



News

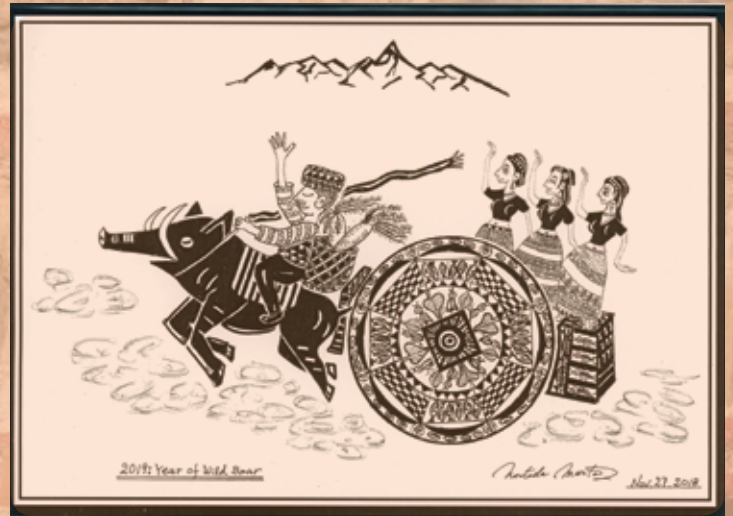
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The Newsletter of the
Association of Former
Employees of the Asian
Development Bank

Chapter News



AFE Updates



People, Places, and Passages



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Our Cover



Cover: Top left–Lavenham's crooked house; right–Morita-san's greetings for 2019; below–Doug and Christina Ferguson on safari; background–Colchester castle wall.

AFE–ADB News

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AFE–ADB Updates

Happy New Year

Noritada Morita (ADB 1978–1997)



From the AFE President

Hans-Juergen Springer (ADB 1972–2002)



2018 was a year in which an active AFE community got together in many annual reunions for lunches and dinners. The AFE annual general meeting and cocktail in Manila brought together about 210 members, spouses, and guests.

The Executive Committee held frequent sessions to discuss issues on hand. AFE participated in ADB Pension Committee meetings, now separate for the Staff Retirement Plan (SRP) and the new Defined Contribution (DC) Plan. Substantial time was spent on and with the BPMSD-led Group Medical Insurance (GMIP) Consultative Forum that meets quarterly to discuss health insurance matters. This is an ongoing process to ensure satisfactory coverage at costs that are not excessively burdensome to GMIP participants as well as ADB, which subsidizes the GMIP costs to a great extent.

AFE has been briefed by BPMSD staff and consultants about the Comprehensive Salary and Benefits Review that takes place every 5 years. There are at present no indications of changes for retirees, but AFE will continue to stay involved. Decisions will be made known in 2020.

AFE has taken on the responsibility to approve its members' access to ADB Headquarters through facilitating access to the Visitors' Registration System ("VISREG"). AFE retirees with a pink ADB ID card continue to have access to ADB without registration, but others require VISREG registration. AFE members who are visiting ADB for official purposes and wish or need to bring a companion may request AFE assistance in obtaining a "VISREG" for the guest to enter ADB. To make such requests, members should call 632-5196 or 632-5556 or 632-4444 local 70133 and provide the guest's name and the reason for the request. This must be done at least 24 hours before the planned visit to ensure the request can be coursed through the proper channels in time.

AFE established an AFE–ADB Facebook Group which is accessible only to AFE members. Notifications and other information are being written by authorized AFE members that include Jill Gale de Villa, Marissa Wenceslao, and a few other members who are assisting with this effort.

A major undertaking has been updating the AFE–ADB Bylaws, which were last updated in 2016. Updating and changing bylaws is a lengthy process involving much thought and consideration by many people. The committee that first came together to accomplish the task consisted of Bruce Purdue, Jan Van Heeswijck, and David Parker. Subsequent to their work and review by and input from the Executive Committee, a further review was done by Eveline Fischer, Herbert Morais, and Peter Pedersen. Then Chapter Coordinators were consulted and their suggestions were also considered. Finally, ballots were sent so that members could vote on the proposed change, with the decision to be made by a majority of the valid ballots cast.

The outcome of the vote was that, of 138 ballots returned to AFE, 136 voted for and 2 voted against the change, resulting in the passage of the new Bylaws.

- recognition of “domestic partners” as successors to membership, given that ADB and many member countries now recognize domestic partners by providing them the same considerations as are provided to spouses;
- definition of qualifications for members to be elected to positions on the Executive Committee;
- a change in the elections process, moving to an Election Committee; and
- redesignation of the Assistant Treasurer as Secretary, given that the Executive Committee sees a greater need for handling documentation and communication than for an additional treasurer.

Minor changes were of an editorial nature.

We are all looking forward to an eventful and satisfying 2019 including an exciting annual meeting in Fiji, the first time that the ADB annual meeting is taking place in one of the South Pacific Island countries. I hope to see many of you there! ■

For information
on AFE membership
visit <http://afe-adb.org>
or contact
afe-adb@adb.org

From the AFE Vice President

Jill Gale de Villa (ADB 1993–2005)



Since the last issue, the three items that have taken up much of our time are health insurance (see pp. 5–6), AFE–ADB Bylaws (see From the President, p. 3), and communications.

Website and Facebook Page. Since Marissa Wenceslao joined the Executive Committee, she has been taking increasing responsibility for the website and has been instrumental in starting an AFE–ADB HQ Facebook page. The page is intended to send information to members, in addition to the e-mails AFE sends. The Facebook messages are designed to be short, often abbreviations of the e-mails we send, and designed for Facebook users. It is not an interactive page, because AFE does not have the capacity to respond to other input. We are assisted by Marissa del Castillo and Midi Kawashima. “Likes” of posts show these are appreciated. To join, look for **AFE-ADB HQ**.

AFE News. We continue to receive good articles for *AFE News*, from chapters and individuals. Occasionally, members write and suggest a topic to research and write up. We do not have the capacity to do all the research and writing that goes into the magazine, and rely on members for submissions. Members’ submissions cover a wide range of topics, appealing to a wide range of interests, and it is important to retain this scope. We encourage all members to submit articles. Please see the inside back cover of this edition for information on what and how to submit. ■

Pension Matters

Hans-Juergen Springer

There are no developments to report on the Staff Retirement Plan (SRP). It may however be of interest to members to hear about the recently established Defined Contribution (DC) Plan. This pension plan became effective on 1 October 2017. Staff who have been hired since then are covered by a pension scheme consisting of a defined benefit plan pillar (like the SRP), albeit capped,

and a Defined Contribution Plan pillar, into which ADB makes contributions and the staff members may contribute voluntarily. The Defined Contribution Plan funds are placed in the staff member's individual account. The staff member has to make a choice about how to invest these.

ADB has engaged an international bank to administer the DC Plan. Staff can choose from among 24 different international funds.

A 10-person Defined Contribution Plan Committee has been established to oversee the new scheme. AFE is represented on the Committee by Hans-Juergen Springer (member) and Jill Gale de Villa (alternate). ADB President Nakao has delegated the committee chair to Vice-President, Administrative and Corporate Management. A 3-person Administrative Committee has also been established, but neither staff nor AFE are represented on it.

The DC Plan Committee has met twice since its establishment to discuss mainly legal, administrative, and procedural matters. At the second meeting, in November 2018, an overview was provided of the first financial year of the Plan (1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018). The Plan has, as of the end of the first year, 370 members including 15 staff members who switched from the SRP to the DC Plan. Most Plan members contribute, over and above ADB's contribution, 12% of their salary to the Plan. ■

Health Matters

Jill Gale de Villa

Our Insurance

GMIP Consultative Forum (GMIP-CF). Our insurer, Cigna, continues to serve the majority of us well the majority of the time. However, there are lapses and we discuss these with Cigna and in the quarterly GMIP Consultative Forum (GMIP CF), with BPMSD and Staff Council. We last met in May–June last year, with major points applicable listed below.

Cigna Meeting. In November, we met with Cigna regarding claims. Our premiums have been steady since 2015, whereas claims have been rising.

Changes are

- **Precertification.** Starting 1 January 2019, precertification is **required for nonemergency hospitalization** in the Philippines. At least 3 days in advance (but BPMSD suggests 5 days, in case additional time is needed to provide information to Cigna), request the precertification from Cigna online or by calling

them. (Note: To determine whether a specific out-patient treatment is covered by Cigna, check before the procedure. Out-patient procedures requiring use of an operating room or an anesthetist need precertification.) For precertification, contact Cigna's Contact Center (24/7 assistance). The contact details are on your Cigna GMIP card, on Cigna's website, on Cigna's online app, and in the Summary Plan Description. By e-mail, use authorization@cigna.com (DO NOT USE adb@cigna.com). See also the Cigna website (<https://www.cignahealthbenefits.com/en/plan-members>), My Plan, My Benefits, FAQs.

