



News

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

Chapter News



Frankfurt Annual General Meeting



People, Places, and Passages



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Our Cover



Cover: Top left: albatross in New Zealand; right: Julia Holz, Bong Suh Lee, and Chung Sik Park in a café in Haus Wertheim; below: Heidelberg tour group with Rizal statue; background: slate wall in Hoechst, Germany.

AFE-ADB News

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AFE–ADB Updates

From the AFE President

Hans-Juergen Springer (ADB 1972–2002)



The AFE chapter coordinators' meeting and the AGM were the main events during the last 6 months, and the advisory task force (ATF) meetings on pensions and health insurance. The AFE cocktail reception on 1 May and the AFE meetings on 2 May saw a much larger attendance than during the recent annual

meetings. Frankfurt proved to be a place members wanted to visit and from there travel to other parts of Europe. The large Philippine contingent much enjoyed the 1-day tour to Heidelberg organized by our Europe Chapter Coordinator Günter Hecker, who wanted to showcase Rizal's life in Germany to visiting Filipinos.

The work of the ATFs on the Staff Retirement Plan (SRP) and health insurance (GMIP) came to an end in June, and recommendations were sent to ADB management. For both subjects, the timeframe of 6 months was rather tight, one might actually say too short for subject matters of such importance and complexity. This is especially so for the report of the GMIP ATF, where there were, as of the completion of the work of the ATF, unanswered questions that have to be settled in further consultations during the remainder of the year.

ADB's next annual meeting, its 50th, will take place in Yokohama, Japan on 4–7 May 2017. It will also be AFE's 30th AGM, which we intend to celebrate at a cocktail reception jointly with the Japan ADB alumni. Yokohama is not only a port city with a port museum and a museum sailing ship; it also has many other attractions. So do note the dates in your calendar. ■



From the AFE Vice President

Jill Gale de Villa (ADB 1993–2005)



This has been quite a year, and the bulk of what I have to report starts on the next page, under Health Matters.

The Insurance Committee welcomes new members Albertine Santi and Carina Soriano, both of whom were valuable members of the health insurance Advisory Task Force (ATF).

The Publications Committee has grown slightly, too, as Julia Holz joined and David Parker remained. The AFE News continues to receive good articles of interest to members, and to be appreciated for that. Keep your news coming—but please also review the guidance for articles and images, available on the inside back cover of the newsletter. Over the year-end holidays, I was able to get the new version of the website up, building on work Julia Holz had done. To do more electronically and with social media, we need volunteers, based anywhere, with good online skills and connections. ■

Pension Matters

Hans-Juergen Springer

The Staff Retirement Plan Advisory Task Force (SRP ATF) was established by President Nakao in the last quarter of 2015. It included representatives from Staff Council; AFE–ADB; Board of Directors; and ADB staff from BPMSD, Treasury, Controllers, Office of the General Council. The ATF chaired by the Vice-President for Administration & Corporate Affairs. It was supported by a technical working group from BPMSD with major inputs from two consultants. The goal of the task force deliberations was to make recommendations to ADB management for an SRP with better controlled costs and more predictable funding for ADB. This was going

to be achieved through risk sharing between ADB as the employer and its staff.

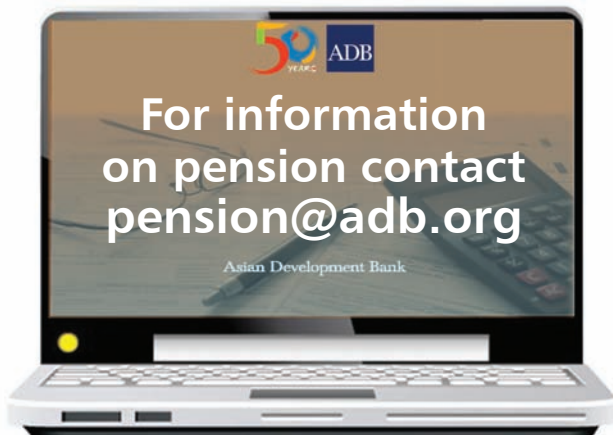
The SRP ATF met for the first time in December 2015, and after intensive discussions met for the 6th and last time on 29 June 2016 to discuss the report of the task force to management. The report was circulated to staff; AFE circulated a copy to AFE pensioners on 13 July 2016.

The report is silent on changes for retirees' pensions. This is in line with ADB President Nakao's assurance given at the AFE cocktail reception at the annual meeting in Frankfurt on 1 May that "ADB respects the grandfathering of retirees' pensions".

The report recommends moderate changes for current staff and significant changes for new hires. The defined benefit plan for current staff remains unchanged, but changes are recommended for future discretionary benefit contracts, which will have lower interest rates than before. Current staff will be able to work until 62, if they agree to the condition that the interest rate on their past discretionary benefit contracts will be reduced to the rate set for retirees.

The major SRP changes will affect new hires. The normal retirement age for new hires will be 65. Two options for SRP changes were considered, both of them of a "hybrid" mix of defined benefits and defined contributions. The option recommended by the ATF is a reduced defined benefit plan supplemented by a defined contribution scheme.

The recommendations are to be considered by management in July-August, after which further consultations with staff (and retirees) will take place. Approval of the final recommendations by the Pension Committee and the Board of Directors is expected by November 2016. Implementation of certain changes such as the reduced interest rate for future discretionary benefit contracts for current staff is scheduled to start on 1 January 2017. The major changes for new hires are likely to be effected from 1 October 2017. ■



Health Matters

Jill Gale de Villa

Members who have online access have received several communications regarding the benefits review pertaining to the health insurance. The papers are available at www.afe-adb.org in the Members Corner.

This summarizes the latest information we have.

GMIP Advisory Task Force. ADB convened 2 advisory task forces (ATFs)—one on insurance, and one on pension. Stakeholders were represented on the ATF by AFE; the Budget, Personnel, and Management Systems Department (BPMSD); the Board; and Staff Council; plus two consultant experts in health insurance. AFE representatives on the GMIP ATF were Albertine Santi and myself, with Carina Soriano and Hans-Juergen Springer as alternates. The ATF was chaired by ADB Vice-President Deborah Stokes, who remained deeply involved in all the discussions. For brevity, in this article, "BPMSD" refers both to BPMSD and VP Stokes.

This article is intended to share broadly the findings of the GMIP (or health insurance) ATF (GMIP ATF); for brevity, here "GMIP" refers to insurance for current and former staff.

The GMIP ATF was convened because ADB wished to explore ways to control costs and make possible additions to the plan (such as preventive, dental, and vision care) to be more comparable with plans used by comparators such as the Inter-American Development Bank, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank. Discussions included plan members' complaints about Cigna's service deficiencies.

Cost Cutting. "Cost containment" was presented primarily in light of the high cost of medical care in the US, which results in 33% of plan reimbursements for medical expenses going for 6% of plan participants. BPMSD suggested introducing and/or adjusting such measures as (1) deductibles, (2) copays, (3) stop-loss floors, (4) Medicare enrollment for those who are eligible and depending on age at entry (this could also require some sort of premium offset), and (5) other items. Insufficient data were presented to ascertain the cost impact of the proposals, on the plan or on individual participants. BPMSD noted that introducing some measures could be cost-saving because bringing ADB's plan for US care in line with the provider's plans in the US may mean a better deal from the insurer.

Broadened Coverage. Possible coverage additions included preventive, dental, and vision care. AFE is of course in favor of increased coverage, but only if affordable.

Cigna's Service. The ATF also focused on the general perception of poor service from Cigna, as demonstrated through the AFE and ATF surveys and communications received from plan participants. BPMSD is intending to develop with Cigna measurable and monitorable service standards, to keep monitoring performance, and to implement penalties when the standards are not met. If the standards are not met, rebidding of the contract could result. (Members have asked "Why not rebid now?" The reason is that comparators' experience shows that rebidding of such contracts is a long and time-consuming project, often entailing problems during any resulting transition.)

Retirees' Premiums. During the ATF, AFE stated that retirees' full premiums should receive ADB subsidy, as is the case for staff. AFE stated that the lack of subsidy for the portion of retirees' premiums that is attributable to the amount above the stop loss is inequitable, onerous, and unique—none of our comparators have such a provision.

Closing the ATF. ADB terminated both ATFs at the end of June. At that time, inadequate data were available for the GMIP ATF to make specific recommendations to ADB Management, which will determine what to do next. Thus, the ATF was concluded with the general ideas that (1) additions to the plan should be considered further, in light of costs; (2) cost containment in the US would be looked at in the same light; and (3) all would be considered in light of affordability. AFE's position was that it could not support changes that might increase costs for participants without knowing first what the impact would be and whether it would be affordable for individuals. Because of the insufficiency of data and the resulting inability to provide advice with a sound financial basis, AFE objected to terminating the GMIP ATF. The ATF final report is available at www.AFE-ADB.org, in the Members Only section.

Moving Forward. BPMSD stated that ADB intends to gather the necessary data, and then to continue with consultations in the 3rd quarter of 2016. AFE stated that, while information had been provided to the extent possible, true consultation cannot commence until all parties have the full information and data needed to cogently discuss matters.

Achievements and Outcomes

- The ATF process is the first time that ADB–BPMSD have involved staff and retirees in deliberations pertaining to changes in health insurance. This is a laudable step in a good direction.
- BPMSD provided much more information on the health insurance than they have previously provided. This information gave the task force a better understanding

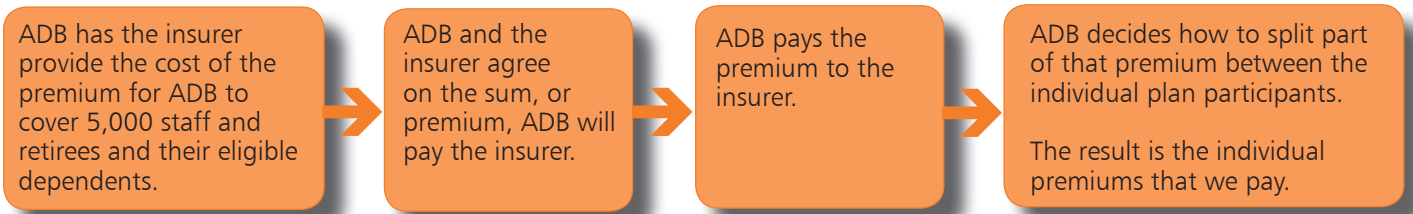
- of the insurance situation. BPMSD stated it intends to provide greater information to plan members
- Due to the need for more data and information, the GMIP ATF was far from being able to provide sound advice.
 - BPMSD is working to improve Cigna's performance by discussing with them service standards and penalties for not meeting them. We hope this will bear fruit. AFE is continuing to work with BPMSD to provide information regarding members' experiences with Cigna's service. What can you expect? We don't really know, because matters have now reverted to BPMSD and Management, but we think the following describes a likely scenario:
 - Information sharing is likely to continue as data become available—much of this has to be gathered from insurance providers. BPMSD stated that feedback will be sought from plan participants prior to implementation of measures.
 - Additions to coverage will depend on cost, and how that cost will be shared by ADB and among plan participants.
 - Costs of healthcare in the US are likely to be contained by measures such as noted above. If such measures go through, they may impact people accessing health care in the US, but the extent of that impact is not yet known. Among AFE members, some are in favor of having users of US health care pay more, but others are against measures that negate the purpose of insurance—which is to share costs.

Pools and Premiums. Several members have questioned (1) how we are in the same "pool" as staff when we pay different premiums, and (2) why did ADB increase our premiums last year when the amounts paid out by Cigna were about the same as they received. Both interesting questions, with rather involved answers that depend on how the terms "pool" and "premium" are used.

Regarding the first question—the "pool"—ADB has the insurer give overall costs for the entire group of us—staff, retirees, and eligible dependents—and considers this to be one pool.

However, when deciding how to charge premiums, ADB uses the insurer's data on costs to the plan of staff and their dependents, and cost to the plan of retirees and their dependents. Thus, one could say we are at this point considered in two "subpools." Which partly explains why we pay much more than staff. Another factor is that the portion of our premium attributable to expenses above the stop-loss is not subsidized at all. About 15% of our expenses are attributed to above the stop-loss (this varies from year to year).

The second question is: What triggers increases in premiums? This happens when costs exceed the estimated premium that ADB pays the insurer, because healthcare costs increase and/or the number of participants in the plan



increases. When this occurs, the insurer asks for an increase of the premium ADB pays it, and ADB passes part of this increase onto us through our individual premiums. So what happened last year is that, for 2 years, the amounts Cigna paid out exceeded what ADB had committed to pay them through its premium.

