio, Milagros A. (Philippines)
Araki, Megumi (Japan)
Aunario, Ma. Florinda B. (Philippines)
Baardsen, Edvard Magnus (Philippines)
Brar, Sukhdeep (United States)
Dona, Romeo Q. (Philippines)
Martin, Filonila D. (United States)
Navarro, Reymundo (Philippines)
Tria, Gloria S. (Philippines)
Wensley, Christopher John (Canada)

April

Andrews, Charles T. (Australia)
Chan, Toong San (Philippines)
Iriberry, Ophelia Corazon A. (Philippines)
Kim, Mu Shin (Korea)
Mendoza, Natasha R. (Philippines)
Rahman, Sultan Hafeez (Bangladesh)
Rinker, Robert Gordon (United States)
Zafaralla, Cherry Lynn T. (Philippines)

May

Arcega, Rafael D. (Philippines)
Avante, Venice A. (Philippines)
Baily-Gibson, Simon (Philippines)
Duay, Redwin A. (Philippines)
Kesterton, Robert G.H. (United Kingdom)
Kidd, Donald A. (Philippines)
Kulp, Lisa (United States)
Mahurkar, Monish (India)
Oswald, Karin Emilie (Philippines)

Salvaña, Lily K. (Philippines)
San Pedro, Anna Marie R. (Canada)
Soriano-Aguinaldo, Rosario (Philippines)

June

Bayanjargal, Byambasaikhan (Mongolia)
Bowen, Phil (Australia)
de Leon, Milagros (Philippines)
del Rosario, Ruby Olivia (Philippines)
Dutt, Prodyut (Malaysia)
Musngi, Corazon (Philippines)
Parwez, Md Shahid (Nepal)

July

Davis, Barbara Carol (United States)
Lee, Hyung Ju (Korea)
Li, Gui Rong (China)
Miyachi, Masato (Philippines)
Wermert, Stephen Frederick (Singapore)

Senior Appointments in ADB

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

Magnus Fried—Advisor (Solutions Delivery), Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST), effective 1 February 2012.

M. Teresa Kho—Country Director, Bangladesh Resident Mission (BRM), South Asia Department (SARD), effective 22 February 2012.

Jesus Felipe—Advisor, Office of the Chief Economist (EROD), Economics and Research Department (ERD), effective 23 February 2012.

Seung Jae Lee—Advisor, Financial Sector Team, Office of the Regional Economic Integration (OREI-FS), effective 12 March 2012.

Ayumi Konishi—Deputy Director General, Pacific Department (PARD), effective 19 March 2012.

Kenichi Yokoyama—Country Director, Nepal Resident Mission (NRM), South Asia Department (SARD), effective 26 March 2012.

Peter Robertson—Advisor, Central Operations Services Office (COSO) and Head, Portfolio Management Unit (COSP), effective 27 March 2012.

Joji Tokeshi—Country Director, Afghanistan Resident Mission (AFRM), Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), effective 28 March 2012.

S. Chander—Director General, Regional and Sustainable Development Department (RSDD) concurrently Chief Compliance Officer and Principal Director, Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST), effective 7 April 2012.

Klaus Gerhaeuser—Director General, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), effective 7 April 2012.

Juan Miranda—Director General, South Asia Department (SARD), effective 7 April 2012.

Robert Wihtol—Director General, East Asia Department (EARD), effective 7 April 2012.

Xianbin Yao—Director General, Pacific Department (PARD), effective 7 April 2012.

Andrea Iffland—Regional Director, Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office (PLCO), Pacific Department (PARD), effective 10 April 2012.

Yue Fei—Director, Urban Development and Water Division (SAUW), South Asia Department (SARD), effective 11 April 2012.

Mikio Kashiwagi—Treasurer, Treasury Department (TD), effective 23 April 2012.

Ikuko Matsumoto—Director, Urban, Social Development and Public Management Division (PAUS), Pacific Department (PARD), effective 23 April 2012.

Marcelo Minc—Country Director, Papua New Guinea Resident Mission (PNRM), Pacific Department (PARD), effective 10 May 2012.

Stefan Ekelund—Deputy Country Director, Bangladesh Resident Mission (BRM), South Asia Department (SARD), effective 11 May 2012.