- **Filing Paper Claims at ADB.** Starting 1 January, ADB no longer accepts **paper claims** from staff. ADB encourages online claiming for retirees. Retirees are still able to file paper claims through the box at the AFE office. (Note that AFE is not responsible for the claims, which are picked up by the Office of Administrative Services [OAS]).
- **Cigna's Wellbeing app.** Starting 1 January, you may download Cigna's Wellbeing app from the Apple Store for iPhone or from the Google Play Store for Android. The Wellbeing app allows you to track your own biometrics; take a health risk assessment that will give you your score and let you know what is good and what you need to improve; and let you consult with a doctor or counselor. Through the Wellbeing app, you can schedule a telecon or Videocon with a doctor, wherever you are in the world. Cigna has contracted Advance Medical for this service, which will not provide information on individual cases to Cigna. You can get a telecon within a day, and often in about 2 hours. The doctor will send you electronically a summary of the telecon, and any necessary prescriptions. (Country and local law will prevail re. whether the prescriptions are honored.) There is no charge for these services.
- **New global insurance cards** are being issued. If you have not received yours, e-mail insurance@adb.org or write to Insurance at ADB, and provide your name, address, and telephone number. The US-specific card is not changing. (If you need one, apply to Cigna through their website.)
- **ADB insurance contract.** BPMSD informed the GMIP-CF of the decision not to rebid the insurance contract at this time based on (i) Cigna's improved performance and adherence to service level standards; (ii) the significant decline in anxiety and dissatisfaction among members and time spent by BPMSD on Cigna administrative issues; and (iii) the inherent disadvantages of conducting a rebid. Cigna's performance will however be continuously monitored as with any

evergreen contract. (Note: AFE requested a rebid, to at least test the market.)

- **Summary Plan Description.** BPMSD sent retirees without e-mail addresses on file paper copies of the GMIP Summary Plan Description (SPD), however, because the SPD can be changed at any time online, and **the latest online version will apply**, we are advised to always consult the online version, acquiring assistance as needed to do so.

In the US. If you have Medicare, do use it as your first insurer, then send the balance to Cigna. Not only does this save the GMIP money, but it saves you money too. Medicare gets much bigger discounts from providers than insurance companies are able to achieve, plus when Medicare pays 80%, then Cigna pays 75% of the rest, you pay only 5%--win-win-win.

If you have Medicare B, and your doctor/provider insists on getting a 25% down payment for treatment, report this to Cigna and to AFE right away. Cigna will reimburse.

The US is an expensive place to have medical treatment. For urgent care, you may elect to go to a hospital emergency room or, in less severe situations, to an urgent care center. The latter is much less expensive than the former, for you and the GMIP. Some pharmacies have doctors during the day who can attend to your needs for a prescription. Such visits are likely to be “in network” for Cigna, but ask nevertheless. As you know, going “in network” is much less expensive than “out,” where your share of the cost is much higher.

Health Notes

Everywhere, people are embracing aging as a privilege rather than a punishment....

They are aging better and more boldly than ever before. As a result, chronological age is losing its power to define and constrain us.

Carl Honoré. 2018. Bolder: Making the Most of Our Longer Lives. UK: Simon and Schuster.

Doctors' orders. The article “What Happens When You Don't Follow Doctor's Orders” (Rafael Castillo MD, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 11 September 2018) caught my attention because I am a prime offender. The article focuses on cardiovascular issues, and defines treatment “adherence” as taking medicine as prescribed. It notes

“about a third of patients who've had a heart attack don't strictly follow their doctors' prescriptions after their discharge....and [this] has been shown to increase significantly the risk of death within the year after the heart attack.”

Well, I haven't had a heart attack, and I do have a small dose of medication that I am supposed to take daily. Some months ago, a doctor asked if I was on any meds. I confessed that I was supposed to be, but had let it lapse as I seemed fine. He looked at me and asked “Do you know what the word ‘maintenance’ means.” Hmmmmm....

Castillo notes, “Many patients don't realize that when they stop taking medications.... it becomes more expensive in the long run.” He adds that a study of over 100,000 patients with heart problems showed that good adherence to doctor's prescriptions lowered their risk “of death by 44%, of heart-related death by 34%, and of hospitalization for cardiovascular causes by 39%.” These are significant numbers.

Castillo writes that “nonadherence” is a major medical issue—and one survey found that 83% of patients don't admit to their doctor if they haven't been following orders, whereas 74% of doctors believe their patients are following orders. Castillo notes “all doctors and healthcare givers recognize [nonadherence is] a major barrier to the effective treatment of chronic medical problems in the long term.” He adds that, according to the World Health Organization, “there is no impending pharmaceutical discovery, surgical innovation, or government policy change with greater potential for improving the health of patients and the efficiency of the healthcare system than simply increasing the percentage of treatment plans that patients carry out as prescribed.”

My takeaway: Before changing my “adherence” to medical orders, I'll consult the doctor.

Don't Forget: Always Hope. A promising ultrasound treatment for Alzheimers is moving into human trials in late 2019. This drug-free treatment has broken apart and cleared the toxic amyloid plaques associated with dementia in animals, successfully reversing the symptoms of dementia. This is a huge step forward—but it's just the first of several before the treatment will be available after further testing. (*Excerpted from World Economic Forum, 2019, A treatment to reverse the symptoms of Alzheimer's is moving to human trials. 2 January. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/01/treatment-to-reverse-alzheimer-s-symptoms-moving-to-human-trials/> [accessed 4 January 2019].*) ■

Moving Along: VP Steve Groff

(ADB 1998–2004 and 2011–2019)



ADB Vice-President for Operations Group 2 and AFE member Steve Groff is moving on. After 7.5 years of his 2nd time at ADB—the longest he has been at one organization in one stretch—he goes to the Saudi National Development Fund as governor and chief executive officer. The fund is challenged with diversifying Saudi Arabia

away from a culture of depending on fossil fuel. This is critically important for the country's 30 million people. Applying Steve's development experience and knowledge to diversify the economy, improve governance, and improve employment statistics in the cultural context is a task that is both daunting and an exciting challenge.

Steve's 21 January 2019 **farewell message to the ADB Board of Directors** is excerpted and paraphrased here. It is a good recap of where ADB has gone recently, where it might be heading, and suggestions for going forward. He is optimistic about ADB, stresses its many positive aspects, and recommends how to move forward with them, from his point of view.

Recent changes. Steve notes: Reflecting on the last several years, it is clear that it has been a period of profound change, including

- from President Kuroda's 'Finance++' agenda to President Nakao's Mid-Term Review of Strategy 2020 and last year's approval of Strategy 2030;
- the successful merger of the ordinary capital resources (OCR) and the Asian Development Fund (ADF);
- a concomitant increase in programming;
- the 50th Anniversary of our institution;
- two successful ADF replenishments; and
- steady improvement in the Aid Transparency Index (topping the list in 2018), and various multilateral reviews...."

ADB's increased portfolio has been managed without an increase in budget—a clearly unsustainable situation. ADB



One of many farewell cocktails for VP Groff, l-r: Auditor General Hock Chye Ong, Department of Communications Principal Director Vicki Tan, VP Steve Groff, and Jill de Villa.

has successfully increased the share of female international staff—and the share should increase further.

ADB-wide. To realize the full vision of Strategy 2030... ADB needs to consider three classes of reform: structural, organizational, and cultural.

On structural reform, Steve noted the Board–Management relationship and division of responsibilities require urgent attention, including that

- the amount of staff time devoted to briefings on the ninth floor has been increasing at exponential rates, which is not sustainable given the simultaneous increase in program and portfolio;
- appreciation for staff efforts and the obstacles they face needs to increase; and
- trust, respect, and dignity should define our deliberations.

On organizational reform, he noted

- Proactive disruptive change will be necessary to leverage knowledge, experience, expertise, and resources across the entire institution and remain relevant in a region where transformation is the norm. We must step up efforts to work and share experiences across all departments.
- A flatter, less rigid, and a much more adaptable organizational structure is needed that removes silos between departments so that the structure of projects, programs, and deals determined not by the department in which they reside but by reality and demand on the ground.
- The roles of vice-presidents, directors general, and deputy directors general could be rationalized, consolidated, and flattened.

On cultural change, we need to hold ourselves to account, e.g., through the following

- net carbon accounting or scoring for a full understanding of our contribution to global greenhouse gas reductions, and net water accounting or scoring and... biodiversity accounting/scoring;
- quantifying our contribution to developing members' achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- having truly professional performance management and merit-based advancement throughout the organization in order to deliver Strategy 2030 and function effectively in an increasingly complex and competitive international landscape;
- thinking creatively around how to manage all of our concessional resources, move towards more of an omnibus replenishment cycle, and create a "one-stop-shop" for donor engagement with ADB;
- becoming a true broker of knowledge, in partnerships with institutions that will allow the deployment of this information in our programs and to leverage it for our member countries;
- developing broader narratives that support the reforms—for example, addressing loan pricing could be twinned with discussions on replenishment and access to concessional resources, future capital increases (including the option for special capital increases), etc.; and
- learning from reform efforts at our sister institutions, but not letting their challenges limit our ambition.

It is vital that work in all these areas begins soon. To be far more agile, we must think about what bank we need, rather than the bank we've been.... Middle income countries increasingly demand an entirely different level of services. At one end of the spectrum, is the lull in sovereign programming in countries like Malaysia or Thailand.... On the other end, our engagement in the People's Republic of China is a critical vehicle for global engagement and influence.... And such continued engagement need not come at the expense of our key obligation to other member countries.