How does Cigna’s Reimbursement Apply to My Bill? Our insurance has always been secondary to all other discounts and other payments, even before Cigna. Examples of other discounts include (1) national insurance such as Medicare and PhilHealth, (2) other private insurance, (3) senior citizen discounts, and (3) specific hospital or other discounts. Thus, if your bill is \$100, and you get a discount of 20% (\$20) from another insurance and 10% (\$10) as a long-time patron of the hospital, the GMIP pays 75% of the remaining \$70, or \$52.5. It also means that if you buy a drug at a discounted price, the insurance pays 75% of that discounted price—not of a higher price that might have been charged elsewhere. ■

President Nakao Reelected



As noted in *ADB Today*, “On 5 August, the Board of Governors reelected President Nakao for a further 5 years. During his new term, President Nakao hopes to lead ADB to an even more elevated standing as the primary development institution in the region.” ■

AFE–ADB Committees

Publications Committee

Jill Gale de Villa—Head	Anna Juico
Gamaliel de Armas, Jr.	Wickie Mercado
Stephen Banta	David Parker
Julia Holz	Hans-Juergen Springer

Pension Council

Evelyn Fischer	<i>Ex officio</i>
Nick Llave	Hans-Juergen Springer
Brahm Prakash	Jill Gale de Villa
Graham Walter	Julia Holz

Insurance Committee

Jill Gale de Villa—Chair	Albertine Santi
Edward Breckner	Carina Soriano
Evelyn Go	Axel Weber
Dang Fook Lee	Clay Wescott
Ferdinand Mesch	

Chapter Coordinators

Paul Turner—Australia
 Bruce Murray—Canada
 Günter Hecker—Europe
 Barindra Ganguli—India
 Putu Kamayana—Indonesia
 Kazu Sakai—Japan
 Yoong Soo Seo—Republic of Korea
 E. Gordon Fox—New Zealand
 Shahid Mirza—Pakistan
 Gamaliel de Armas, Jr.—Philippines
 Cheng Huat Sim—Singapore
 Ranjith Wirasinha—Sri Lanka
 Clay Wescott—Washington DC, United States (US)
 Lorna del Rosario—New York–New Jersey, US
 Letty Gomez—Southern California, US

Germany 2016

Chapter Coordinators' Meeting

Congress Center • Messe, Frankfurt, Germany • 2 May 2016

Present

President Hans-Juergen Springer (HJS), Vice-President Jill Gale de Villa (JGV), Treasurer Julia Holz (JH)

Chapter Coordinators and representatives: Barin Ganguli (India), Günter Hecker (Europe), Putu Kamayana (Indonesia), Bruce Murray (Canada), Chato O'Buckley (NY–NJ), Colin Pratt (New Zealand), Kazu Sakai (Japan), Paul Turner (Australia), Muhammad Tusneem (Pakistan), Christine Wallich (Washington, DC)

Observers: Nasseer Ahmed, Peter Carroll, Martin Endelman, Ulf Freiwald, Francis Narayan, Donal O'Buckley, David Parker, Makiko Sakai, Robert Wihtol.

Opening

HJS opened the meeting at 9:15 am. The agenda of the current meeting and minutes of the 2015 chapter coordinators' meeting were adopted. JGV noted that HJS had been reelected for 4 years.

President's, Vice President's, and Treasurer's Reports

The three reports were circulated prior to the Annual Meeting. HJS, JGV, and JH highlighted the main points of their reports (pp. 11–12). HJS noted that we have had a very challenging year since ADB's President Nakao instituted a review of the benefits, and we have had to concentrate on these reviews. We have also had issues with secretarial services provided by ADB being temporary and revolving.

Pension Review

The AFE representatives on the pension advisory task force (ATF) are HJS, Nick Llave, and JGV as alternate. HJS noted that yesterday President Nakao said that ADB is respecting the grandfathering of the retiree's pension rights. HJS noted that, for current staff, the pension and discretionary benefit plan are likely to remain the same





Hans-Juergen Springer, Robert Wihtol, and Julia Holz.



Muhammad Tusneem and Christine Wallich.

except that the interest on new discretionary benefits contributions may be at a lower rate than in the past. For staff hired after 2016, the pension plan is likely to be different and to include a defined contribution element.

Health Insurance Review

The representatives on the group medical insurance plan (GMIP) ATF are JGV and Albertine Santi with HJS and Carina Soriano as alternates. JGV noted the most recent meeting of the GMIP ATF was on 27 April. On 8 February, we had asked BPMSD for eight items to help us better decide what might be applicable in terms of the changes to the health insurance. Initially, BPMSD had asked that the ATF members tell BPMSD what we want, from a menu presented. We said we cannot tell you what we want when we don't know how much it costs and what would be the impact on our people. In mid-April we restated the request for data but they said they had been unable to respond because they understaffed and had finally managed to get on board the consultants that they are going to need to prepare part of what we asked for. We do know that they want to add dental and eye care, and preventive medicine. They are also looking at area-based premiums. A lot is being considered but we're nowhere near yet understanding what would be affordable. ADB is pushing to finish with the ATF in June. Many of us on the ATF see this as very difficult.

Regarding Cigna's services, in response to the BPMSD survey, only about 14%–15% of people said they are very dissatisfied. People with issues send us their medical details asking for help, and it is incorrect that people's medical history is all of a sudden out there and available. So we sent a memo asking for other ways of solving these issues, specifically by engaging an intermediary.

Publications and Communications

JGV noted we would like to do a great deal more with social media, but volunteers are needed for this and the website.

Financial Matters

JH first thanked everyone for electing her as treasurer— noting also that she was the only nominee. She made three brief comments. (1) We once again got a clean bill of health on our audit. (2) The subsidy from ADB has remained the same for the last couple of years, at \$24,100. The subsidy supports part of our travel expenses and chapter events. (3) We shared with Staff Council the cost of bringing in Bretton Woods Law to help interpret the changes that ADB was proposing for the pension. Our share was \$13,000 plus, having an impact on the 2015 budget.

Sundry Business

All coordinators congratulated HJS on his re-election and expressed their support for the Executive Committee and representatives to the ATFs on GMIP and SRP. Other comments and queries are summarized as follows:

ADB at 50—2017. Celebrations will be held in Yokohama. Several books are being prepared, one by Peter McCawley, one by the Treasury Department, etc. AFE News could include a section on brief reminiscences submitted by members.

Pension. All present expressed relief that the issue of the COLA has been resolved and that retirees are grandfathered out of any changes to the pension and discretionary benefits.

Medical Insurance. Complaints were aired about service, including claims rejections without adequate reason. The administrator and the insurer should be separate. A medical "ombudsperson" is needed to represent retirees. In Pakistan, more hospitals should be accredited to Cigna.

Emergencies and Surviving Spouses. Members and spouses should fill in the *Survival Handbook* (available from AFE, and online in the members only section of the



Foreground: Chato Ledoñio-O'Buckley, Kazu Sakai, and Bruce Murray.

website) to help provide information in cases of emergency. Surviving spouses continue to be part of the medical plan. In case of death, BPMSD should be notified and will assist. Groups for mutual assistance could be formed, à la the 1818 Society's "People Helping People."

Elections Procedures. Returning Officer Robert Wihtol has submitted his report and recommendations to the Executive Committee after the election for the president. It includes recommending the bylaws be amended to include a voting procedure whereby, when there are only two candidates, voters would indicate only their preferred candidate. Robert noted that confidentiality was maintained by restricting access to the AFE email, and in future a separate email address would be advisable. Electronic voting should be considered, as successfully implemented by comparators. In addition, coordinators noted (1) they need to be shielded from pressure to take sides in an election; (2) candidates should provide one statement of their intentions and qualifications, which is all that is needed; (3) incidences of "negative" campaigning were decreed; (4) the 1818 Society uses a nominating committee to screen candidates for its presidency, a process that could be applicable for at least the chair of AFE; and (5) one position on the Executive Committee remains vacant, and

having former local/national staff represented on the committee would be most welcome.

Chapter Reports/Information were presented: Australia by Paul Turner, Canada by Bruce Murray, India by Barin Ganguli, Indonesia by Putu Kamayana, Japan by Kazu Sakai, NY–NJ by Chato O'Buckley, New Zealand by Colin Pratt, Pakistan by Muhammad Tusneem, and the Philippines by Nannette Medina.

Yolanda Assistance. The Philippines Chapter report noted that donations through AFE had funded 3 houses by Habitat for Humanity, which were ready for occupancy.

Dues. Issues with nonpensioners paying their AFE dues were noted, and solutions such as paying several years at a time, remitting through the country office where one is available, etc. Lifetime membership would likely entail about \$300–\$400 cost.

Utilization of ADB Subsidy. HJS requested coordinators to do their best to fully use their subsidy. India asked that its subsidy be returned to the previous level. He noted that to claim for subsidy, a chapter should likely show a meeting attendance of at least 15–20 people.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon. ■



Officers, coordinators, and representatives: L-r, front: Hans-Juergen Springer, Christine Wallich, Jill de Villa, Julia Holz, Chato Ledoñio-O'Buckley; back: Paul Turner, Kazu Sakai, Bruce Murray, Colin Pratt, Muhammad Tusneem, Günter Hecker, Barin Ganguli, Putu Kamayana.



AFE–ADB 29th Annual General Meeting

Congress Center • Messe, Frankfurt, Germany • 2 May 2016

Opening

President Hans-Juergen Springer opened the meeting at 2 pm and introduced Chairman Bong Suh Lee.

Chairman’s Report



As Chairman of AFE-ADB, I extend to you a very warm welcome. It is indeed very heartening to see so many members attending this year in Frankfurt. We are grateful to the Government of Germany for hosting the ADB Annual Meeting this year, giving us an opportunity to enjoy this city, and to ADB, especially the Office of the Secretary, for

facilitating our participation in this meeting.

Before continuing, let us rise and hold a minute of silence in remembrance of our members who died this year.

Next on the agenda, I congratulate Hans-Juergen Springer on his reelection as AFE president. I have full confidence that he will continue to do an excellent job of running the day-to-day business of AFE, with the headquarters team of Vice President Jill de Villa and Treasurer Julia Holz, and of negotiating with ADB on our benefits.

The ongoing benefits review is of course a matter of great concern to us all, as many retirees are fully reliant on ADB for their old age living, through the pension and health insurance. Without these, some of us would be in very dire straits. We therefore depend on ADB to honor its moral commitments to us as international civil servants. In this regard, I would like to thank the headquarters team and others assisting them—especially Nicolas Llave and Albertine Santi—for their advisory services on the review of the health insurance and pension benefits.

I appreciate very much the continued work of the Chapter Coordinators, who are the glue that keeps their constituencies and the greater AFE membership in touch, provide advice to the headquarters team, and arrange functions and get-togethers.

Thanks are also due to the many members whose advice has been sought and those who assist AFE on its standing committees.

As you know, all the members who assist AFE do so gratis, donating their time and often other resources as well.

I look forward to an interesting meeting this afternoon and to enjoying this beautiful city during our stay.

Minutes of the 2015 AGM

Minutes of last years' meeting had been circulated and were accepted.

President's Report

I reiterate our chairman's warm welcome to the large number of AFE members who have come to Frankfurt.

Last year was certainly challenging for AFE in response to ADB's announcement in June that they were intending to eliminate the 3% COLA floor and change health insurance benefits. Together with the ADB Staff Council, we engaged the London firm of Bretton Woods Law, which supported the AFE position that ADB could not take away these benefits. ADB then modified its position in September to retain the 3% floor but claw back any excess in years where inflation exceeded 3%. In response to AFE feedback and the October information session at ADB given by lawyers invited from Bretton Woods Law, ADB established a Staff Retirement Plan Advisory Task Force (SRP ATF). A second ATF to review ADB's General Medical Insurance Plan was also established, which Vice President Jill will elaborate on a little later on.

The SRP ATF has met 4 times. While no final decision has been made by Management or the Board of Directors, President Nakao, in his talk to us last night, said that ADB would respect the principle of grandfathering our pension rights. We should feel comfortable that our pensions are not going to be affected. The changes coming will be for new hires.

The SRP and GMIP have taken up a lot of our time, and most other AFE projects were sidelined for lack of human resources. We did manage to improve our website, thanks to Jill (*Ed: and Julia*), and include a password-protected members' directory on it. Other projects, like pursuit of social media for networking, linking of our databases, changes to election procedures, and review of a need to increase AFE dues, await completion of the work on the SRP and GMIP.

We now have about 2,800 AFE members, of whom about 55% are retirees. Around 500 of our members still need to be contacted by post, which is time and labor intensive. For some years, we have been considering, in discussion with chapter coordinators, whether to increase our dues. After

an internal decision has been made, we will submit the recommendation for approval by the membership.

Let me now thank our chapter coordinators who are the vital link between the AFE Executive Committee and the membership at large. Heartfelt thanks also goes to the members of our pension, publications, and insurance committees. A special thanks to ADB for its financial, in-kind, and other support. I'd also like to thank my fellow officers, Jill and Julia, as well as our hard-working administrative assistants, especially our long-serving Malou Magalued.

Vice President's Report

GMIP ATF. The "Advisory" part of the names of the task forces is very important, because basically what we do is talk among ourselves and then pass our suggestions on to management. They make the decisions: we do not. Albertine Santi and I are the representatives to the ATF and Hans Springer and Carina Soriano are the alternates. The 3rd ATF meeting has been deferred until May 24, mainly because we were waiting for BPMSD to provide answers, including to 8 specific items we felt we needed to provide proper advice. BPMSD has now hired 2 consultants to assist with this: an actuary and a consultant experienced with World Bank on precisely these issues. The consultant, Deborah Wright, is forthright and frank, and had many useful suggestions based on her experience with the same issues at World Bank.