Preben Nielsen—Special Project Facilitator, Office of Special Project Facilitator (OSPF), effective 28 May 2012.

Leah Gutierrez—Director, Human and Social Development Division (SEHS), Southeast Asia Department (SERD), effective 24 June 2012.

Ann Rennie—Deputy Director General, Budget, Personnel and Management Systems Department (BPMSD), effective 28 June 2012.

Ryuichi Kaga—Senior Advisor (Public-Private Partnership), Office of the Director General (SAOD), South Asia Department (SARD), effective 28 June 2012.

Kurumi Fukaya—Lead Investment Specialist, Infrastructure Finance Division 2 (PSIF2), Private Sector Operations Department (PSOD), effective 1 July 2012.

Herath Gunatilake—Lead Energy Economist, Energy Division (SAEN), South Asia Department (SARD), effective 1 July 2012.

Rajiv Nundy—Lead Compensation and Benefits Specialist, Staff Development and Benefits Division (BPDB), Budget, Personnel, and Management Systems Department (BPMSD), effective 1 July 2012.

Sangay Penjor—Lead Urban Development Specialist, Urban and Social Sectors Division (EASS), East Asia Department (EARD), effective 1 July 2012.

Nigel Savidge—Lead Integrity Specialist, Office of Anticorruption and Integrity (OAI), effective 1 July 2012.

Binsar Tambunan—Lead Portfolio Management Specialist, Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Division (CWER), Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), effective 1 July 2012.

Sonomi Tanaka—Lead Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development), Poverty Reduction, Gender, and Social Development Division (RSGS), Regional and Sustainable Development Department (RSDD), effective 1 July 2012.

Betty Wilkinson—Lead Financial Sector Specialist, Public Management, Financial Sector and Regional Cooperation (EAPF), East Asia Department (EARD) effective 1 July 2012.

Hamid Sharif—Country Director, PRC Resident Mission (PRCM), East Asia Department (EARD), effective 10 July 2012.

Putu Kamayana—Advisor, Office of the Director General (SEOD), Southeast Asia Department (SERD), effective 16 July 2012.

Debra Kertzman—Director, Strategy, Policy, and Interagency Relations Division (SPPI), Strategy and Policy Department (SPD), effective 26 July 2012.

Robert Gordon Rinker—Advisor (Project Implementation), Office of the Director General (CWOD), Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), effective upon assumption of office.

Vankina Tulasidhar—Advisor, Office of the Director General (RSOD), Regional and Sustainable Development Department (RSDD), effective upon assumption of office.

Obituaries

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

Kafiluddin Mahmood, former Alternate Executive Director (Bangladesh) passed away on 7 January 2011 at the age of 85. Condolences may be sent to his son Wahiuddin Mahmood at wahiuddinmahmood@yahoo.com.

Honesto Rico, former Technical Assistant (Statistics), ECO-S passed away on 13 January 2012 at the age of 81. Condolences may be sent to his son Honesto Redentor Rico at hrico@adb.org

James Herbert Sparrow, former Programs Officer, Division 1 (PW1), Programs Department passed away on 27 January 2012 at the age of 54.

Shiraj Hossain Khan, former Senior Agronomist, Agriculture Department passed away on 10 February 2012. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Sainam Khan at 3933 Bentley Avenue, Unit #2, Culver City, CA 90232, United States of America.

Muttathottil K. Titus, former Manager in the Development Finance Division of the then Industry and Development Banks Department passed away on 1 March 2012 at the age of 89. Condolences may be sent to his wife Sucey Titus at Old No. 18, North Mada Street, Srinagar Colony, Saidapet, Chennai 600 015, India.

Adelaida Uy, former Secretary in the Division East 3 (PE3) passed away on 31 March 2012 at the age of 62. Condolences may be sent to her sister Cely Carbonel at tel. no. +63 2 712 1003.



John Cole with his four grandchildren: Emilia, Rafael, Xoana, and Zelene.

Former Canada Chapter Coordinator **John Cole** passed away on 31 August at age 68. John was instrumental in expanding the chapter and keeping it active. He was former Principal External Relations Specialist and was well known for his emcee role at ADB's yearly Anniversary Celebration and the Staff Community Fund "Show."