If we can do all this, ADB will become the better, stronger, and faster institution we aspire to be, and we will truly leverage our public and private sector resources ... so that real scale can be achieved in meeting the poverty, climate, and other challenges that continue to dampen the region's potential.

The camaraderie I see among my colleagues across this institution every day gives me confidence that no challenge is too great. ADB's social capital is the glue that holds the institution together and permits us to do far more than our limited resources might otherwise allow. ■

Like Minds: ARAIO

Julia Holz (ADB 1985–2002)



Knowledge sharing and innovation are not just relevant to the ADB mission—they are also relevant to the officers who guide your retiree organization. In this context, I represented AFE–ADB at the Association of Retirees' Associations of International Organizations (ARAIO) Workshop on 23 October 2018 at the World

Bank headquarters. Other retiree representatives came from the Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS), Association of Retirees of the Organization of American States (AROAS), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Alumni Association, InterAmerican Development Bank (IADB), Pan American Health Organization of the World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), and the 1818 Society (World Bank retirees).

Each representative gave a brief introduction to the group describing their organizations' latest initiatives and issues. Discussions ensued all morning, through lunch, and continued in afternoon sessions around the following main topics:

- (1) providing the content and enhancing the outreach of websites;
- (2) attracting more and younger retirees and volunteers;
- (3) mitigating disruptions from switching insurers;
- (4) optimizing enrollment of retirees in national health schemes to reduce overall plan costs;
- (5) improving communications with old, new, and surviving members; and
- (6) providing support systems to members in need.

In addition, many ideas were shared on how to effectively engage with the management of our organizations to best ensure retiree interests are represented in matters of pension and insurance. Within our own organizations, suggestions were exchanged on how best to attract qualified and willing members to fill board/officer vacancies.

Challenges and innovations do not occur in a vacuum! To stay relevant, AFE officers, like ADB officers, need to get out of the "Manila bubble" and exchange ideas with counterparts. I was energized by the ARAIO workshop and the 1818 Society Annual Meeting that followed, and I am eager to use what I learned to increase AFE's relevance and services to our members.



Participants in the ARAIO Meeting.

While I was in Washington, DC Chapter Coordinator Fred Roche hosted a dinner and drinks in his home on 23 October 2018 to start his term as the new coordinator of the US Washington DC chapter. Twenty-three AFE members and guests attended to share memories and hear about AFE matters. One question was on the minds of many, “When is ADB going to reimburse Medicare Part B premiums?” Happily, I was able to inform the group that ADB and Cigna have now started seriously investigating this possibility. Bernard Donge then gave a brief intro and spontaneous demonstration of both meditation and Tai Chi to a rapt audience. Bernard (a very fit and agile age 84) agreed to be the featured speaker at the next DC reunion to further show how he used both meditation and tai chi to cure himself of a major health issue. Stay tuned! ■

AFE–ADB Committees

Insurance Committee

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jill Gale de Villa—Head | Barbara Ejercito-Palacios |
| Ted Breckner | Albertine Santi |
| Bernard Donge | Hans-Juergen Springer |
| Eveline Go | Ann Sweetser |
| Julia Holz | Axel Weber |
| Dang Fook Lee | Clay Wescott |
| Fred Mesch | |

Pension Council

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

Publications Committee

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Jill Gale de Villa—Head | David Parker |
| Steve Banta | Hans-Juergen Springer |
| Gam de Armas | Marissa Wenceslao |
| Guia Estabillo | Judy Yniguez |
| Julia Holz | Wickie Zveglich |
| Anna Juico | |

Chapter Coordinators

Australia—Paul Turner
 Canada—Bruce Murray
 Ottawa Area—John Rive
 Toronto Area—Nida Rodrigo
 Vancouver Island—Alex Jorgensen
 China, People’s Republic of—Yuejiao Zhang
 Europe—Günter Hecker
 India—Shiladitya Chatterjee
 Indonesia—Putu Kamayana
 Japan—Kazu Sakai
 Korea, Republic of—Meeja Hamm
 New Zealand—Gordon Fox
 Pakistan—M. E. Tusneem
 Philippines—Gamaliel de Armas, Jr.
 East Group—Mayette Domingo, Midi Kawashima
 North Group—Sally Baeza, Malu Baleva
 South Group—Carmen Bontia, Ofelia Sta Ana,
 Baby Girl Cruz, Tek Ablaza
 West Group—Rory Aragon, Nannette Amorado
 Singapore—Cheng Huat Sim
 Sri Lanka—Ranjith Wirasingha
 United States: Southern California—Letty Gomez
 United States: New York–New Jersey—Lorna del Rosario
 United States: Washington, DC—Frederick Roche

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| Lorena Dino | 63 2 632 4548 | |
| Pension Deductions—Payroll Unit | | |
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| Giselle Fajardo | 63 2 632 4692 | |
| Insurance Unit | | |
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| | 63 2 271 1811 | |

For additional information, go to <https://www.cignahealthbenefits.com/en/plan-members> Log on, and go to “Contacts.”

Chapter News

Aussies Step Back in Time

Paul Turner (ADB 1991–2007)



In late October 2018, the Australian Chapter held its 13th annual reunion in Coolum, Queensland. About 45 ADB retirees came together for 3 days of fun and friendship. They consisted of some who were long retired and others who left quite recently; some were from Queensland and many came from other parts of Australia; and

some came from New Zealand, Fiji, and the Philippines. There were even some who are footloose and just seem to travel the world, meeting up with other former ADBers. It was a great group, and they all seemed to really enjoy the program of events that our hosts, Phil and Sue Young, had meticulously prepared.

Weathering Queensland. Queensland has a reputation for being “beautiful one day and then perfect the next”—so you can imagine our surprise when rain was forecast for the duration of the reunion! However, Phil wasn’t concerned—he had “booked” fine weather, and fine weather we would have. True to his air of confidence, we

had great weather for the whole event—sadly, though, the lawn bowling greens were too wet from the earlier flooding rains to play the inaugural “Founders” (Peter Carroll) “State of Origin” Bowling Challenge. Not to be outdone, Phil presented the Trophy



Peter Carroll and the Lawn Bowls “Founder’s Trophy.”

to Peter anyway and promptly laid down the challenge for next year. State versus State, Mate versus Mate! I am told by an unnamed source that both State Captains (Phil Queensland) and (Peter New South Wales) were spotted up on the Coolum greens practicing immediately after the reunion ended. The challenge, though, for the 2019 game organizer will be how to convince John Thorpe (Victoria) and Stephen Baker (South Australia) to join either the NSW or the Queensland teams. Don’t worry, we have our ways and means!

Lunch at Ludwigs. It would be difficult to describe the Reunion’s long lunch at King Ludwig’s German Restaurant. You had to be there to witness the antics, with singing, “dancing,” bell ringing, and hat swapping! A couple of special highlights were Alan Hartley and Peter McCawley’s unique skills in blowing the tuba; the



Top: German Restaurant; right: Peter McCawley in Drag!; bottom: Girls at German Restaurant.



Golf winners: Natin Patel, Andrew Proctor, Stephen Baker.

Golfers, l-r: Willy Lim, Anne Proctor, Natin Patel, Francis Narayan, Bruce Purdue, Nolleen Lim, Peter Carroll, Andrew Proctor, Loh Ai Tee, Alan Hartley, Stephen Baker.

former without any success and the latter with wonderful intent! It was a fantastic lunch, and plenty of photos captured the laughter and tears of joy.

The Links. Natin Patel and Stephen Baker were our 2018 winners of the Peter Pattison Memorial Golf Tournament, but Bruce Purdue and Loh Ai Tee, along with a number of other competitors, were heard to lament the “missed opportunities” on the “last hole.” Hmm. I think they will be back next year to challenge Natin and Stephen.

Annual Meeting. The Reunion AGM was extremely well attended and covered many issues of relevance to the former ADBers, including the recently finalized ADB Strategy 2030. Deep appreciation was expressed for the

continued excellent support and encouragement given by Hans, Jill, Julia, and the AFE–ADB Headquarters team and also for the ADB Chapter subsidy that allows our terrific reunions to happen.

2019. Much much more occurred during the Reunion, but I think it is clear that from beginning to end it was really a fun event and some even asked “Why can’t we do this twice a year?” So, dear reader, my advice to you is to clear your diary for the second half of October 2019, and come and join us in the southern region of New South Wales (in or around Cooma) for our Fourteenth Annual Australian Chapter Reunion. Details will be provided as they become available. Very best wishes from all of us to all of you. ■



L-r, front: Peter Carroll, Abbas Talib, Wendy Duncan, Sally Patel, Chan Carroll, Susan Rutland, Beverley Baker, Patricia Ryan; middle: Willy Lim, Phil Young, Ching Purdue, Ainslie Smith, Colleen Nash, Anne Proctor, Anne Whittle, Loh Ai Tee, Susan Young, Arnie Parker, Nolleen Lim, Margaret Weir, Alicia Maclan, Viv Vivekandanda, Neil Collier; back: Nigel Savidge, Trevor Smith, John Whittle, Paul Turner, Andrew Proctor, Pat Talib, Anne Willoughby, John Thorpe, Beth Hilton-Thorpe, Alan Hartley, June Vann, Ron Hamilton, Bruce Purdue, David Parker, Francis Narayan, Natin Patel, Roger Weir, Stephen Baker, Susan Kerr, Mike Ryan, David Shires.