At this stage, we don't know what will be recommended. What is being talked about for staff is adding dental, eye care, and increased preventive medicine. Before agreeing, AFE wants to see figures on what this would cost us.

Another difficult issue is premiums by area coverage. Some people will say, "I can't afford global coverage, but I need it or deserve it." The world economies are rebalancing, and one of the most expensive medical locations now is Hong Kong. How will this be approached?

We have prepared a paper for ATF members on retirees' needs such as those above. The paper was drafted with inputs from Ted Breckner, Gordon Fox, Gunter Hecker, Julia Holz, Bruce Murray, John Rive, Albertine Santi, Carina Soriano, Axel Weber, and, of course, Hans. The paper puts



forward general needs of international civil servants. As stated on pp. 19-20 of the 2015 Report of the UN Secretary General: Managing After-Service Health Insurance Liabilities.

Serving staff members contribute to the funding of their health insurance knowing that, while they are in service, those contributions will in aggregate exceed the benefits they will receive. The excess contributions generated by active staff will be allocated to balancing out the aggregate deficit in respect of former staff members.

Cigna's Services. Dissatisfaction with Cigna's services is growing among our members and current staff. We have sent a request to BPMSD to hire a consultant to be the interface between our insured members and Cigna. At a recent meeting with BPMSD and the 2 consultants, the head of the benefits unit said, "Great! This is what we need." The Staff Council is preparing the same sort of memo, so hopefully it will have some impact.

The Cigna contract expires this year, but a new contract cannot be done because we haven't even decided yet what we want in it. Part of the ATF's job is to make some recommendations that will then go to Management, then back to BPMSD, which would then go out for bidding—at least an 8 or 9 month period. Thus, a contract extension is needed, and we've asked for service standards to be included.

Publications and Communications. The AFE News continues to be published twice yearly. Your articles are the heart and soul. Our electronic communications have suffered from lack of time, though I spent much of my Christmas holiday updating information and visual content in the new website, which has finally been launched. The bottom line is that the three of us officers in AFE are not enough. We are really looking for volunteers. And we want to know what you're thinking and how you think we can best move forward. Thanks for your continued support and advice and for responding to the surveys. Fifty-one percent of our members actually responded to the health survey, and that was a great help!

Treasurer's Report

I want to highlight just a few points to you based on information in the financial statements, which you also received with the Treasurer's Report.

First, we once again received a clean audit opinion from ADB's auditors—who are also our auditors. It was in accordance with US GAAP accounting rules. There were no issues in the bookkeeping or in the records.

The second point is that we are dependent on the annual subsidy that we get from ADB. It is \$24,100 and has been the same for the past few years. We haven't actually dared to ask for an increase when ADB is so conscious of cutting back

on its expenses. Much of this subsidy goes to the chapter coordinators to support their events that are held throughout the year. Some of it goes to support our website, and some of it goes to our travel expenses to the Annual Meeting and to chapter events. So we rely on and are grateful for the subsidy.

Third and last is that we had higher expenses this past year. As has already been explained, this was due to the cost of bringing in counsel of Bretton Woods Law to help interpret and defend us with our pension issue. We shared the expense with the Staff Council. The AFE share was \$13,174, which increased our expenses and reduced our total assets by a small number. Total assets are now \$155,977 as of end-2015. A good part of our operating income, however, in addition to the ADB subsidy, comes from the annual fee that we charge members and the joining fee from new members. So I want to encourage all of you to help us out by convincing any colleagues or former employees you know that it'll definitely be worth their while to join with us. It's a very small annual fee and a very small joining fee, but we need the income to support our activities, especially if we have unusual expenses like we had last year.

Other Business

The president noted that in comparator Washington-based institutions, staff from the parent organization present at the alumni annual meetings a report on health insurance and pensions. In our case, the annual meeting is far from Manila. ADB is not going to send staff to give us a briefing. For several years BPMSD has prepared a statement on pensions and insurance. This year, it wasn't yet ready.

Responses to queries were as follows:

ADB might raise the retirement age by 3–5 years, but no decisions have been made yet on how that will affect current staff.

Representation on the ATFs includes from the Board, BPMSD, and Staff Council. For the SRP ATF, the Controller, the Treasurer, and the General Counsel are also represented.

The line amount "Voluntary Contributions" came about when life members [exempt from annual dues when these were introduced] could continue to pay on a voluntary basis. Anyone who does so will get a receipt.

No discussions have taken place with BPMSD on other insurance schemes (life and long-term care) for lack of time and low numbers of interested parties.

Hans' and Jill's relationship with ADB is based on a pro forma consultant's contract without pay. This relationship arose so that ADB could help defend them in the event of a court case against members of the pension committee.

Adjournment

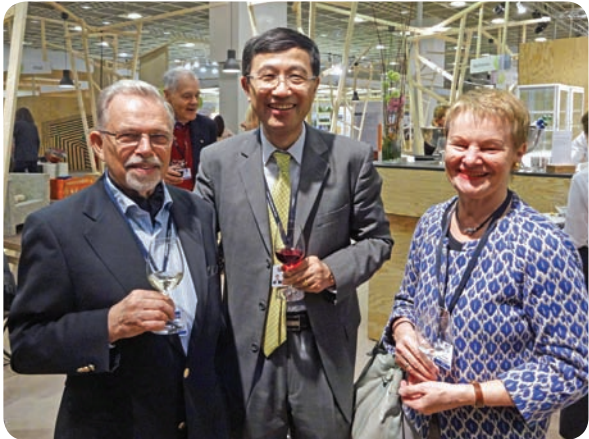
With no further questions from the floor, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm. ■

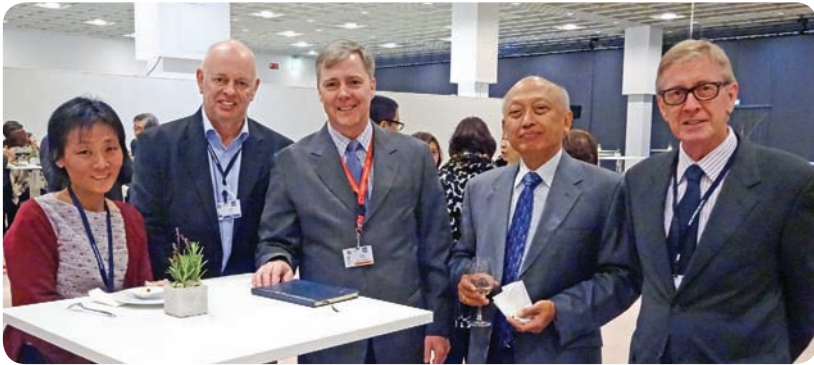
Opening and Cocktails

AFE Cocktails

AFE's cocktails were held the night before the opening day of ADB's Annual Meeting activities. As a result, some gymnastics were needed to allow people who had not yet registered to enter the Congress Center, followed by some good walking to get to the cocktail venue. The cocktails were well attended, and the highlight of the evening was of course President and Mrs. Nakao, and especially President Nakao noting that our pensions and their provisions were to be grandfathered. We all enjoyed our cocktails with a sense of relief and camaraderie.









Opening Ceremonies

Frankfurt was pleasantly relaxed, and we all enjoyed what Annie Romero Jameson described as “a powerful and compelling performance about climate change,” followed by speeches—President Nakao on ADB’s work, and Germany’s Minister for Cooperation and Development Gerd Müller, Chancellor Angela Merkel on the importance of development, and a truly brilliant and inspiring discussion of the state of the world by Horst Koehler—former German President and head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the International Monetary Fund—see www.afe-adb.org for transcripts.



Around Frankfurt

Hans-Juergen Springer, Jill Gale de Villa

As the accompanying persons tours were rather pricey, some signed up, others did their own thing on foot, the hop-on-hop-off buses, and river cruises.

Walking Frankfurt (JGV). Before the meeting, Jill and Julia Holz did the 3-hour walking tour—"Frankfurt on Foot"—with Dave Ator, an American guide and owner of this tour experience. The excellent tour took us through the byways, with humorous, sometimes irreverent, and always interesting stories and information about what we were seeing.

The tour starts and ends at the Römerberg—Frankfurt's heart, which is finally being renovated and restored after two destructions: WW2 bombing, and post-WW2 unattractive building. The result is both attractive and attracting, definitely a place to see and wander through. The Römer itself is an attractive medieval building that has housed the city hall for over 6 centuries. Couples who are married there go out to the plaza's central Fountain of Justice for a champagne toast after the ceremony—I was happy to see two such celebrations during my visits to the Römerberg.

At the opposite corner of the Römerberg is charming little Old St. Nicholas Church, first built in the 12th century. The current structure dates from the 15th century and is one of few buildings that suffered little damage curing WW2.

From our meeting point, we wandered along the works—digs that are exposing Frankfurt's past for future visitors to enjoy—to St Bartholomew's Cathedral. Here, starting in the 14th century, German kings were elected and crowned. The cathedral has been restored, and its red stone interior and soaring architecture amaze and please, as does



Old St. Nicholas Church, Römerberg, Frankfurt.

Bishop Johann Karl von Franckenstein, d. 1691;
St. Bartholomew's
Cathedral.



its remarkable statuary. Indeed, one statue looks so much like Gunter Hecker that we felt he was with us.

Then on to the River Main. On the way we passed Haus Wertheim, the only wood building in Frankfurt to survive WW2. From a bridge where people place locks signifying love and faithfulness, we could view both sides of the river, and buildings housing many excellent museums, well worth several days' visit. Next, a look at Frankfurt's upscale central street and a walk past the Old Opera House, known for many years as "Germany's most beautiful ruin." Saved from demolition by civic protests, it was reopened in 1981.

Then a stroll through what was an extensive Jewish ghetto in medieval times. We paused to reflect briefly behind the Museum Judengasse, at the Jewish cemetery, with a wall naming WW2 deportees, most of whom did not survive the war.

Römer.





Picturesque town of Hoechst.



Eschenheimer Turm.

Then more wanderings, to the Eschenheimer Turm, once one of the gates to the city.

Finally, we found ourselves back at Römerberg, for a look at St Paul's Church. Started as a Lutheran church in 1789, it became the seat of Frankfurt's Parliament. The building is currently used for events.

Briefly, during this marvelous tour, we found time for a delicious lunch at the market: one of Frankfurt's "must" experiences.

Main River and Hoechst (JGV). One of the official tours took us by boat to Hoechst. The tour company had inserted a 2-hour walk in the rain around Frankfurt. Bong Suh Lee, Chung Sik Park,

Julia, and Jill retired to a traditional café in Haus Wertheim, and enjoyed apple wine, coffee, and tea before rejoining the other participants on a short cruise as the rain mercifully let up. Hoechst had been largely preserved through WW2, and we enjoyed a brief walk (only 2 hours remained to us) through this very picturesque town to St. Justin's Church, dating to 1830, and a stroll by the small Hoechst Castle. Then a bus ride back to Frankfurt.



Hoeschst Castle.



St. Paul's Church.

Rüdesheim and the River Rhine (HJS). Before the fun started, participants had to take in a bit of 19th century German history. The bus took us to the Niederwalddenkmal on the way to Germany's most popular wine town in the Rhine Valley, Rüdesheim. The Niederwalddenkmal is an outsized monument commemorating the unification of Germany in 1871, after dozens of German kingdoms, duchies, and principalities had existed side-by-side and at times battled each other during the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation. This 38-meter (m) tall monument sits peacefully amidst vineyards overlooking the River Rhine. Germania, the female personification of Germany as seen by Germans during the romantic period in the first half of

the 19th century, towers over the monument, holding crown and sword as the imperial scepters of that time.

From the monument, we went downhill by gondola lift to Rudesheim, the main attraction of our tour. Rudesheim, an important wine making town in the Rhine Valley, is part of the Rhine Valley's UNESCO World Heritage Site. This picturesque town in the Rheingau landscape was first settled by the Celts, then occupied by Roman legions, and is now firmly in the hands of tourists. We were among the people admiring the town's many beautifully decorated restaurants and taverns. Its most famous part in the old town is Drosselgasse, a 144-m long but very narrow lane crowded with tourists from all corners of the globe.

Our group settled down for lunch and, of course, some Rhein wine in one of the town's most famous restaurants, Rudesheimer Schloss. As the weather god was good to us, we could sit in the restaurant's pretty garden. As it was Father's Day in Germany, an all male a capella choir entertained us with popular songs. Some of us might have wanted to linger for some more Rhein wine, but the next attraction was waiting for us: a boat tour on the River Rhine.

The sun continued to shine on us as the river journey took us along the gentle bends of the Rhine, every few kilometers threatened by a medieval



Germania Monument.



Medieval castle along the River Rhine.

castle—a threat that had existed for hundreds of years in the past.

When the river narrowed somewhat, the ship came to a sharp bend. The Lorelei bend near the town of St. Goarshausen is famous for its steep slate rock and notorious for its many shipwrecks in the past. Lorelei was accused of bewitching young men and causing their death. The local bishop had therefore no choice but to consign her to a nunnery. Along the way she asked permission to climb the steep rock—132 m above the river. From there she saw her beloved River Rhine for the last time before falling to her death from the cliff. Sailors believed that she was still up there, sitting on the rock, and over the centuries that distraction has caused a lot of ships to crash on the rocks.