The following is excerpted from a message sent by John's children (Ben, Nick, Rebecca, Alex, and Jessica): For anyone who would have wanted to send flowers for a memorial service, he preferred a donation to his dear friend Rob Salamon's wonderful charity: the Kaibigan Foundation, which helps children in the Philippines and was a cause very dear to his heart. The financial details are available at <http://kaibiganfoundation.weebly.com/bank-accounts.html>. Condolences may be sent to his spouse, Lynne Cole at 201-1238 Richards Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 6M6, Canada.

Brian Hugh Webb, former Project Engineer, AEAR passed away on 15 May 2012 at the age of 75. Condolences may be sent to his wife Margaret Webb at 27 Longford Park Drive, Papakura 2111, Auckland, New Zealand.

Abelardo S. Orbigo, former Assistant Transcription Administrator, OSEC passed away on 4 July 2012 at the age of 68. Condolences may be sent to his wife Estela Orbigo at 8 Atlag, Malolos 3000, Bulacan, Philippines.

Kiyoyasu Mikanagi, former Project Engineer in the then Infrastructure Department passed away on 7 July 2012 at the age of 77.

Joseph Landriault, former Deputy Director in the Budget, Personnel and Management Systems Department passed away on 13 July 2012 at the age of 87. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Suzanne Ryan at suzanneryan@rogers.com.

Lars Lagging, former Project Engineer (civil) in the then Infrastructure Department passed away on 18 July 2012 at the age of 78. Condolences may be sent to his son Martin Lagging at Kobbenhallsvagen 25, S-436 40, Askim, Sweden.

Sinnadurai Selvaretnam, former Senior Project Specialist in the then Central Operations Services Office (COPP) passed away in Manila on 27 July 2012 at the age of 76. Condolences may be sent to his wife Jaranthadevi Selvaretnam at guhan.selvaretnam@gmail.com.

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

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- (2) Articles that are accepted will be edited for language, content, and length that the 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.
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Articles for publication may be sent in MS Word as e-mail attachments to afe-adb@adb.org. Articles will preferably be 250-750 words. Please send images in a separate file. Comments that will help improve *AFE-ADB News* are most welcome.

Acknowledgements

Josephine Jacinto-Aquino, AFE-ADB's able former assistant, provided invaluable help, including typesetting and layout. Malou Magalued proofread and, with Geraldine de Asis, Andrea Carlos, and Cesar Juan, prepared the magazine for mailing. AFE-ADB sincerely appreciates ADB's assistance with publishing the magazine, especially Wyn Lauzon, and Judy Yniguez of the printing unit.

Announcements

2013 Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors

The Forty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank will be held on 2-5 May 2013 in New Delhi, India.

Chapter Events

The 15th **Europe Chapter** AFE-ADB Reunion will take place on 21-24 September 2012 in the countryside of Alsace, France with an extension program for those who wish to stay longer.

The AFE-ADB **New York/New Jersey Chapter** will hold its yearly get-together on 27 October 2012, 6:30 p.m. at Crowne Plaza, Secaucus, New Jersey. Please get in touch with Ruth Esmilio before October 15, 2012 if you expect your presence in the evening of the reunion, or should you arrive in New York or New Jersey a few days before the event.

The **Australia Chapter** will hold its Annual Reunion on 28-31 October 2012 in Point Lonsdale, Victoria. Visit afe-adb.org to view the details of their initial registration.

The **Philippine Chapter** will hold its annual get-together on 22 November 2012 at the EDR, ADB Headquarters Building. With the West Group as host headed by Julie Guevarra and Eva Barcelona, this year's Philippine Chapter Annual Get-together promises to be another fun-filled night. The theme/attire for the evening is "Blue Jeans and Red Top" just like the way it was in the 60's and 70's.

The **India and Sri Lanka Chapters** will hold a joint meeting on 26 November to 1 December in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Contact Barin Ganguli for details.

The 2013 **New Zealand Chapter** meeting will be on 4-6 March in Palm City Motor Inn in Napier. A program will still be finalized but those interested can note these dates. More details will be circulated once available.

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Please send, by January, 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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