Canada: Toronto, Ottawa–Montreal, and Vancouver

Bruce Murray (ADB 1980–2007)



In a historic proclamation on 30 October 2018 the House of Commons declared June as Filipino Heritage Month. June was selected because the Philippines celebrates its Independence Day on 12 June. In doing so the Government recognized the contributions that Filipino-Canadians have made to Canadian society and the richness of the Filipino language and culture. The Filipino Canadian population has reached 851,400 and it is now the fastest growing ethnic group in Canada. 2019 will mark the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and the Philippines.

The AFE Canada chapter appreciated the hard work and diligence of AFE Manila during 2018 in representing the interests of AFE members. Information was forwarded to all Canadian AFE chapter members on (1) ADB's operational performance in 2017 and 2018; (2) important developments at ADB; (3) the ADB and AFE annual general meetings in Manila; (4) health and pension matters; (5) the election of the AFE Vice President; (6) ADB's 2030 strategy that expanded ADB's aspirations beyond ending poverty to a vision of a "prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and Pacific"; and (7) the names of AFE members who had passed away in 2018.



Nida Rodrigo, Toronto area coordinator (ADB 1976–1996)

Toronto. 2018 was a bit quieter than normal for the Toronto AFE group. This was not because the Toronto AFEers hibernated like the Canadian polar bears nor because of typical old age inactivity. Rather, it was because the members were so busy with so many things involving travel and family. For example, Annie Jameson and Ditas Boctor attended the 51st ADB Annual Meeting in Manila in May, where Annie represented the Canadian Chapter at the AFE chapter coordinators meeting. Guia Estabillo, Ching Ledesma, Ditas Boctor, and Rey and Ellen Ballares also visited Manila during the year while

Meng Perez returned to Toronto for several weeks. Paz and Ed Ravadilla and Ching and Dodo Ledesma went on a European cruise together. Coach Jun Trasporto was also travelling to give bowling clinics for the Canadian Deaf Sports Association in Richmond, British Columbia and in Montreal, Quebec. On the home front, Nida Rodrigo's family bonded in Toronto with the families of the children of former ADB staff member Art Consing who passed away in the 1990s. Nida's son and Art Consing's two granddaughters are first cousins. As it happens Art Consing was Linda Trabulsi's last boss before she left ADB.

Despite all of the travelling and family reunions, the Toronto AFE group still found time for some pot lucks and get togethers. After a long winter things started with an all-day breakfast/brunch at Guia Estabillo's beautiful house in May. Nida served as the moderator and artistic director. Everyone had a wonderful time enjoying quintessential Filipino dishes of fried *dilis*, broiled *danggit* and *bia*, salted eggs with tomatoes, eggplants dipped in *bagoong*, and *pancit palabok*, among others. The group also had Filipino treats as *pasalubong* from Ophie Sta. Ana. It was a day of fun, eating, and laughter. The balikbayans (Cora, Ditas, and Guia) talked about their holidays in the Philippines and Ditas talked about the successful ADB Annual Meeting in Manila.

The group welcomed Lita and Herman Gamboa, visitors from the Philippines, at the Trabulsi's home in June. In August Adam Trabulsi hosted his mother Linda's 75th birthday with family and friends. Thankfully Linda escaped unharmed when her car landed sideways from a freak accident in a parking lot... Linda stop scaring us! Jenny and Boy Amigleo opened their home to a potluck in September and we compensated for the "quietness" of previous months with food, screams, laughter, bonding, singing,



Toronto participants in the spring pot luck dinner. L-r, standing: Rey Ballares, Elmer Fernandez, Ed Ravadilla, Ron and Annie Jameson, Boy and Jenny Amigleo, Dean Santiago, Lucien Nogard, Jun Trasporto; seated: Ollie Nogard, Lynda Fernandez, Guia Estabillo, Ditas Boctor, Paz Ravadilla, Malou Trasporto, Ellen Ballares, Lea Gojo.



Toronto 2018 Year-End Gala. L-r, standing: Dean Santiago, Guia Estabillo, Lea Gojo, Lindy Trabulsi, Eden Santiago, Paz Ravadilla, Nida and Ezra Jugo; seated: Mike Trabulsi and Ed Ravadilla.

dancing, and blowing out Boy's birthday cake candles. New members also joined the Toronto AFE group in 2018—Dinnah Dabu, Carl Henson, and Susan and Alex Ramos... and boy, Alex can sing!!

In November the Toronto year-end gala was held at Lisbon by Night over Portuguese rodizio and Spanish paella, excellent vibes, food, and music. In mid-November there was a Thanksgiving get-together lunch at a Chinese buffet in Scarborough. Everyone had a wonderful time on this beautiful day enjoying the sumptuous dishes and the company of friends. It was non-stop eating, talking, joking, laughing, taking pictures, etc. Each of us had interesting topics to discuss. Rey and Ellen Ballares talked about their holiday in the Philippines; Ophie Morgan about her pilgrimage in Spain; Rolly Duenas about his trip in Eastern Europe; and the Ravadillas and the Ledesmas about the European cruise. The year ended with a December potluck at the Amigleos, complete with lechon, to celebrate Rey Ballares' birthday as well as his and Ellen's 32nd wedding anniversary.



John Rive, Ottawa area coordinator (ADB 1978–2002)

Ottawa. Fourteen members of the Ottawa–Montreal AFE group met on an appropriately Canadian snowy on 1 December 2018 for dinner at the

Coconut Lagoon restaurant. Everyone enjoyed the South Indian cuisine, renewing friendships and sharing memories. The Ottawa–Montreal group now includes AFE members who joined ADB as early as the late 1970s and another generation of members who started and completed their ADB careers after the oldie goldies left ADB. This led to interesting discussions on differences in work experience in the bank and different views on priorities in retiree benefits.

Everyone appreciated John Rive's work to organize the get together. In October Bruce and Emma Murray sampled the menu at the Coconut Lagoon during a lunch with Sevilla and Alan Gill and Marilyn Collette, followed by coffee at the Gill's lovely home. Marilyn described the interesting work that she is doing with Mercy Ship's taking medical services to the poor in Africa.



Ottawa dinner. L-r, standing: Vern Jorssen, Judy Banning, Alan Barry, Sandra Lodoen, Susan Hooper, Jeanette Rive, Pamela Deacon, Peter Choynowski, John Rive; seated: Audrey Jorssen, Rita Kapadia, Robert Collette, Farrokh Kapadia, Marilyn Collette.

Vancouver. A record 40 people attended the Vancouver AFE dinner at the River Rock Casino buffet on 17 November and signed the AFE guest book started by John Cole. Everyone enjoyed the food, especially the crab legs, sharing memories of ADB and participating in the John Cole memorial quizzes. For the business portion of the meeting, Bruce briefed the crowd on the material circulated to all AFE Canada members and the AFE Europe, AFE Australia, and New Zealand get togethers.

A special feature was a mini reunion of ADB's former Agriculture Department. Dick Bradley, the long time director of the Agriculture Department, and his wife Virgie, who drove to Vancouver from Wala Wala, Washington; in addition, Baby Ignacio came from Seattle, and Cynthia Alvarez flew in from Edmonton to join Vancouverites Yang Weimin and Kimlin Lim in a mini Department of Agriculture reunion.

Baby Ignacio's memories of the Agriculture Department:

I have known Mr. Richard Bradley since I joined the Bank in 1976, when he was a project engineer and handled various agriculture projects. He retired as the director of Agriculture Department in 1995. I was lucky to be his secretary when he was the manager of an irrigation division. I observed his dedication to his work and saw him coming early to the office and leaving late every day. Because of his friendly manner when interacting with the people in the division and the resulting good personal relationships, Mr. Bradley was loved dearly, not only by the people under him, but everybody in the Bank.



Vancouver AFE November get together at the River Rock Casino. L-r, men kneeling: Jay Dimailig, Sean Dimailig, Rey Castro, Nemy Esquejo, Rey Mendoza, Ed Lanzador; 2nd row, ladies: Emma Murray, Loi Dimailig, Cynthia Alvarez, Faith Ignacio, Baby Ignacio, Len Castro, Angelita Celestino, Fremma Esquejo, Lynne Cole, Jenny Palmiano, Merrell Chinyee, Marites Mendoza, Ky Hayashi, Christine Fraser, Aigek Beh, Malou Dizon, Tess Sumagui, Carmen Lanzador, Phaik Cheng; back row: Danny Ignacio, Bruce Murray, Vir Majarreis, Richard Bolt, Dick Bradley, Lew Hayashi, Yang Weimin, John Kuiper, Kim Linlim, Bill Fraser; missing: Virgie Bradley and Masami Bolt.