The German poet Heinrich Heine cast myth into a beautiful poem about Lorelei. In 1837, this fine poem was set to music and is now part of German popular culture. ■

*I know not if there is a reason
Why I am so sad at heart
A legend of bygone ages
Haunts me and will not depart*

*The fairest of maidens is sitting
So marvelous up there
Her golden jewels are shining
She's combing her golden hair*

*In his little heart the boatman
Is seized with a savage woe
He'd rather look up at the mountain
Then drown at the rocks below.*



Participants



Axel Hebel
 Günter and Enriqueta Hecker
 Rudolf Hennes
 Uwe Henrich
 Gerhard Kahl
 Barbara Lochmann
 Carola Molitor
 Karin Oswald
 Wolf Preuss
 Ursula Schaefer-Preuss
 Gunther and Helga Schulz
 Hans-Juergen Springer
 and Elizabeth Reyes
 Peter and Marilies von Brevern

Celia Consing and Goha de Camillar
 Peter Darjes
 Jill Gale de Villa
 Carmen Dimayuga and Cornellos Rolls
 William and Cristina Ferguson
 Gloria Ferry
 Sandra and Rodolfo Gonzales
 Julia Holz
 Evangelina Lapid
 Natividad Medina
 Nenita Muñoz
 Carolina T. Navarro
 David and Arnie Parker
 Anita Quisumbing
 James and Diana Rockett
 Leodegario Saet
 and Jocelyn Tresplacios
 Teresita Salazar
 Jade Tolentino
 Gloria and Norberto Tria
 Cecilia and Ferdinand Tuason

Australia

Peter and Ngoc-Chân Carroll
 Martin and Margaret Endelman
 Peter McCawley and Anne Willoughby
 Paul Turner

India

Shyam and Ranjini Bajpai
 Barin and Shipra Ganguli
 Khaja and Naseem Moinuddin

Austria

Angelita Bildstein
 Ulf and Monique Freiwald

Indonesia

Putu and Wati Kamayana

Canada

Anisa Jameson
 Donald Kidd
 Bruce and Emma Murray

Japan

Yasushi Kanzaki
 Kazu and Makiko Sakai
 Tsuyoshi Takahashi

Denmark

Peter Pedersen

Korea, Republic of

Bong-Suh Lee

Egypt

Loida Julieta Sehgal

Mauritius

Cecile Li Hoi Foo Gregory
 and Patrick Chane Hin

Finland

Robert Wihtol

Netherlands

John and Jenny Lintjer

France

Patrick Pillon

New Zealand

Francis Narayan
 John Colin Pratt
 Hans and Ingerd Forberg

Germany

Peter and Mi-sook Brinkmann
 Akiko Bucher
 Gerd Drosesse
 Peter and Anette Becht-Fedon
 Wolfgang Gruber

Philippines

Edna and Michael Austria
 Simon Baily-Gibson
 Honorina Borja
 Hans-Peter Brunner

Sweden

Ingrid Holfelt
 Birgitta Noorzoy

Switzerland

Giuseppe Ballocci

Taipei, China

Yue-Lang Feng

Thailand

Newin Sinsiri

United Kingdom

Ramesh and Sheela Adhikari
 Roger Burston
 Daud Ilyas
 William and Jeanette Thomson

United States

Carmelita Aquilizan
 Sayed and Assia S. Baha
 Philip Erquiaga
 Flordeliza Marcial
 Y-Chie Primo and Milagros Rolls
 Christine Wallich

Chapter News

Canada—Mid-2016 Update

Bruce Murray (ADB 1980–2007)



During the first half of 2016, a note summarizing key matters of interest was forwarded to all Canadian AFE chapter members. The note covered (1) a report on the AFE Annual General Meeting held in Frankfurt during ADB's 2016 Annual Meeting, (2) ADB's operational performance in 2015, (3) pension matters, (3) reform of ADB's health insurance, (4) AFE's financial position, (5) the recent AFE election and suggestions for improvements in the process, and (6) activities planned to celebrate ADB at 50. Two items were particularly appreciated by Canadian AFEers: (1) President Nakao's announcement that ADB will respect grandfathering for current pensioners and staff—thus, there should not be changes in our pensions; and (2) AFE being represented on ADB's pension and health insurance reform committees. Although some informal get togethers were held in during the first half of 2016, the major opportunities to renew friendships and catch up on the news with fellow AFEers will be held later in the year.



Toronto. The AFE Toronto group, led by Nida Rodrigo, was very active in the first half of 2016, organizing potlucks and other get togethers. The year began with the Toronto AFE–ADB Winter Bowlathon on 29 January 2016, organized by Coach Bisoy and Loungay Trasporto. The minus mid-teen wind-chill did not dampen the seniors, who filled the night with turkeys, solid strikes, spares, gutter balls, food, and camaraderie. The mouth-watering rose apple cakes baked



Bowling Night 2016. L-r: standing: Rolly and Helen Duenas, Guia Estabillo, Annie Jameson, Ellen Ballares, Ron Jameson, Leah Flores, Lea Gojo, Malou and Jun Trasporto; seated: Ernie Flores, Tito and Nida Jugo, Rey Ballares.



Hawaiian Summer Potluck, 9 July 2016. L-r: standing : Jun Trasporto, Rey Ballares, Ed Ravadila, Boy Amiglejo, Tito Jugo, Jenny Amiglejo, Brenda Morata, Malou Trasporto, Meng Perez, Paz Ravadila, Nida Rodrigo Jugo; seated: Vanessa de Villa, Ron Jameson, Lindy Trabulsi, Cora Fegi-Tiu, Annie Jameson, Guia Estabillo, Mike Trabulsi.



Valentine 2016. L-r. Standing: Jun and Malou Trasporto, Ron and Annie Jameson, Rey and Ellen Ballares, Dodo Ledesma, Guia Estabillo, Lea Gojo, Ed and Paz Ravadilla, Bernadette Sta Maria; Seated: Ching Ledesma, Tito and Nida Jugo.

by Guia Estabillo were works of art and highly appreciated by all. Other bowling events were held in February and April. Nida organized AFE—ADB Toronto’s Valentine/Family Sunday Brunch at Lula Lounge. It included a wonderful buffet, beginner dance lessons, and live music featuring the vibrant sounds of Latin dance favorites. The -31°C wind chill was warmed by the sizzling enthusiasm of the AFE—ADB Toronto family to celebrate *hapi balentaym*. Mike and Linda Trabulsi opened their house to host Toronto AFE’s July potluck. The AFE Toronto regulars in colorful mu-mus, leis, and Hawaiian shirts, were joined by four guests—balik-Toronto Meng Perez and Dr. Vanessa de Villa (Jill’s niece) from Manila, Brenda Morata from Washington DC, and Cora Fegi Tiu from Toronto. The afternoon was filled with nonstop laughter, anecdotes, and, of course, food. Mother nature cooperated with temperatures in the high 20°C s and a nice breeze.

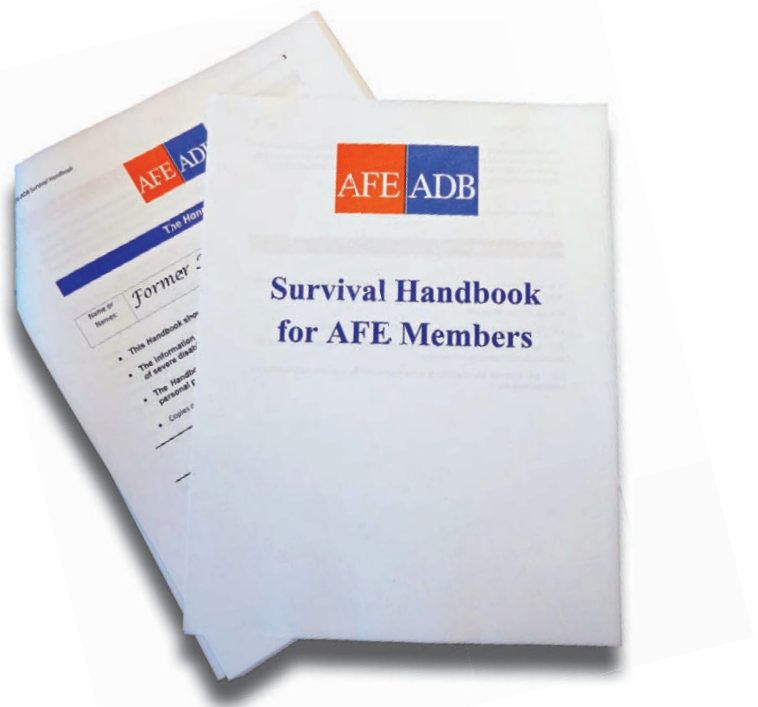
Ed: Toronto exemplifies our wonderful AFE bayanihan spirit. When I learned Vanessa was going to Toronto for a year’s fellowship at Toronto General Hospital, I asked Nida and the Toronto group if they could help her. They opened their arms to her and provided lots of support. Many thanks from Vanessa, her parents, and of course me!

Vancouver Island Ladies Lunch: The Vancouver Island ADB ladies held their annual lunch on 13 April 2016 at the Malahat Mountain Inn. A good time was had by all over great food and conversations that shared memories and brought everyone up to date on their most recent happenings, all overseen by a mysterious guest.



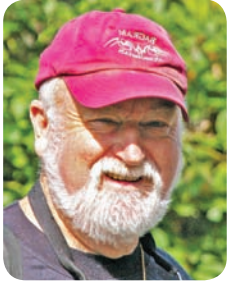
Vancouver summer lunch. Left, back to front: Bill Fraser, Xiaoping Xia, Lew Hayashi, and Kimlin Lim; Right, back to front: Weimin Yang, Age Bah, Chris Wesley, and John Kuiper.

Vancouver ADB Retirees Summer Lunch: Yang Weimin organized his annual summer lunch for ADB retirees living in Vancouver. The eight AFEers took advantage of Kimlin Lim’s expertise to meet at the Banana Leaf Malaysia Restaurant and delegate the food ordering to him. Everyone agreed that he did a great job and enjoyed the taste of Malaysia and talking about old times and recent developments in ADB. ■



New Zealand— Dunedin Reunion

Ron Hamilton (ADB 1981–1986)



The New Zealand Chapter's 2016 reunion was held in March, in Dunedin, one of New Zealand's southernmost cities. An attendance of 19 made for a happy and interested group.

Dunedin was founded in 1848 by settlers from Scotland. It became a substantial city once gold was discovered in Otago, of

which Dunedin is the major city. It became a source of considerable wealth and investment for the rest of New Zealand. The city was also the site for New Zealand's first university, which remains one of the major activities underpinning Dunedin's economy.

Dunedin Railway Station.



One of the many pleasures Dunedin provides is the Victorian and Edwardian architecture that has survived the developers' demolition hammers. It is also an access to wildlife havens—including one of the few mainland nesting places for the Royal Albatross and rare breeds of penguins. Nearby Orokonui provides an opportunity to view protected native bird life (see "Around Dunedin" in the "People, Places, and Passages" section). The city is also an entré to Central Otago and its mountain and lakeside resorts, and many fine vineyards.

The reunion provided New Zealand, English, Canadian, and Australian AFE members an opportunity to sample a few of the Dunedin highlights. Among the participants was Jill de Villa, who provided a detailed

insight into some of the issues AFE–ADB is addressing in regard to pensions and insurance. Jill's contribution was very much appreciated.

Taieri Gorge Railway. In addition to socializing and eating good food, the two main activities were a trip on the famous Taieri Gorge Railway. Although the heavy rain took some of the gloss off the day, the scenery more than compensated for the poor weather. The railway, which originally had terminated in the foothills of the Southern Alps and on the perimeter of the Lakes district, is now a trip up the Gorge to the Strath-Taieri plateau. The views included the rain-swollen river and rugged cliffs. The route also takes people to and from the famous Central Otago Rail Trail.



On the Taieri Gorge Train.

Taieri Gorge Railway.



Baldwin Street and Larnach Castle. On the second day, we saw some of Dunedin’s urban sights—including Baldwin Street, the “steepest street in the world”—before setting out to see the Otago Peninsula. I pointed out a number of places where I had lived as a child and teenager.

Lunch was at Larnach Castle, a mansion constructed in the 1800s on a hill above the Otago Harbour. The castle sits within a World Heritage garden. Josh, our driver and guide, showed us around the castle and its Victorian furnishings and memorabilia. The Castle has a tragic history. Its builder, William Larnach, was a local entrepreneur and became a Member of Parliament. After his first wife died, he wed her much younger sister. But he later took his own life, in the Parliamentary Buildings, in Wellington. The rumor is that a son was paying too close an attention to Larnach’s second wife. The castle is reportedly haunted by its tragedies; while none of us saw ghosts, we were on the lookout for them.