I have several fun memories of him that I treasure. Every year during our division's annual outing, Mr. Bradley would bring dozens of boiled eggs and distribute them among us. He did not want anyone to go hungry. In addition to eggs, he would also bring sandwiches and sodas for us, and of course he won't forget his bottles of beer. He was a regular participant in our yearly holiday party presentations where a prize was given to the best production. In one of our holiday events, Mr. Bradley played Santa Claus and gave gifts to everybody. Everyone was sad when he retired. We wished that the Bank did not have the 60 year old mandatory retirement age. I feel lucky that Mr. Bradley now lives permanently in Washington State, where I also live. Although it's quite a drive to his place, it is still easy to connect with him by phone or by a visit to his place.

Cynthia Alvarez's memories of the Agriculture

Department: *Way back in the 1990s Yang Weimin was the director of the Agriculture Department and Kimlin Lim was one of the professional staff in AG1. I worked with Mr. Lim as his Project Assistant (Associate Analyst) for an ADB loan project in the People's Republic of China (PRC). We went together on an inception mission to the PRC and that was one of my most memorable missions in ADB. Since it was my first time in Beijing, Mr. Lim made sure I had the opportunity to see the Great Wall of China. I also went to see the spectacular rainbow ice castles one evening. Even now that I have had many opportunities to see world-class ice castles, the Beijing ice castles were one of the best for me. Most of us women in AG1 attended ballroom dancing lessons sponsored by the ADB dance guild. Yang Weimin and other*

professional staff in AG1 (not Mr. Lim) also attended one of the dance lesson sessions—we sure had fun time! I forgot to ask Yang Weimin at the Vancouver AFE reunion whether he still has those dance moves. Baby Ignacio was also one of the Project Assistants in AG1. We have kept in touch on a regular basis and remain very good friends.

Yang Weimin organized a lunch for former colleagues in Vancouver on 25 September 2018. Those attending enjoyed good conversation and shared fond memories while savoring the Indian buffet. There were two special features of that lunch. Lew Hayashi achieved every golfer's dream—he shot two rounds in 2018 in which his score was less than his age. Also, Richard Bolt joined the group after resettling in Vancouver. ■



Agriculture Reunion at the Vancouver AFE November get-together. L-r: Yang Weimin, Cindy Alvarez, Dick Bradley, Baby Ignacio, and Kimlin Lim.

Camulodunum 2018

Jill Gale de Villa



At the invitation of Richard and Sue Vokes, 58 of us headed to Colchester, where we were as much a surprise to the town as it was to us. Once Britain's only city, Colchester is no longer used to large group arrivals, and most of us knew very little about the town. To our delight, we embarked on discovery, and hope that Colchester was also pleased with us—we were, after all, generally well behaved. Originally, the group size had been capped at 40, but in true Philippine style, all things flexible, we grew until we had to be billeted in two hotels, both historic and venerable—Greyfriars, built starting in 1755 on land near where the original Grey Friars had lived, and the George, once a coaching inn with parts of its building dating back 500 years. We trickled in on Thursday 13 September to Welcome Drinks and Dinner at Greyfriars and an address by Colchester's High Steward, Sir Bob Russell.

Roman Times. Friday activities commenced at 9 sharp with an excellent introductory briefing on Colchester's past by Andrew Phillips, fellow in history at Essex University. Then we were off to the day's exercise to assure we stayed fit and awake. First was the nearby Norman Castle its museum. The Roman Emperor Claudius conquered Colchester (then Camulodunum) in AD. Six years later, Nero ordered the building of the Claudius Temple on the site of what is now the castle.

Bodacious Boudicca. In AD 60, a rebellion led by Queen Boudicca of the Iceni attacked and destroyed much of the Roman settlement, sacked the temple, and decapitated the statue of Claudius. She was avenging her treatment by Romans, who flogged her and raped her two daughters, reneging on an agreement with late husband not to interfere in the affairs of the Iceni, and was joined by other irate chiefs.

rebellion may have claimed about 80,000 lives ("hell hath no fury like a woman scorned"); left Camulodunum, Londinium, and Verulamium (now St. Albans) in ruins; and had Nero contemplating completely retreating from Britain. However, the rebellion was quelled and the temple stood for another 350 years.



Decorated jar.

Norman Keep. Shortly after the Norman Conquest in 1066, William the Conqueror ordered the construction of a castle in Colchester. The castle keep was built on the very extensive foundations of the former Claudius Temple (which had become a Christian church). Much of the stone used to build the castle came from the temple and other Roman constructions, including the town wall. The result is now the largest Norman keep in Europe. The museum inside houses a collection of artifacts found in the area and dating back 2,500 years, all very well displayed and signed, including some hands-on displays—good fun for children of all ages.

Roaming Farther. Next was a stroll through town, including the Dutch Quarter. This area was settled in the 1560s by Flemish weavers who brought new technology

Meriaty Subroto photographing the Norman Castle.





At the Balcerne Gate, the Roman Victory Arch ~43ad. L-r Katrina Heinen, Ray Cahoon, Freiderike Kantner, Brenda Cahoon, Peter Fedon, Sylvia and Patrick Brandt, Kazu Sakai, Naomi Chakwin, our guide, Andrea Iffland, Annette Fedon, Makiko Sato, Eveline Fischer, Meriaty Subroto, Georges Heinen.

and revived the cloth trade. Some of us stopped in at St. Helen's chapel, now a Greek Orthodox church. It is named for Colchester's patron saint, Constantine's mother, who is reputed to have visited—although this is unlikely. The chapel sits atop what once was a Roman theater with seating for 3,000.



Ruins of St. Botolphs: l-r: Sylvia Brandt, Sabrina Crooks, Eveline Fischer.

We continued to "Jumbo," a 25-meter tall brick water tower, built in 1883 to augment Colchester's water supply, then to the best preserved part of the Roman wall and the Balcerne Gate. The Balcerne Gate was built shortly after AD 43 as a triumphal arch and was later incorporated into the city wall. Here we stopped to pose triumphantly, while looking hungrily at a restaurant aptly named "The Hole in the Wall."

After lunch at Timperley's we continued to St. John's Abbey Gate (c 1400) to marvel at its attractive "flush work" flint construction, then on to the Roman Circus, the only one found so far in Britain. It had seating for 8,000 and was one of the Roman Empire's longest circuses. Our very good guides carried a large drawing indicating where the circus had been—as much of its remaining

foundations are buried; showed us where the eight starting gates were; and helped us imagine ponies galloping around pulling chariots and charioteers. An attractive mosaic helped too. Dr. Philip Crummy then treated us to an excellent talk on Roman Colchester over tea and cakes. Next we strolled through the ruins of St. Botolph's Priory (c 1100).

Business Meeting. Then it was time for the Europe Chapter business meeting. It included a briefing on developments at ADB and Strategy 2030 by Samantha Hung of the ADB European Representative Office.

Modern mosaic: a race at the Roman circus.





The crooked house at Lavenham.

Half-Timbered Towns. Saturday, we were off to Lavenham, a town retaining most of its timber-frame buildings, including a crooked house with unlikely lean. Ladies in the town center and Guildhall were carding and spinning wool using traditional methods, and we had a talk on the history of the impressive 16th

century Guildhall and Lavenham's erstwhile fame as a producer of the blue cloth that once brought great riches. Lunch was at the nearby Swan Hotel, housed in a series of 15th–16th century buildings.

We then walked through more of the town to the "wool church," its chancel dating from about 1340. The very fine reconstruction of the church during 1485–1525 was financed by wealthy clothiers. Next was Long Melford, for a visit to another magnificent "wool church." Back in Colchester we were treated to a performance of local clog

dancing, followed by the Gala Dinner at the Greyfriars' Cloisters Restaurant, including an address by the mayor of Colchester.

Sutton Hoo. Given the previous evening's activity, we departed late on Sunday—at 9:30am—for Sutton Hoo. Here our excellent guide walked us off into a field with a few apparently unremarkable mounds. Beneath them was one very remarkable find—a royal burial ship dating from the 7th century—the richest grave of the period ever found in northern Europe. This is likely the burial of an Anglo-Saxon, King Raedwald (c 560–624). Very interesting parallels have been found between the Beowulf story, once thought to be completely mythical, and the burial. (Consequently, I am now determined to reread Beowulf.)



Death mask of Sutton Hoo's major burial—possibly of King Raedwald, –624. Right - the death mask. Left - Sutton Hoo's emblem.



Behind the "wool church" of Lavenham: Most of the group.



Relaxing with cream tea and scones on the lawns of Seckford hall.

Tide Mill. Then back to more recent “civilization”—the Tide Mill at Woodbridge that now produces artisanal flour, followed by cream tea and scones and relaxation at stately Seckford Hall, a large Tudor manor house with remarkable furnishings and décor and charming grounds.

Beth Chatto’s Garden. Monday we were off to Beth Chatto’s Garden, to walk through and learn about gardening that works with the environment even in this arid area. (Many of us were surprised to find there is a dry corner of England!) Beth Chatto became famous in the gardening world for her skill at working with the local



Beth Chatto’s garden: Lush growth in an arid environment.

conditions and using less common plants, including many previously regarded as weeds. Indeed, she defined “a weed” as “a plant in the wrong place.”

Constable Country.

Then on to Flatford Mill in the Dedham Vale, where John Constable painted many of his life works. Some of us then walked through serene pasture to Dedham.