The Castle provides splendid views of Otago Harbour and the hills surrounding Dunedin. And, leaving the Castle, our tour towards Taiaroa Head skirted the Harbour, passing by Portobello and the Quarantine Islands—Dunedin’s version of New York’s Ellis Island, at the beginning of the 20th Century.

Flying High. The next highlight was the Albatross Colony, sited above the entrance to Otago Harbour, on Taiaroa Head. From a secure, indoor viewing area, we thrilled at the sight of a few albatross circling the hillock on which the colony was placed. Chicks, bigger than their parents, dotted the hillside. Seeing a parent land and stagger to one of the chicks to feed it was a big moment.



Male albatross (wing span of about 3 meters) preparing to land to feed his chick.

Seals and Seaside. At nearby Nature’s Wonders, rugged, all-terrain eight-wheel vehicles took us down to a number of viewing areas above the Pacific Ocean. We saw seals, including many young ones frolicking in pools, and many sea birds. At one place, we saw just a couple of yellow-headed penguins. The few on shore were hiding in the long



Seal.



Ross Clendon at Larnach Castle.



Mike and Pat Ryan, Andrew Proctor, Leith Hamilton, Jill de Villa, Ann Proctor, Gordon Fox at Larnach Castle.



Excursion on all-terrain vehicles has us hanging on tightly.

were the pathways. Stone and concrete buildings adjacent to the route were evidence of former Army installations, manned by the Home Guard during the two World Wars. Notwithstanding the distance from Japan, New Zealand feared invasion. Indeed, as a very young boy, I used to play in slit trenches provided for shelter in the event of air raids—and these had been sited across the road from the Reunion Motor Inn.

Dining at Carey's Bay. The official dinner was held at the Carey's Bay Hotel, a restored stone hotel (b. 1973) in Port Chalmers on the Western side of Otago Harbour. We were delighted

grass above the water. It was moulting season and the birds tended to hide for a number weeks. And the blue penguins had just finished moulting and were out to sea replenishing their seriously depleted fat layer.

Everyone enjoyed being on the rugged cliff-sides above the ocean. It was a glorious, still afternoon with skies so clear it seemed almost possible to see South America, the next land to the East. All had to cling on to any place in the vehicle that provided a grip, so rugged

to learn that our delicious dinner was prepared by Filipinos—Head Chef Jhonny Dain and his wife Evjahjane. As Colin Pratt had retired as Chapter Coordinator at the annual meeting, the Chapter presented him with a special bottle in thanks for his good service to the membership.

The reunion ended on the Thursday morning, when people left for home or to see other parts of the South Island. ■



Carey's Bay Hotel. Back row: Frank Sharpley, Jane Hourihan, Evjah Dain, Marian Bond, Colin Pratt, Ed Hourihan, Mike Ryan, Pat Ryan, Catherine Sharpley, Gaye Andrews, Stu Andrews, Anne Proctor; Front row: Jill Gale de Villa, Chef Jhonny Dain, Ross Clendon, Carol Clendon, Leith Hamilton, Ron Hamilton, Gordon Fox, Rosemary Fox, Andrew Proctor.

People, Places, and Passages

Socioeconomic Planning Secretary

Ernesto M. Pernia (ADB 1986–2004)



Ed: After 18 years in the economics office at ADB, Ernie was director of research at the University of the Philippines for about 2 decades, where he continues to teach and is a UP School of Economics professor emeritus.

New Secretary. Ernie Pernia has been appointed Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning by the Philippines’ new President, Rodrigo R. Duterte.

Ernie will also be heading up the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) as its Director-General.

He said “NEDA will focus on a multipronged approach to reduce poverty through Duterte’s 10-point economic agenda that include regional and rural development, tax reforms, boosting agriculture and tourism sectors, and improving the conditional cash transfer program.”

Programs will also be focused on maintaining current sound macroeconomic policies, keeping infrastructure spending at 5% of gross domestic product, and easing ownership restrictions for foreign investors.

Ernie told ABS–CBN that “the ten-point agenda are intended to achieve, not just ‘inclusive growth’ in general, but poverty- and inequality-reducing economic growth. Inclusive growth has become a cliché and is often confused with many other things.”

On 8 July, President Nakao congratulated Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III and Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia on their appointments, and “expressed support for the new administration’s 10-point Economic Agenda and affirmed ADB’s strong partnership for promoting sustainable economic growth, reducing poverty, and improving the welfare and livelihoods of Filipinos.” (ADB. *ADB Today*. 8 July 2016; ABS–CBN News, Cathy Yang’s Market Edge. 23 May 2016).



Philippine Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III, ADB President Takehiko Nakao, Philippine Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia.

Balik ADB. On 22 July, Amading Astudillo arranged a luncheon gathering of Filipino ExPros (Filipino former international staff of ADB) to honor Ernie. About 25 people attended, including retirees and current staff. Ernie shared how he became involved with the administration. He is related by marriage to Duterte, and shares common roots in Cebu. Ernie got to know Duterte, and became an early supporter of his candidacy, and advisor, and volunteered to help his campaign by working on the economic aspects. Ernie hasn’t changed—still quiet, slightly reticent, relaxed, and with a good sense of humor. He noted how his popularity had increased since his appointment, and that he prefers to avoid crowds. A former seminarian who considers his words well, Ernie is quite a contrast to the flamboyant Duterte.



Some of the attendees, l-r, seated: Oscar Gendrano, Hans-Juergen Springer, Ernie Pernia, Amading Astudillo, Joaquin Gochoco, Bennie Serafica; standing: Vicky Tan, Richard Bolt (Philippines Country Office Director), Joel Mangahas, Robie Espiritu, David Parker, Gam de Armas, Gaudencie Hernandez (Philippine Executive Director), Virgie Castillo, Dean Velasco, Rene Limjoco, Philip Fajardo, Manny Faelnar, Sid David, Stella Schapero, Jill Gale de Villa, Leah Gutierrez. Not shown: Ronald Chan, Robie Espiritu, Carmela Locsin, Dong Santiago.



Listening to Ernie: Gam de Armas, Bennie Serafica, Richard Bolt, Sid David, Fred Pascual.

Ernie elaborated on the 10-point agenda and responded to queries. He noted that Duterte gives great importance to, among other things, improving the country's infrastructure, continuing the conditional cash transfer program that was partly funded by ADB, and implementing the reproductive health initiative. ■

**For information
on membership contact
afe-adb@adb.org**

or visit <http://afe-adb.org>

A Heidelberg High

**Donal O'Buckley (Chato Ledoñio-O'Buckley
ADB 1981–1990)**



Chato Ledoñio-O'Buckley and I have been married now for nearly 25 years, and since we've met she continually tells me of the great times she had working at ADB with wonderful people. Being the New York City lawyer and cynic, I said "Yeah, yeah I'm

sure it was great." But this trip to the ADB annual meeting has shown me what Chato was talking about. I can write paragraphs and paragraphs about how much I enjoyed and learned from the entire annual meeting but for this article I'm confined to just one part.

Prior to going to Germany to attend the annual meeting Chato asked if I was interested in an excursion from Frankfurt to Heidelberg to see the Castle and walk the streets the Filipino National hero José Rizal walked, which was being organized by Günter Hecker and his lovely wife Enriqueta, who live in Heidelberg, Germany. Having been to Germany and visited Heidelberg as a young man, I thought it would be a great experience to see it again to see how it may have changed. Chato signed



Günter Hecker.

us up and immediately we were contacted by email with an aerial photo of the bus pick-up point and an explanation of the itinerary. I knew Germans were meticulous and exact, but Günter had everything planned down to the last-second details of the tour.

On Wednesday, 5 May 2016, we awaited the tour in front of the Annual Meeting venue. The bus was a luxurious coach with seats that you just melt into. On the 1-hour bus ride, Günter told us fun facts and history of Heidelberg, highlighted by reciting an insightful letter from José Rizal when he lived there, to his sister Trining in the Philippines. One of the letter's topics was the differences between German and Filipino women—remarkably, things have not changed much. The 50 participants listened to more anecdotes by Günter, Amading Astudillo, and Y-Chie Primo, and enjoyed the scenic ride.

Heidelberg Castle. Heidelberg hadn't change a bit from my memory as a young man. The remnants of the castle on the Königstuhl hillside were visible from within the city limits, its majesty overlooking the Neckar River and city below. We were split into two groups for our guided tour of Heidelberg Castle. I found it amazing how the castle had been created in the 1300s, then plundered, burned, and sacked over 300 years and even struck by lightning in 1764, and yet its premises are still beautiful



Heidelberg Castle.

today. Since the early 1800s a full restoration was considered and partly attempted but never completed. I was truly amazed by the largest wine barrel in the world waiting for me in the basement of the castle. The barrel was built in 1751, is nearly 24 feet in diameter, and holds up to 220,000 liters of wine. And a staircase leads up to a dance floor on top of the barrel. Wow, the Germans know how to party!

Rizal in Germany. After touring the Castle, we rode the Heidelberger Bergbahn funicular railway down to the Kornmarkt, where our walking tour of the path of José Rizal started. We met Dr. Fritz Hack-Ullmer, the great-grandson of Pastor Karl Ullmer, who had provided his home in Wilhelmsfeld to José Rizal for 3 months in 1886. Dr. Ullmer guided us along the Heidelberg streets that Rizal had walked and the buildings where he studied and worked in Heidelberg. After stopping at the Church of Heidelberg, we continued down the Hauptstrasse, a pedestrian street full of every shop, store, and restaurant one can imagine.



Ullmer house.

Lunch was at the New Shanghai Chinese Restaurant, which had a full buffet with the Filipino meal necessity—rice. After lunch we boarded the bus for the 15–20 minute ride to Wilhelmsfeld. At Wilhelmsfeld we were greeted at José Rizal Park by the town's Mayor Hans Zellner, who kindly welcomed us. The Order of the Knights of Rizal Sir Werner H. Filsinger, Area Commander for Germany, also greeted us, and said that he hoped we felt the spirit of Rizal while visiting this monument. The speakers mentioned that we were the biggest group of visitors they had welcomed, although they've received many official Philippine delegations through the years.

The park has a life-sized metal statue of José Rizal over a pool with concrete portions to represent the



Philippine National Hero statue in José Rizal Park, Wilhelmsfeld, Germany.

islands of the Philippines. There were also memorial busts of the “friends of Rizal”— Pastor Karl Ullmer, Professor Ferdinand Blumentritt, Dr. Rudolf Virchow, and Dr. Otto Becker—all of whom exchanged ideas and education between themselves and Rizal. In

fact, the day before his execution, Rizal wrote a letter to Blumentritt acknowledging him as “my best, dear friend.” The park overlooked a beautiful valley with multiple hues of green. After a question and answer session with Mayor Zellner, we visited the house of Pastor Ullmer. Then we stopped for coffee and black forest cake. During this time, the Filipino contingent noted how they did feel Rizal’s spirit and such pride over his accomplishments in this faraway land.

Loida Furigay Seghal noted: “No other moment have I felt more nationalistic and ever proud as a Filipino than the day we had a tour to historic Heidelberg and town of Wilhelmsfeld when we followed the footsteps of Dr. José Rizal, our national hero. It is amazing how the Germans in Wilhelmsfeld have such high regard, love, and respect for our National Hero. In the speech by the Mayor of Wilhelmsfeld and Head of the Knights of Rizal, I learned and it made me so happy, impressed, and proud knowing that every person in Wilhelmsfeld, young and old, know Dr. José Rizal and so much about his works. His literary piece *Flowers of Heidelberg* is one of the most famous. Wilhelmsfeld is the place Dr. Rizal lived when he was writing his novel *Noli Me Tangere*. The Rizal Park they built symbolizes their love and honor for Dr. José Rizal.”



Heidelberg Mayor and Knight of Rizal Hans Zellner.

During the return trip to Frankfurt, Y-Chie made the announcement we were all thinking of—thanks so much to Günter and Enri for an amazing trip.

When we arrived in Frankfurt, I left my cellphone on the bus. Günter immediately got in touch with the bus driver who found the phone. Two days later, Chato and I went back to Heidelberg. At Günter’s house, he and Enrie treated us to what I love the most of German cuisine—breakfast. We had coffee, cake, and breads. It was wonderful.

The entire trip to Heidelberg—the tour bus, tour guides, Castle passes, funicular passes, meeting and being guided by the great grandson of Pastor Karl Ullmer, going to Wilhelmsfeld, meeting with the mayor and visiting the José Rizal Monument—was all organized and generously paid for by the Heckers. I’ve never been treated so kindly and warmly by people I’ve met for the first time. I truly understand now what Chato has been telling me all those years about her joy of being an AFE—ADB member. I look forward to attending next year’s 50th ADB Annual Meeting in Yokohama, Japan and hope to see most if not all of my newfound AFE—ADB friends! ■



Wallum Art

Peter Wallum (ADB 1982–2009)



I have never stopped painting since I was 5 years old. [After] 28 years with ADB, I retired in 2009 and decided to live mostly in Manila, but also Boracay and Morpeth UK. And I took up painting as a full-time job.

I paint in frame wet pastels, aquarelle, and acrylics. I paint in all media on all surfaces. I have sold to

boutique hotels in Manila and to private persons. I have also had art exhibitions.