The point was to go to the craft center—which

some of us did. Others found the pubs’ beer, ale, and cider impossible to pass by, while a few thought another cream tea would be in order.

Au Revoir. Our Farewell Dinner was at the Red Lion (a 15th century timber-frame building dating from 1467), complete with period Vokesinging (folk singing by the Vokes). And we made an impression on Colchester too—a subsequent article in the newspaper provides information about our visit. Its headline: “From 13 Countries to Enjoy Colchester.” At the end of the evening, the organizers were roundly toasted for arranging a thorough and thoroughly good itinerary. ■



India: Myriad Hues of Karnataka

Barin Ganguli (ADB 1979–1995) and Julia Holz



Before every annual meeting of the AFE–ADB India Chapter comes an argument. Should we spend hours on a day discussing dreary issues like pension funding, medical insurance, details of what transpired in the annual general meeting, chapter bylaws, etc., sitting in a hotel, and then go back to our respective homes? Or should we

pick a destination where we can have a meeting and spend the post meeting days soaking up natural wonders, visiting memorable historical and cultural sites, enriching our experiences, and enlivening our spirits? What is a meeting if we are not able to test a new cuisine or face a new adventure?

Following a very successful meeting in Guwahati in 2017, our members from Karnataka, **Chander and Lakshmi Ventkatachalam**, proposed holding the 2018 chapter meeting in Mysore then exploring the myriad hues of South Karnataka.

An inspired group of us joined the Karnataka tour from far and wide: Jayanta Madhab from Guwahati; Shipra and Barin Ganguli, Krishna and Venkataranaman, Shyam and Rajni Bajpai, and Snimer Sahni from Delhi; Krishna and Rajani Bagal from Pune; Shiladitya and Rita Chatterjee from Kolkata; Padma and Swaminathan from Chennai; Anil and Sangita Terway from Melbourne; Lakshmi Venkatachalam and Seetahpati Chander from Karnataka; and AFE President Hans Springer, AFE Treasurer Julia Holz, and Elizabeth Reyes from Manila.

The Karnataka tour began on 13 November 2018 in a spacious and modern air-conditioned 37-seat bus. With only a short coffee stop, we reached Taj Gateway Hotel in **Chickmagalur** for lunch. This Taj property is a colonial style upscale hotel set in tropical gardens with mountain views. Chickmagalur, one of the largest coffee producing areas in Karnataka, has a perpetual fragrance of coffee in the air.

Following a sumptuous lunch, we proceeded to the twin towns of Belur and Halebeedu, on the banks of the Yagachi River. Belur was the capital of the mighty Hoysala empire, from the 11th to 13th centuries. We visited the **Chennakesava and Kappe Chennigaray temples in Belur and the ornate Hoysaleswara and the**



Temple statue.



Lord Gommateshwara statue, 17.7 meters high.



Visitors at the Lord Gommateshwara statue.

Kedareswara temples in Halebeedu. The area's temples are characterized by a typical star-shaped ground plan, and are usually set on a platform. They are compact square structures with ornately carved walls that depict music and dance. The temples are carved out of soapstone, which is easy to chisel but attains iron-like firmness when exposed to the atmosphere. All the temples were profusely carved with exquisite figures. It was late in the evening when we returned to the hotel and an entertaining magic show.

Early next morning, we set out for **Shravanabelagola**, an important Jain pilgrimage center. We saw many interesting monuments as we were climbed the 621 steps to the giant 1,000-year-old statue of Lord Gommateshwara, regarded as the highest monolith statue in Asia. This world-famous 17.7-meter (58-foot) tall image, splendidly carved out of a single block of granite, was installed in 983. It is said to be visible from a distance of 30 kilometers (km).

Climbing barefoot down the stone steps was more difficult and made us hungry, so we really appreciated the lunch waiting for us in Mysore, where we checked in at Radisson Blue Hotel.

Mysore was the capital of the mighty Mysuru Kingdom before it moved to Bangaluru in 1973. Mysore is dominated by the Chamunda Hills, the spectacular Royal Palace, and wide avenues resplendent with reddish-orange African tulips. Here, in the Radisson Blue Hotel, the business meeting was held on 14 November 2018. (For detailed notes of the meeting, e-mail Chapter Coordinator Barin Ganguli.) The members present unanimously decided to hold the 25th annual meeting in the ADB Resident Mission Office in Delhi with post meeting tour in Western Rajasthan.

Early on 15 November we visited **Chamundeshwari Temple**, 305 meters (1,000 feet) high in the Chamundi Hills. It is one of 18 Maha Shakti Peethas in India. The idol of the goddess is worshipped daily by a number of priests—and tourists like us.

Next came the former **palace of the Royal Family of Mysore** and still their official residence. Built in 1912, it is one of India's largest palaces. The façade is a harmonious blend of Hindu, Muslim, Rajput, and Gothic



Mysore Palace tower (above) interior (below).



Learning about coffee production: Barin Ganguli, Lakshmi Venkatachalam and Julia Holz.

styles. The museum, housed in the palace's ornate halls, has innumerable artifacts.

The **Kesava Temple** in Somanathpura, on the banks of the holy Cauvery (Kaveri) River, was our last stop. It is the finest monument of the Hoysala dynasty. Built in 1258, it is a Vaishnav Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Krishna and is not in use any more. The broken and mutilated statues carved of stone attract visitors from far and wide to witness the magnificent artistic and engineering achievements of the bygone era. Our trip to Mysore ended with a cup of tea in **Lalitha Mahal Palace**, once the Guest House of the Maharaja of Mysore.

We left Mysore at 9 am on 16 November. By this time we had fallen in love with the Volvo bus, our temporary home. Today, while driving to Madikeri, we stopped at Namdroling Monastery, the largest teaching center of the Tibetan Buddhism tradition known as Nyingmapa. The monastery, set up in 1963, represents some excellent architecture and art with an elaborately decorated temple tower and beautiful Tibetan murals.

By lunchtime, we checked into the Taj Madikeri Resort and Spa, a fabulous new Taj property in 73 hectares (180 acres) of rainforest. We enjoyed sheer luxury with separate hotel cabins, indoor and outdoor pools, unrivaled Indian hospitality, and world class service.

Following lunch we visited the Coffee Research Centre at Chettahalli, complete with a coffee tasting session and gifts of coffee. The most common coffee beans in India are Arabica and Robusta, grown in the hills of Karnataka, in the Malabar region of Kerala, and in Tamilnadu. India is the 7th largest coffee exporter in the world; Brazil is the largest.

On 17 November, we went to **Talakaveri**, the source of the Cauvery (Kaveri) River, then returned to our fabulous resort to explore it, its pool and grounds, and its museum



Bekal Fort, l-r: Snimer Sahni, Seethapati Chander, Jayanta Madhab, Lakshmi Venkatachalam, Julia Holz, Elizabeth Reyes, Hans Springer and Krishna Bagal.

depicting the Coorg area's history and culture.

The next day, we all crowded into a small vehicle to be reunited with our Volvo bus, which was left behind as it could not negotiate the steep and twisty drive to the Resort. We then covered 150 km and checked in to Vivanta by Taj in Bekal. After lunch we visited the **Bekal Fort**, built in 1650. It is the largest fort in Kerala, spread over 16 hectares (40 acres), and was once the seat of a large palace. A peaceful late afternoon cruise on the river to the Arabian Sea was a perfect ending to our day.

We left Bekal on 19 November, stopping for lunch at Mangalore, an Arabian Sea port and commercial center. Then on to **Hasthashilpa Heritage Village Museum**, a special place. Here some very old artifacts, paintings,

wooden furniture, and reconstructed buildings of the ancient cultures of Hampi and Coorg are on display.

We arrived late in Murudeshwar, on the coast of the Arabian Sea. The town is famous for the **Murudeshwar Temple**, which has the second tallest statue of Lord Shiva in the world—123 feet. Unfortunately, the temple was closed, but our hotel had amazing views of the sea.

We left Murudeshwar for Gokarna on the 20th, stopping at **Jog Falls**, the second highest waterfall in India, with a drop of 253 meters (830 feet). There are 1,400 steps to the bottom—which we had no time to explore. We then toured the dam nearby before continuing to Sahasralinga, where 1,000 Shiva lingas were carved in the rocky water bed by sculptors of the distant past.

By 9 pm we reached Sanskruti Hotel, our base for two nights. The vegan hotel had individual cottages around a swimming pool. Next morning we visited the chaotic **Mahabaleshwara Temple**, a 4th-century Hindu temple in the town. Legend says that the deity of the temple will bestow immense blessings on devotees, even those who only glimpse it. In the afternoon we bussed then walked to the famous **Om Beach** to watch a fabulous sunset.

On our last evening, Barin hosted an "in room" cocktail and we reviewed our fabulous trip, thanking Lakshmi and Chander for producing a program with myriad hues of Karnataka. The ancient temples, and statues, rich history, lush green rainforests, and sandy beaches will remain in our memories forever, along with the deepening friendships developed among former ADB colleagues. ■



Farewell, l-r: Elizabeth Reyes, Julia Holz, Anil and Sangita Terway, Snimer Sahni, Shipra Ganguli, Rita Chatterjee, Padma and Swami Swaminathan, Seethapati Chander, Shiladitya Chatterjee, Venkat and Krishna Venkataranaman, Barin Ganguli, Bus Driver and guide.