Ed: Peter is now a prolific artist. Proceeds from sales go to his wife's marvelous project to assist the Aetas who were displaced by Pinatubo's eruption in 1991. See evacf.org for more information. "EVACF aims to support the endangered Aeta people...to conserve their indigenous culture while sustainably developing a new foundation for their communities and families through building schools, livelihood projects, training and loan programs, scholarships, and adult literacy initiatives." Achievements include building 42 schools for 4,000 children and supporting 85 to graduate from college. The list is long, and EVA CF has received many national and international awards for its work. Contact Peter through Facebook (Wallum Art or Peter Wallum) or his e-mail (pwallum@gmail.com) to see more of his work. ■

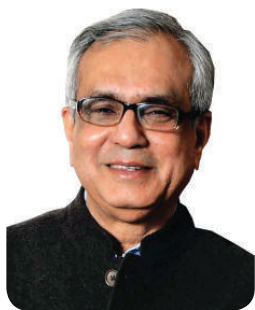






Modi

Rajiv Kumar (ADB 1995–2006)



Narendra Modi has attracted worldwide attention both prior to and after becoming India's prime minister in May 2014. From having been denied a visa to the United States while he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he is the only Indian prime minister to have visited the White House twice in 2 years. He has brought

India closer to securing a position on the high table of global governance by forging stronger relations with a majority of G-7 members and focusing sharply on a robust development agenda at home. At the same time his critics continue to snipe at him for not adopting a more strident secular agenda, thereby covertly encouraging the right wing Hindu nationalists.

In the above context, my book attempts to answer three crucial questions: (1) whether Modi represents the hard-core Hindu nationalism that is antithetical to India's pluralistic reality and traditions or has evolved over time to be in synch with India's ground realities; (2) if his much-propagated success is entirely his doing and whether his experience as the chief minister of Gujarat for 12 years is replicable at the pan-India level; and (3) does his 2 years' experience in Delhi as prime minister since May 2014 suggest that he has the capacity to address the extraordinary challenges faced by India as it traverses its on-going three-fold transition towards a relatively prosperous society, which will meet the aspirations of its young population.

Modi joined the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh (RSS, or National Volunteers Organization) initially as a child volunteer and then as a full-time worker when he was 17.... He is undoubtedly a quintessential RSS worker. His stint as the chief minister of Gujarat, [including] initiation by communal fire within the first 4 months of having taken office and winning three successive elections ... has seen him evolve above his RSS origins. He has consciously jettisoned the Hindutva (religion-based) agenda in favor of pursuing a broad-based development program....

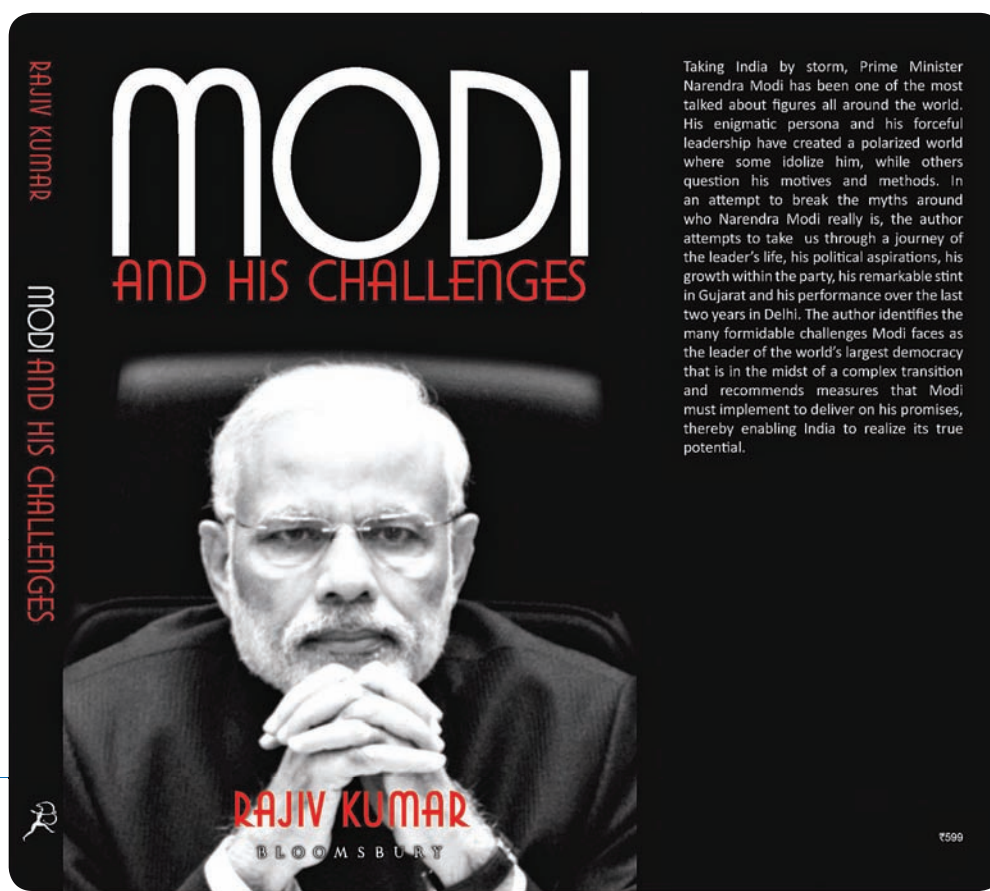
The Gujarat experience was unarguably a successful one. This is borne out by the successive electoral victories and by looking at any set of development parameters, [while not being] a "one man show."

Modi built upon these strengths.... [His] project execution capabilities and focus on good governance made a critical difference in pushing Gujarat's growth trajectory to a markedly higher level.

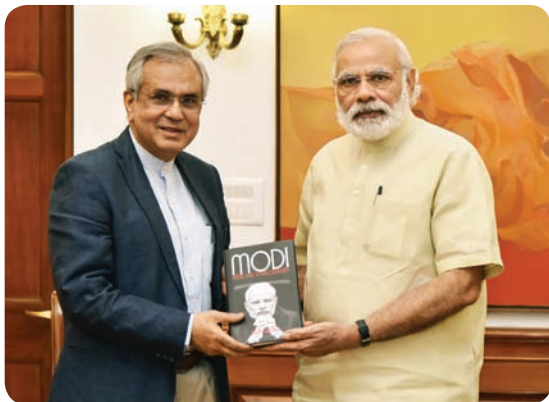
However, the successful Gujarat experience is only partially replicable at the pan-India level.... Modi may have to unlearn some of the Gujarat experience especially for successfully completing India's social transition, which requires a sensitive handling of critical issues such as potential communal conflicts, caste divisions, and regional disparities.

The 2 years in Delhi... have seen extraordinary government activity as part of Modi's explicit and well-articulated attempt at establishing an efficient "development state" in Delhi.... [He] has learnt from the experience of previous governments, ...[and] taken pains to ensure that his reformist agenda in the first 2 years is strongly inclusive. [While] his strong suit is project execution based on close monitoring and regular tracking of performance, [which] ensures that projects have a greater probability of being completed in a time-bound manner..., it also generates a perception of continued reform.

Chapter V identifies the several daunting challenges that Modi faces in taking India towards becoming a prosperous economy by 2046, which will mark the centenary of its



Taking India by storm, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been one of the most talked about figures all around the world. His enigmatic persona and his forceful leadership have created a polarized world where some idolize him, while others question his motives and methods. In an attempt to break the myths around who Narendra Modi really is, the author attempts to take us through a journey of the leader's life, his political aspirations, his growth within the party, his remarkable stint in Gujarat and his performance over the last two years in Delhi. The author identifies the many formidable challenges Modi faces as the leader of the world's largest democracy that is in the midst of a complex transition and recommends measures that Modi must implement to deliver on his promises, thereby enabling India to realize its true potential.



Rajiv Kumar presenting a copy of his book to Prime Minister Modi.

independence from British rule. The principal argument in this chapter is that in some areas—such as macroeconomic management, education, agriculture, manufacturing and exports, and infrastructure—Modi’s current business-as-usual approach with reforms at the margins, will not work. In these sectors, an innovative approach, including a program of structural reforms and clean break from the past is required.

The best example of such a structural reform and break from the business-as-usual model that Modi can implement would be to change the policy goal from growth of gross domestic product to maximizing the rate of growth in employment generation. This is critically needed if India is to meet its extraordinary challenge of generating as many as 1 million jobs per month ... to absorb the net accretion to its workforce. Chapter V goes on to suggest an agenda of structural reforms in five selected sectors.... Along with ensuring greater inclusion by improving governance and putting in place an efficient development state, Modi will have to adopt innovative structural reforms to meet the aspirations of a young Indian population that supported him in the hope that he will accelerate the pace of employment generation and India’s march to prosperity.

Ed: From the book jacket:

“This is a renowned economist’s well-reasoned defence of a highly controversial prime minister’s economic policies.... It is also an explanation of the man himself. It should be read by all who want to understand this complicated man.” Sir William Mark Tully, former BBC bureau chief, Delhi

“This book is an excellent forensic analysis of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s new economic policy, written with what might be called ‘critical sympathy.’ It will add significantly to the understanding of the major transformation in progress.” M J Akbar, author, journalist, and member of the Upper House of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) for Madhya Pradesh. ■

Adventures on Four Continents

Dimiyati Nangju (ADB 1978–2001)



Ed: Dimiyati Nangju records his life experiences in a new book. The book description follows, excerpted from the back cover. If you would like to have a copy of the book, contact Dimy at dimynangju@yahoo.com.

In this autobiographical book, Dimiyati Nangju describes his experiences and adventures in Asia, North America, Australia, and Africa.

- His high school and university studies spanned three continents, and his work involved two international institutions on two continents. During the first 60 years of his life, he lived in Indonesia for 20 years and for the remaining 40 years he lived in more than 40 countries.
- The book provides an account of his journey through life in a readable, candid, and transparent manner. It narrates a captivating true story of a self-made, underprivileged rural boy born in a small town. He achieves academic excellence at home and abroad and rises to the level of international civil servant.
- The book chronicles what was, what is, and what will be, and shares seeds of wisdom from a student who dreamed and succeeded, a scientist who is true to his science, a development manager-cum-diplomat working in many lands, a loyal husband and father, and a dedicated family and community member.
- Each chapter ending provides lessons learned about various educational aspects, from culture to science, management, and relationships. ■



Natural History of the Philippines

Colin Rees (ADB 1981–1988)



Ed: On 14 June 2016, Colin Rees' long-term project of documenting the Philippines' natural history came to fruition at a launch, fittingly at the Mind Museum in Makati. He also gave a lunch-time talk at ADB. The book—The Philippines: A Natural History—is very readable. It documents the country's natural history and the changing state of its environment. The book includes maps and full

color images. It is published by Ateneo de Manila University Press and is available at National Bookstore and other outlets.

Many have celebrated the remarkable beauty of the Philippines, but it may be José Rizal's reference to his country as "The Pearl of the Orient Sea" in his last poem, *Mi último adiós*, that best captures the rich tropical rainforest, white sandy beaches, coral reefs, and dancing waters of its more than 7,000 islands.

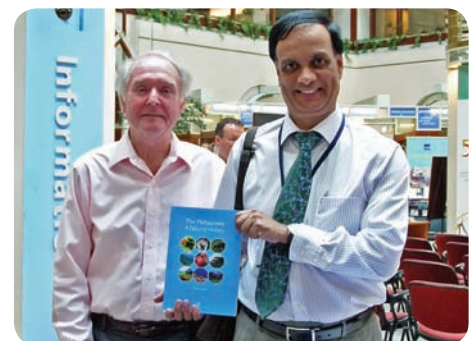
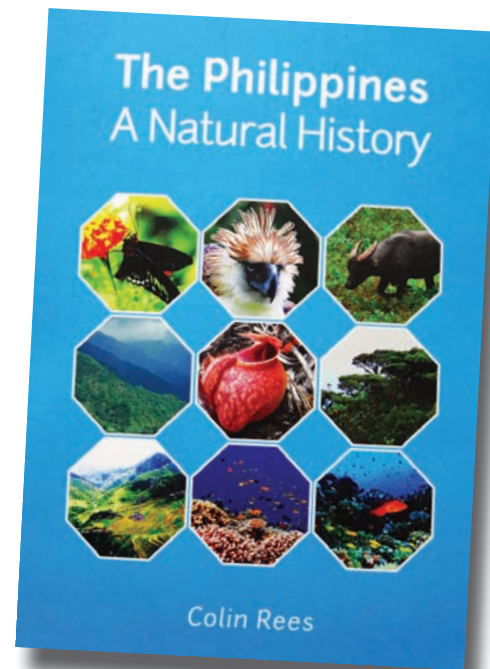
I began writing the book in 1983 when employed as ADB's first environment specialist. A move to Washington DC intervened, and, although the manuscript lay dormant, my mind constantly mulled over its contents and form. Luckily, frequent visits to the Philippines allowed me to remain abreast of developments through discussions with many Filipino and international experts.

After setting the scene, this book describes the Philippines' topography, climate, and oceanography, which along with its tectonic and geological history have molded the country's terrestrial and marine biogeographic regions and explain the derivation and evolutionary steps of the archipelago's astonishingly rich flora and fauna. Many of its protected areas are profiled: landscapes and seascapes essentially designed to staunch the alarming erosion of the natural environment. But if biogeography has determined the composition of the Philippines' biological diversity, the human imprint has been profound, and chapters explore

prehistory and the early years of indigenous life before moving on to Spanish times.

The decline of biodiversity has reached alarming proportions, and many renowned conservationists have come close to writing off the country as a global biodiversity area. Thus, a concluding chapter takes stock of what remains and what actions are being taken, and calls upon Filipinos to rescue this unparalleled treasure from possible loss.

In the spirit of optimism it is hoped that this book will be of special value to teachers and students in schools, colleges, and universities in stimulating interest in and commitment to protecting the exceptional natural beauty of the Philippines. It will also be of value to policymakers, the public, and visitors to this Pearl of the Orient. ■



Right: Colin Rees with Vinod Thomas; below: book signing at the ADB K-hub (library).



Indu

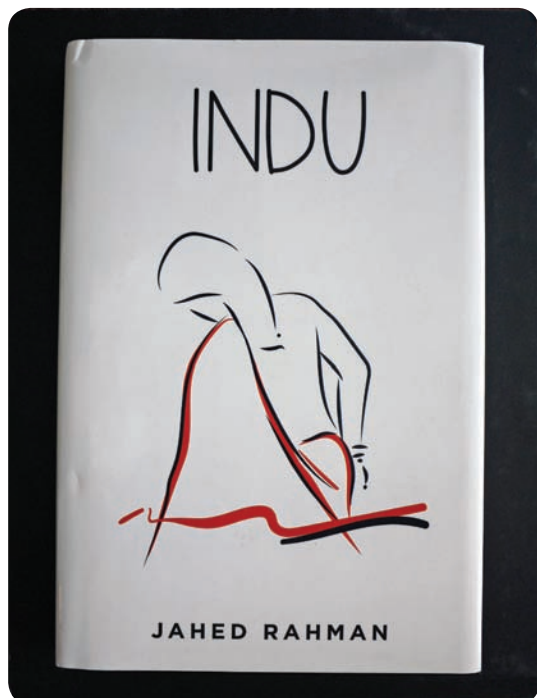
Jahed Rahman (ADB 1980–1999)



Ed: Jahed Rahman's novel was published in 2015 and is available from Xlibris, through Orders@Xlibris.com. The information below is taken from the book's back cover.

Indu is a novel about a young Indian boy and girl of different social, economic, education, and religious backgrounds. Indu, the girl, is from a low-caste Hindu family while Shetu, the boy, is from a wealthy Muslim family. The two fall in love, and Indu attempts to stay close to Shetu.

The novel is initially set in the time of the British raj, and the creation of Pakistan. Indu's family is forced to move, and in India she is married into a relatively better-off family, but she never forgets Shetu. Through her travail, she learns tolerance, prudence, and perspective. The story relates the life challenges and changes through which both endure and grow. ■



Distinguished Fellow

Nihal Amerasinghe (ADB 1979–2002)

Ed: Nihal Amerasinghe has been appointed as Distinguished Fellow in Development Management at the Asian Institute of Management. Text below is from the announcement of his appointment.



Nihal Amerasinghe has become the first Distinguished Fellow in Development Management at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM). The appointment was approved on 1 July, for a period of 3 years. As a Distinguished Fellow, he will be coaching and mentoring students on business and soft skills, and counseling them on valuable industry soft skills and career paths in addition to his faculty duties.

Currently, Nihal is the program director for the Stephen Zuellig Graduate School of Development Management's Project Planning and Development Management and Project and Procurement Management Course. He teaches project planning and development management and economics for development managers for AIM's Master in Development Management program. From 2002 to 2011, he was AIM's lead faculty in Project Management, Development Economics, and International Financial Institutions.

He joined AIM in 2002 after retiring from ADB. He has also been involved in research work in agriculture and rural development, project management, and international finance.

AFE News previously noted the publication of Nihal's two books—*International Financial Institutions and Development in Asia* (2011) and *Design, Appraisal, and Management of Sustainable Development Projects* (2015). ■

Murillo's Million

Jens Holm (ADB 1983–1988 and 1991–2006)



Ed: Jens wrote to let us know about his newly published book.

Jens joined ADB's Office of Computer Services in March 1983—a half year or so before the assassination of Ninoy Aquino and the subsequent political upheavals that culminated in the 1986 EDSA people power revolution. On the original EDSA day, 25 February, Jens married Del (Fidela) Santos (ADB 1980–1986), a staff member in the Central Projects Service Office. After ADB, Jens continued his career as a systems developer—the last 6 years as a consultant for the Norwegian Customs and Excise Agency.

Jens writes: "Several years ago, perhaps to bring back all the good memories from the 1980s, I got the idea of writing a novel where the story takes place on Roxas Boulevard. Last year the idea came to fruition with the publication of *Murillo's Million*. The novel got a good review from KIRKUS and was selected for the February 16 issue of their review magazine. I am also proud and thankful for the good feedback I got from former colleagues who lived in the Tambo and Roxas Boulevard area during those same eventful years—Christian Perez, Ivan Ruzicka, and Jack Garrity."

The book is available at Amazon—www.amazon.com—(paperback and e-book). Amazon describes the book as follows:

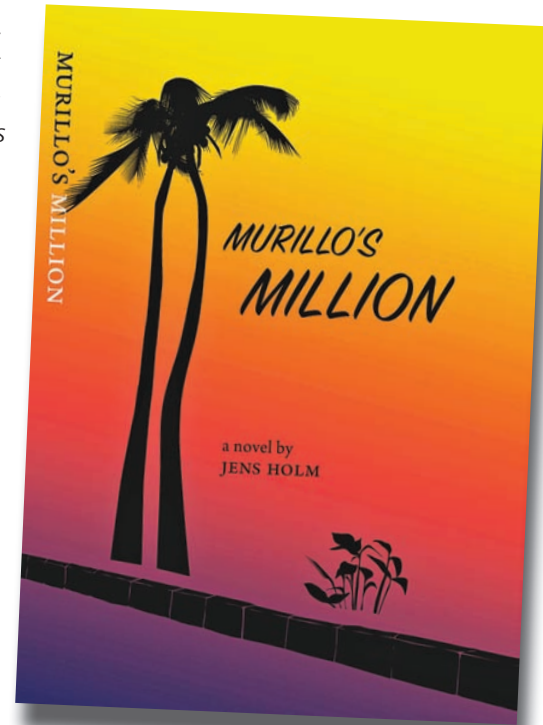
To finance his election to the Philippine Senate, Manuel Murillo is about to collect a big kickback from a Norwegian shipping company. Things go wrong—the money is lost and ends up in the hands of a street vendor. This starts a strange journey that changes the lives of those involved.

Murillo's Million is a story of miracles, imagination, and money—and of Roxas Boulevard, Manila's once-magnificent seaside

promenade. It is also the story of Ligaya, a former teenage mistress of Murillo, who 20 years earlier was sent packing and ended up on the streets of Manila.

Related information is available at www.ligaya.net/murillosmillion, and some Filipiniana materials and many beautiful pictures are at www.ligaya.net/philippines.

Del and Jens live in Nesodden, a peninsula about 7 kilometers south of Oslo. The house was built in pine timber in 1879 and is still a very comfortable home even when the temperatures drop to -15 celsius during the coldest part of the winter—Norwegian wood! ■



Jens and Del Holm.

Finn Feasts

Robert Wihtol (ADB 1994–2013)



The AFE–ADB Finns organized our traditional summer lunch in July 2015. We enjoyed summer food, reminisced about life and times in Manila, and had a lively discussion about the fate of our pensions and other benefits. Our 2016 lunch was held on 13 July. ■



2015, l-r. Back row: Heikki Noro, Rolf Westling, Aulis Makitalo, and Max von Bonsdorff; front: Leo and Annukka Westling, and Anita Kelles; behind the camera: Robert Wihtol.



2016, l-r: front: Max von Bonsdorff, Annukka Westling, Sirkku and Aulis Makitalo; back: Robert Wihtol, Anita Kelles Viitanen, Antero Vahapassi (inset), Rolf Westling, and Heikki Noro.

Dunedin and Tararua

Jill Gale de Villa



Traditional Maori house.

Otago Museum. I was able to explore a bit of New Zealand before and after the chapter's 2016 meeting (pp 23–25). Dunedin's Otago Museum is airy and light with very good displays of the Pacific island cultures' artifacts, evolution of its animals and plants, and a "traditional" display (top floor) of artifacts and remains. I arrived at about noon, and told the desk I would like to participate in the 2 pm tour of the museum. With only 1 participant—me—the guide, a PhD anthropologist named Emily, tailored the walk and talk to our predilections, which turned out to be the same—culture, evolution, biology. First we wandered through the New Zealand section, with a huge *waka* (canoe) as its centerpiece, the sort of vessel that the original settlers might have arrived on, crafted with beautifully carved wood and reeds. At the display of a Maori headman in full regalia, I learned that the spear he carried was mostly ceremonial—the pointed end for display, and the other end, a club is used for war.

Then a walk through the Pacific Island displays, with several artifacts similar to those of the Philippine indigenous peoples. I was drawn to the men's necklaces because of their resemblance to the *buwaya* (crocodile tooth necklace) in our uplands.

Next a stroll through history, to learn that New Zealand was formed from Gondwanaland, but separated and sank beneath the sea almost completely only to rise again (but much smaller). Because of its isolation, New Zealand life evolved the distinctive species we know about—the surviving kiwi and the extinct moa. Skeletons of the gigantic



Ceremonial necklace.

moa species (there were several) are very impressive. What could prey on them? Of course, a gigantic eagle. But the moa were doomed when human predators

arrived, bringing other predators (rats, dogs, etc.) that also decimated the general bird population, which, owing to eons of no predators, had become ground-nesters. Indeed, many species no longer could fly. Now New Zealand is trying hard to prevent further extinctions.

Dunedin after the Chapter Meeting. I allowed 2 extra days to enjoy the area, and of course it was far from enough. On March 17th, my rental car was delivered, and, after formalities were settled, I drove the 20 kilometers to Orokanui Ecosanctuary, a 230-hectare effort to provide an environment safe for native species to breed. I entered the sanctuary through double gates—reminiscent of entering an aviary—and with a sign requesting that visitors check their bags for mice (predators).

Much of the day I just wandered, enjoying the forest and bush, and seeing just a few of the many birds and animals here—they are wild; they don't have to pose. First



were the skinks lazing in the sun on a rocky enclosure (to keep people out). Then, sitting quietly on a bench, I was able to snap a picture of the native tui at a feeding station. This chatterbox

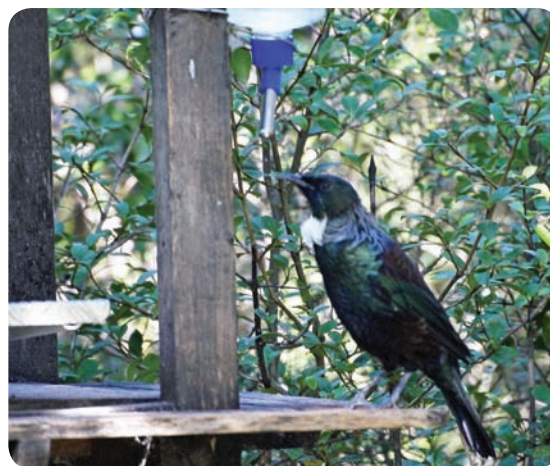
Looking up the Kahikatea tree, 80 meters tall.



Skink.

feeds on honey and flits about the branches displaying its white throat and iridescent feathers. A greenfinch (an introduced species) also put in an appearance.

Next a 2.5-km walk down to New Zealand's (and possibly Asia's) tallest tree, the kahikatea—an impressive 80-meter high eucalyptus. The species was once native to New Zealand, and had to be reintroduced from Australia. Then the puff back up, while dodging school children and teachers who were on their way to pay respects to the tree. Along the trail, a juvenile piwakawaka (fantail) demanded attention, displaying to me beautifully as I clicked away with my camera. It was probably hoping for a handout—unless it had really poor eyesight and was looking for a mate!



Tui at feeding station.

By afternoon the native tuatara was resting in its cave, and I could see only its head. But seeing even just this part of a reptile that lives to 100 and comes from a line that has roamed the earth pretty much unchanged for over 85 million years is quite something. The tuatara is the last remaining species of an order of reptiles that survived the extinction of the dinosaurs. The species actually predates



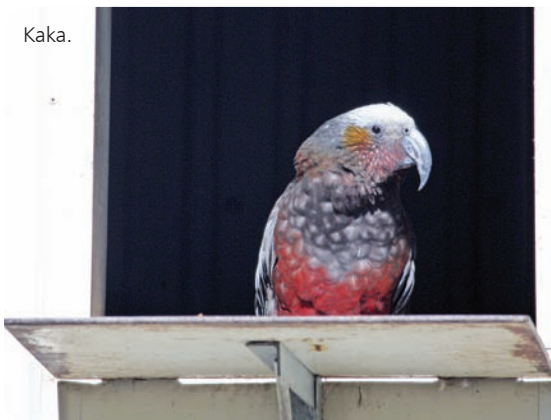
A little dinosaur—the tuatara—a species unchanged for over 85 million years. This one was hiding from the noon-day sun.

the current New Zealand land mass, which is only about 30 million years old. How did that happen? Persisting on an island that stayed above water? Drifting in on something? Nobody really knows.