Indonesia

Putu Kamayana (ADB 1995–2014)



Based in Jakarta, the AFE–ADB Indonesia Chapter enjoyed a robust social calendar in 2018. We held two get-togethers which helped to maintain camaraderie and connections from the years together in ADB and the Philippines, spanning several “generations” of staff from Indonesia. Unfortunately due to prior commitments

of many members, we were unable to organize a group holiday out of town, as held in some previous years.

Our first gathering was at the popular Mendjangan Restaurant in South Jakarta on 22 July 2018.

At Dewi Utami’s home, December 2018, l-r, first row: Ardyanie Soewartono, Tutty Suwendah Cagayat, Emmy Gunadi, Chaya Soeksmono, Lestari Pakpahan, Siti Nur Aisyiyah Nangju; second row: Zainal M. Soemadiredja, Ruben G. Cagayat, Kinan Bhinekawati, Country Director Winfried Wicklein, Michel de Ponteves, Philip Daltrop, Normin Pakpahan, Edy Brotoisworo; third row: Prijomustiko, Dian Prijomustiko, Sri Hadi Puji Astuty, Ida de Ponteves, Wati Kamayana, Putu Kamayana, Dewi Utami, Zsizi Rachman, Dewi Utami, H. S. Soewartono, Dimiyati Nangju.

The second gathering was held on 16 December 2018 at the brand new residence of recent retiree Dewi Utami and husband Zainal M. Soemadiredja in the Bintaro Jaya housing estate, South Tangerang, Greater Jakarta. ADB Country Director Winfried Wicklein kindly joined us to brief the members on recent developments in the ADB’s country strategy and program for Indonesia and in the resident mission. ■



After lunch at Mendjangan Restaurant, July 2018, l-r, seated: Ida de Ponteves, Kinan Bhinekawati, Tuti Kaswadi, Rochana Soerakoesoemah, Kus Hardjanti, Tutty Suwendah Cagayat, Roslaini Rasuman, Siti Nur Aisyiyah Nangju; second row: H. S. Soewartono, Abdullah Rasuman, Dimiyati Nangju, M. Soerakoesoemah, Edy Brotoisworo, Ruben G. Cagayat, Wati Kamayana, Dewi Utami, Ardyanie Soewartono; back: Michel de Ponteves, Zainal M. Soemadiredja, Putu Kamayana.

Korea

Meeja Hamm (ADB 1993–2006)



The Korea Chapter had a 2018 reunion on 13 December in Seoul. We updated ourselves on AFE–ADB activities and members expressed their appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the AFE–ADB Executive Committee.

Aside from the year-end reunion, members of the Korea Chapter have been getting together for lunch on the second Thursday of every month for more than 10 years. This has been the avenue for sharing AFE and ADB news, welcoming new members, and catching up with new developments among the members. Vice-Presidents Bong-Suh Lee and Myoung-Ho Shin and Bob Dawson have regularly attended the gatherings; the average turnout has been 12–15 former ADB staff members. ■

First row: Jongin Kim, Dong-Ho Park, Yong-Hoe Lee, Meeja Hamm, Bong-Suh Lee, Sun-Ho Lee, Jong-Seop Cheong, Gyun-Tae Sul, Yoong-Soo Seo; Behind: Yeo-Kwon Yoon, Cheol-Ghee Kim, Cheolsu Kim, Jong-Wha Lee.

New York–New Jersey

Lorna del Rosario (ADB 1994–2000)



The AFE–ADB New York–New Jersey Chapter had its 2018 annual reunion on 20 October in the Big Apple at the Sheraton La Guardia East Hotel, conveniently located in Flushing’s Chinatown proper in Queens, New York. With a **modern Filipiniana theme**, the event was truly festive—just like any Philippine

fiesta celebration. The guests came dressed in the timeless *barong*, *ternos*, *sayas*, *alampays*, and *boleros* (traditional Filipino shirts, dresses, skirts, bandanas, and jackets)—but with some modern twists.

Entertainment for the evening showcased our very own talents. Musical renditions of popular songs “then” (Ric Manriquez’ Saan Ka Man Naroroon) and “now” (Daniel Padilla’s Ikaw Ang Aking Mahal) were performed by father and son tandem, **Don and Jonathan O’Buckley**. Dance performances included a Muslim





Seated l-r: Emma Murray, Teresita Zaretsky, Elizabeth Juan, Myrna Lavidas, Julia Holz, Margie Baccay, Lorna del Rosario, and Chato O’Buckley. 1st Row Standing: Tito Molina, Chona Casimiro, Jo Yabes Sherman, Alice Dumawil, Jovie Evangelista, Gilda Ordonez-Baric, Tonette Guico-Sanchez, Luisa Robinson, Ditas Oliveros, Nena Villena-Tanedo, Emma Dumalag, Vivian Villanueva, Nerissa Cortes, Ruby Portnoy. Last Row: l-r: Rosebella Arceo, Mayen Sacasas, Bruce Murray, Juliet Capati, Sofie Marquez, Vhee Martin, Mila Simolde, Teresita Zaretsky, Totie Santiago, and Diane Venegas.

dance number (Una-Kaya) by our **colleagues from the Washington DC Area** group: Ditas Oliveros, Jo Sherman, Gilda Ordonez-Baric, and Tonette Guico-Sanchez and a modern line dance number (Inigo Pascual’s Dahil Sa Iyo) by the **ADBarkads**: Margie Baccay, Chato O’Buckley, Chat Cortes, Lorna del Rosario, Mila Simolde, Vivian Villanueva, and Nena Villena-Tanedo. During dinner, the guests were serenaded by Margie and Romy Baccay, Vivian Villanueva, Jonathan O’Buckley, and Joven Villestas with the more popular and upbeat Filipino renditions. ■



Best dressed: Ditas Oliveros and Carlos “Totie” Santiago Torrelino,



Special Guests: Julia Holz and Bruce Murray,



The Chapter Newbies: (L–R): Myrna Lavidas, Victor You, Mary Ann Domingo and Ruby Portnoy (nee de Vera).

Pakistan

M.E. Tusneem (ADB 1979–2005)



On 8 October 2018, I hosted a dinner for ex-ADBans including some AFE–ADB Pakistan Chapter members/spouses visiting from abroad. The members exchanged greetings and pleasantries, and renewed contacts. Hamid Sharif, currently Director General at the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Beijing, provided highlights of the AIIB’s operational and lending

activities. ■



L-r, sitting: Norin Tayyab, Amna Chaudhry, Talaat Sharif, Afshan Farooqi; standing: Ahsan Tayyab, Khalid Rahman, Zaheer Ahmad, M. E. Tusneem, Latif Chaudhry, Hamid Sharif, Naim Farooqi.



The theme was **“Reap What You Sow! Let’s Go Boho!”** to highlight ADB retirees’ work contributions where they have given the best years of their lives, that they believe made possible ADB’s continued growth and achievements, and they are now enjoying the benefits of their hard work. To complement the theme, members came in Bohemian (from the French *bohémien*, for “gypsy”) attire suggesting carefree convenient living.

For the first time, dancing started the evening’s affair instead of the business meeting, attesting to the eagerness of the majority to have a fun-filled night. Emcees for the evening were Malu Baleva and Elvie Estabillo. Elvie took the opportunity to promote her new book, *Thoughts to Guide Us By*, a compilation of her regular column in the *Philippine Star*. Proceeds will go to her water and sanitation projects in selected public schools.

During the **business meeting** portion, I delivered the Philippines Chapter Annual Report where I mentioned tours the Chapter had arranged for the members of the various AFE–ADB chapters who attended ADB’s Annual Meeting and AFE–ADB’s Annual General Meeting in Manila In May 2018. The tours included a 10-course Lechon lunch

Philippines 2018 Annual Get-Together

Gam de Armas (ADB 1981–2000)



More than 100 members of the Philippines Chapter and some members from other chapters attended the Philippines Annual Get-together on 15 November 2018 at the ADB Headquarters Executive Dining Room and enjoyed a nice buffet dinner, line dancing, games, group presentations, and loads of raffle prizes.



at Bale Dutung in Angeles, Pampanga, and excursions to Villa Escudero and Las Casas Acuzar Filipinas, a Manila Bay Sunset Dinner Cruise, and a 6-day tour to Northern Luzon.

I also reported on the outreach projects and fellowship activities of the four groups of the Philippines Chapter. The outreach included the East Group bringing early Christmas cheer and “loot” bags containing biscuits, milk, and toiletries to the elderly residents of Tahanang Balik Alay in Taytay, Rizal, and the West Group’s visit to the KALINGA Center catering to the poorest of the poor, the homeless, and marginalized through an innovative 7 station process. An initial donation of P6,000 was turned over to the Center. Relevant benefits and health coverage updates and important developments were also presented by AFE–ADB Vice President Jill de Villa and

Assistant Treasurer Marissa Wenceslao. Group picture taking and dinner followed.