Orokanui has some very informative videos—a nice rest before closing time at 4:30. Then a spectacular drive down to Long Beach. I hiked quickly to the beach and back in the gathering chill, stopping for numerous pictures on the way back to Dunedin.

The following day I spent walking about Dunedin, taking in the sights and especially the botanical garden and its aviary, where I finally saw a few kakas—large, endangered parrots—but still no kiwi.

Kaka.



Wellington and Tararua. Friday I flew to Wellington to enjoy the Gos—Jessie had been a hiking buddy when he still lived in the Philippines. Since moving to New Zealand, his wife has become a nursing supervisor, the 2 “boys” are off to university, and only the daughter remains in the

nest. Jessie had decided I needed an overnight hike and wasn’t listening to protestations.

So at 8:30 pm we set off into Tararua Forest Park, headlamps augmented by a moon, for 7.5 kilometers of easy track—except for the landslide. Here I froze, and, as in the old days, Jessie came to the rescue. After a moonlit dinner on a log at about 10:30 pm, we got to the hut, and tried not to disturb others sleeping there—an impossible task—as we found free mattresses on a long bedstand with about 7 mattresses, and another 7 on the layer above. The night produced an interesting range of snores.

Next morning we hiked out through beautiful foliage, in time for a late lunch with Jessie’s wife and daughter, a shower, and then my flight to Manila. ■



**For information
on membership contact
afe-adb@adb.org**

New Members

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

March 2016

Brunner, Hans-Peter W. (Philippines)
 Ella, Kathryn G. (Philippines)
 Khan, Rezaul K. (Bangladesh)
 Koide, Haruya (Japan)
 Lochmann, Barbara (Germany)
 Lu, Norma A. (Philippines)
 Renz, Patrick M. (Switzerland)
 Shrestha, Prem S. (Nepal)
 Teo, Swe Lian (Cindy) (Singapore)
 Varkay, Madeleine (Canada)

April 2016

Crooks, Sabrina (United Kingdom)
 Cua, Edgar (Philippines)
 Furnas, Allen R. (Australia)
 Julian, Kathie M. (Philippines)
 Lara, Marissa M. (Thailand)
 Licup, Angelina P. (Philippines)
 Limtin, Regan U. (Philippines)
 Sta. Ana, Alejandro V. (Philippines)
 Velasco, Nevah (Philippines)
 Wenceslao, Donna Marie DL. (Philippines)
 Wilkinson, Harriet E. (United States)

May 2016

Abarientos, Nelia B. (United States)
 Almodovar, Ruth F. (Philippines)
 Bodart, Claude (Japan)
 Chen, Xiaoxin (People's Republic of China)
 Faisal, Arif M. (Bangladesh)
 Holganza, Luchi Q. (Philippines)
 Molina, Edna E. (Philippines)
 Nicoll, Sandra E. (Canada)
 Robillos, Dianne R. (Philippines)
 Subramanian, Valliyoor V. (India)
 Tusalem, Eunice B. (United States)

June 2016

Alvarez, Riza Gloria V. (Philippines)
 Flores, Remedios Isabel A. (Philippines)
 Navarro, Jennifer M. (Philippines)
 Rajivan, Anuradha K. (India)
 Thomas, Vinod (United States)
 Tibayan, Maria (Philippines)
 Tonkonojekov, Oleg (Canada)
 Yang, Hongliang (People's Republic of China)

July 2016

Antonio, Victoriano D. (Philippines)
 Bacani, Bianca Mae Y. (Philippines)
 Chowdhury, Kowsar (United States)
 Fukui, Ryu (Japan)
 Gerhaeusser, Klaus (Philippines)
 Nanwani, Suresh (Singapore)
 Pascua, Marinela Cecilia T. (Philippines)
 Tuason, Ma. Eloisa (Philippines)

Senior Appointments in ADB

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

Soonman Kwon—Technical Advisor (Health), Sector Advisory Service Division, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC), assumed office on 1 March 2016.

Cevdet Denizer—Country Director, Turkmenistan Resident Mission, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), assumed office on 1 March 2016.

Shane Rosenthal—Country Director, Armenia Resident Mission, CWRD, effective upon assumption of office.

Nariman Mannapbekov—Country Director, Azerbaijan Resident Mission, CWRD, effective upon assumption of office.

Rie Hiraoka—Director, Social Sector Division, CWRD, effective upon assumption of office.

Andrew Jeffries—Director, Energy Division, Southeast Asia Department (SERD), effective upon assumption of office.

Sona Shrestha—Deputy Country Director, Indonesia Resident Mission, SERD, effective upon assumption of office.

Norio Saito—Deputy Country Director, Viet Nam Resident Mission, SERD, effective upon assumption of office.

Ye Yong—Director, Urban Development and Water Division, CWRD, assumed office on 23 March 2016.

Dayalini Mendis—Deputy Director General, Budget, Personnel, and Management Systems Department (BPMSD), assumed office on 31 March 2016.

Xiaoqin Fan—Regional Director, Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office in Sydney, Australia, Pacific Department (PARD), effective upon assumption of office.

- Yolanda Fernandez Lommen**—Country Director, Mongolia Resident Mission, East Asia Department (EARD), assumed office on 22 June 2016.
- Robert Schoellhammer**—Advisor, Office of the Director General, EARD, effective 21 June 2016.
- Michael Barrow**—Director General, Office of the Director General, Private Sector Operations Department (PSOD), effective 4 July 2016.
- Shantanu Chakraborty**—Director, Infrastructure Division 1, PSOD, effective 30 June 2016.
- Lesley Lahm**—Advisor, Strategy, Policy, and Interagency Relations Division, Strategy and Policy Department (SPD), assumed office on 23 June 2016.
- Paolo Spantigati**—Country Director, Timor-Leste Resident Mission, PARD, effective upon assumption of office.
- Candice McDeigan**—Country Director, Kyrgyz Resident Mission, CWRD, effective upon assumption of office.
- Yongping Zhai**—Technical Advisor (Energy), Sector Advisory Service Division, SDCC, effective upon assumption of office.

Visit <http://afe-adb.org>

For information
on membership contact
afe-adb@adb.org

Obituaries

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

- Jorma Pauku**, former Alternate Director, passed away on 1 May 2016 at the age of 70.
- Linda Kalver**, former Principal Regulatory Specialist in the Energy Division, South Asia Department (SARD); passed away on 14 June 2016 at the age of 71. Condolences may be sent to her friend Bernice Wollman at P.O. Box 430, 62 Edmond Road, Sherman, CT 06784, USA.
- Santiago Seril**, former Senior General Services Staff (Driver) in the Travel and Transport Section Office, Office of Administrative Services (OAS), passed away on 6 July 2016 at the age of 79. Condolences may be sent

to his wife Lourdes Seril at 5931-A Algier St. Barangay Poblacion, Makati City, Philippines.

- Joan Ortiz-Luis**, former Senior Clerk (Loan Administration) in the Industry and Minerals Division, passed away on 12 June 2016 at the age of 69. Condolences may be sent to her husband Dan Veza at 39380 Canyon Rim Circle Temecula, CA 92591, USA.
- Alistair Kennedy**, former Head of Facilities Planning, OAS, passed away on 13 June 2016 at the age of 75. Condolences may be sent to his wife Patricia Kennedy at mcpk311@yahoo.com.
- Ana Cruz**, former Executive Secretary in the Board of Directors Staff Services (BSS), passed away on 28 March 2016 at the age of 81. Condolences may be sent to her sister Natividad Cruz at 50 E. Pascual St., BF Resort Village, Pamplona, Las Pinas City, Philippines.
- Klaus Hoffarth**, former Deputy Director, Office of the Director, East Asia Department (EARD), passed away on 29 May 2016 at the age of 82. Condolences may be sent to his wife Victoria Hoffarth at hoffarth@easy.net.co.uk.
- Carina Grande**, former Associate Operations Analyst in the Project Coordination and Procurement Division, passed away on 21 May 2016 at the age of 66. Condolences may be sent to her sister-in-law Rosalinda Grande at 0063 917 801 5933.
- Jiro Otsuka**, former Investment Officer, Independent Evaluation Department, passed away on 23 August 2014 at the age of 66.
- Akira Nambara**, former Personal Assistant to the President in the office of the President, passed away on 15 February 2016 at the age of 82.
- Virginia Avila**, former Senior Administrative Assistant in the Transport and Communications Division, SARD, passed away on 18 April 2016 at the age of 70. Condolences may be sent to her niece Ellen Sheila Limiac at ellen.shiela.limiac@gmail.com.
- Charito Bañes**, former Executive Assistant, BSS, passed away on 8 April 2016 at the age of 60. Condolences may be sent to her son Clinton Bañes at 0063 915 409 7673.
- Josefina Ramirez**, former Senior Technical Assistant (Records-Central File), OAS, passed away on 2 April 2016 at the age of 96. Condolences may be sent to her son Edgar Ramirez at 0063 917 781 0255.
- Lourdes Roa**, former Assistant (Records Analysis), OAS, passed away on 21 March 2016 at the age of 76. Condolences may be sent to her niece Adelyn Tumang at 0063 2 892 4054.
- Mukhtar Ahmed**, former Principal Energy Specialist in the South East Asia Department, passed away on

Wednesday, 9 September 2015 in New York City at the age of 67. Condolences may be sent to his wife Sameena Mukhtar Ahmed at 245 Tufail Road, Lahore Cantonment Girja Chowk, Lahore, Pakistan.

Vishvanath Desai, former Director and Chief Economist, passed away on Wednesday, 23 September 2015 at the age of 77. Condolences may be sent to his wife Janaki Desai at 221 A Twin Towers, Prabhadevi, Mumbai, India.

Romeo Hermoso, former Senior Investment Officer in the Private Sector Department, passed away on Saturday, 29 August 2015 at the age of 83. Condolences may be sent to his wife Josefina Hermoso at The Alexandra Cluster E293, 29 Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines.

Rafael Arcega, former Senior Administrator in the Security Section, OAS, passed away on 12 August 2015 in Manila at the age of 76. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Catherine Arcega at cat_arcega@yahoo.com.

Useful ADB Contacts

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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. Steve Banta and Jill Gale de Villa copy edited. They also proofread, as did Julia Holz, David Parker, Hans-Juergen Springer, and Malou Magalued. AFE sincerely appreciates ADB's Department of External Relations and the Printing Unit for assistance with finalizing the magazine, and Cesar Juan's work to prepare it for mailing.

Announcements



2017 Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors

The **Fiftieth Annual Meeting** of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank will be held on 4–7 May 2017 in Yokohama, Japan.

Chapter Events

The **Europe Chapter** is holding its Annual Reunion in Überlingen at the Lake of Constance, (known in German as the Bodensee) on 15–19 September 2016. This is an opportunity for those who have missed the Reunion in Bregenz in 2007, hosted by Monique and Ulf Freiwald, to catch; the program Annette and Peter put together is complementing the previous activities with other aspects and experiences related to the Bodensee. For details, please contact Gunther Hecker (ghecker1@t-online.de) with copy to Peter Fedon (p.fedon@gmail.com).

The **India Chapter** will hold its 22nd Annual Meeting in Chennai, India on 25 September 2016 at 7:00 pm. For details, contact Barin Ganguli at shprabaringanguli@gmail.com.

The **New York/New Jersey Chapter** will hold its Annual Reunion on 22 October 2016 at the Crystal Ballroom of the Ramada Hotel. Contact Lorna del Rosario at delrosariol@un.org or darkangel0297@yahoo.com for details.

The **Australia Chapter** will hold its Annual Reunion in Leura, NSW, just west of Sydney on 24–27 October 2016. For details, contact Peter Carroll at pet@bigpond.net.au.

The Canada Chapter gatherings include

Toronto–Southern Ontario hold informal get togethers and pot lucks every month or two, and bowling the last Friday night of every month. Its 2016 Year-End Celebration will be on 6 November. Contact Nida Rodrigo Jugo for reservations at ezraboy@yahoo.com.

Ottawa–Montreal will hold a dinner in Ottawa in the fall. For details, contact John Rive at johnrive@yahoo.com.

Vancouver: A dinner will be held in the fall and 1–2 smaller informal lunches are held during the year. For details contact Bruce Murray at bmurray.xadb@gmail.com.

Vancouver Island: A brunch will take place in the fall. For details contact Bruce Murray at bmurray.xadb@gmail.com.

The **Philippines Chapter** will hold its Annual Business Meeting and Get-together on 17 November 2016 at the ADB Executive Dining Room. Please contact Mr. Gam de Armas at gamdearmas@yahoo.com for details.

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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.

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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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