The **Group Presentations** were a hit as each group gave its own version of fine choreographed dancing to the delight of the audience. All three groups that presented were given prizes by the emcees.

The judges in the Best in Costume Contest, David Parker, Jill Gale de Villa, and Vicki De Armas, had a difficult time narrowing the contestants down to 10 finalists as everyone came in colorful and authentic costumes. Three stood out and were declared as co-winners—Ofelia Sta. Ana, Monina de Guzman, and Lelet Sanchez, who also won the raffle’s grand prize. ■



Southern California

Yolanda Laurel Houtby (ADB 1979–1989)



The Southern California Chapter meets twice a year to catch up with happenings in our members' lives. Though our membership was reduced due to retirements, transfers to other states in the US, and going back home to the Philippines, we managed to reach out to each other, thanks to the efforts of Letty Liong Gomez, May Seron-Tigas, Filonila Martin, and Pura Gutierrez. On a sad note, we lost one member in 2018, Nory Tamidles, wife of William Tamidles, due to breast cancer. But some of us are still active members of the workforce here in Southern California, and, as the saying goes, "life goes on" for those of us who are still in this part of the US. ■



House of Blues with Pura Gutierrez; Yolanda Laurel Houtby; James Houtby; May Seron-Tigas; Yolanda Bravo; and Moises Tigas.



Taken during our Summer Picnic with ADB members and guests. 1st row (sitting/kneeling, l-r): Moises Tigas; Ruby Tuazon, Julio Aban, July Aban's grandson; Frank Vergara; Danny Panopio; Art Aquino; and Josie Panopio; 2nd row (standing/sitting l-r): Filonila Martin; Chito Martin; Yolanda Laurel Houtby; Letty Liong Gomez; Nelia Abarientos; Emy Vergara; Tess Aquino; Yolanda Bravo; Dinna Pamintuan; May Seron-Tigas; Mayan Sacases; Bobby Sacases; and Orlie Lacanlale.

People, Places, and Passages

Robert Orr: Order of the Rising Sun



After retirement from ADB, Robert M. (“Skip”) Orr, United States Ambassador and former Executive Director to ADB (2010–2015), has been advised by the Imperial Palace of Japan that in the spring of 2019 he is receiving the Order of the Rising Sun in recognition of his services.

The Order of the Rising Sun (旭日章 Kyokujitsu-shō) [was]

established in 1875 by Emperor Meiji of Japan. The Order was the first national decoration awarded by the Japanese government, created on 10 April 1875 by decree of the Council of State. The badge features rays of sunlight from the rising sun....

The order is awarded to those who have made distinguished achievements in international relations, promotion of Japanese culture, advancements in their field, development in welfare or preservation of the environment....

The modern version of this honor has been conferred on non-Japanese recipients beginning in 1981... and women were awarded the Order starting in 2003.... The awarding of the Order is administered by ... the Prime Minister [’s office] ... in the name of the Emperor....

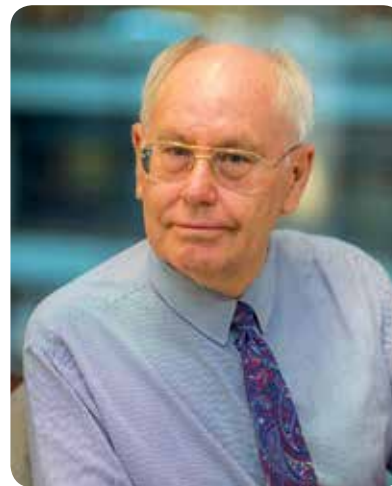
(Condensed from Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_the_Rising_Sun)



From <https://www8.cao.go.jp/shokun/en/orders-of-the-rising-sun.html>

He is currently on the Board of Governors of the Pacific Forum. From 2007 to 2010 he was Chairman of the Board of the Panasonic Foundation and concurrently Vice Chair of the National Association of Japan–America Societies, a member of the Board of Trustees of J.F. Oberlin University, and a member of the Board of the East–West Center Foundation. From January 2002 until March 2007, he was President of Boeing Japan. ■

Peter McCawley: Member of the Order of Australia



At the **Australia Day awards**, 26 January, Peter T. McCawley (ADB 1992–1996, ADBI 2003–2007) was honored with a medal as **Member of the Order of Australia**. The award was given “For significant service to the Asia-Pacific region through economic advisory roles.” Source: <https://citynews.com.au/2019/canberrans-shine-as-order-honours-hit-new-high/>

Peter McCawley was an executive director for Australia at ADB and Dean of the Asian Development Bank Institute. He authored *Banking on the Future: 50 Years of the Asian Development Bank*, published by ADB on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. He is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Arndt-Corden Economics Division and Indonesia Project, Australian National University College of Asia and the Pacific.

He notes: “...I see the award as, hopefully, recognition of the importance of the type of work that we all have done



in the ADB and in the Asian region. The official citation gives prominence to activities in the ADB and in Asia.

All of us in AFE–ADB have been involved in work of this sort for many years. I see the award as, hopefully, recognizing the value of the international work that we have all been involved in to support development in Asia. Regards to AFE-ADB colleagues ... Peter" ■

Chris Hnanguie: Order of Papua New Guinea



Christopher Taylor Hnanguie is on the 2019 list of awardees of the **Papua New Guinea (PNG) National Logohu Medal** for service to development planning and management.

He noted "I am honored and grateful to be among these wonderful men and women doing great

service for our country."

"The Papua New Guinea honors system is the main system of honoring citizens of Papua New Guinea for their services to the country; it consists of three Orders and several medals.... The National Logohu Medal... is awarded for exemplary service in a profession, career, or industry group, or to the general community, over a period of at least five years." (Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papua_New_Guinea_honours_system)

Christopher Hnanguie currently heads the PNG Securities Commission and is an ex-officio member of the board of the Bank of PNG. (Source: <https://postcourier.com.pg/securities-commission-appoints-new-boss/>) ■

Rewiring: A Coach's Story

Wouter Lincklaen Arriëns (ADB 1992–2013)



My itch to rewire started 12 years ago, in the year before I turned 50. After giving thought to the upcoming milestone, I decided that it was a door that I would consciously walk through into a bigger space of new experiences. I was keen to build on what I had learned in my first half century to make the years ahead even more exciting, and different.

As a lead water resources specialist, I had discovered that most of the world's water problems were more about people and collaboration than about water. Moreover, more and more people would see me to discuss their work, career, and life challenges. It took me a while to understand that these people were after coaching, to engage in conversations on problems that went deeper than their immediate work challenges.

Coaching Colleagues. When I realized that what we were doing was coaching, I enrolled in a coach training program to gain the skills to coach colleagues in a professional way. At that time, you could count the number of trained coaches in ADB on one hand, with a finger to spare.

Not long after, Amy Leung joined me in launching the first leadership coaching program targeted to helping front-line staff rather than to those being groomed for managerial positions. BPMSD supported the initiative, saying it fitted with what they expected lead professionals to engage in to support their communities of practice.

Coaching staff to become more effective in their projects with clients turned out to be a fascinating experience for me, and my interest grew to do more of this work to help more people. Step by step, my growing knowledge allowed me to explore how leadership skills could be nurtured in staff to work with clients in new and better ways, and for me to spot good case examples.



Coach Wouter Keynote IRS Sydney Oct 2018

Leader or Manager? Around that time, an evaluation of water projects had revealed that successful projects had one factor in common—a capable project leader. Some of the most innovative projects had an effective leader on the government side as well.

Have you noticed in your career how leadership and management are two different things? Often in ADB work, the attention is focused on meeting a large number of requirements within a very limited time. That’s management.

Consider the three letters making up ADB. I started seeing how management is mostly about the letter B of banking (making sure to never drop the ball), whereas leadership is primarily about the D of development, which is messier, and about the quest of making positive changes happen.

What about the letter A? This, for me, took on the meaning of seeing ADB’s clients in the region as leaders who wanted to bring about change, not just delivering a project according to the rules.

Changing Times. We now live in an era of rapid and unprecedented changes, and that has caused the definition of leadership to change as well. Leadership is now defined as a process of influencing change.

That has opened the door to more potential leaders who can influence positive changes, even when they’re not in a position of authority. We have also learned that leaders can start exerting influence from an early age. Titles and positional authority matter a great deal less than they used to.

What I discovered when I took up the practice of coaching was that many mono-disciplinary experts in ADB’s projects, on both sides, had very little or no clue about how to lead by influencing others beyond giving instructions. As a result, organization and team performance often

remained low. I also noted how cultural gaps were growing fast between older executives and millennials keen to develop themselves as emerging leaders.

That’s how my itch grew into a dream, to coach more people in making a difference in our world of rapid change. When, unexpectedly, life circumstances allowed me to take early retirement—in ADB’s terminology—I saw it as the opportunity I longed for to rewire and start the next phase of my career.

What It Takes to Rewire. The notion of *Rewiring vs. Retiring* is quoted more often nowadays. My rewiring phase started with going back to school. I took many online classes, and worked hard on packaging my knowledge and experience in a form that others could readily benefit from.

Before long, I was collaborating with academic centers in Asia and Europe to help them start leadership development programs for emerging water and sustainability professionals. I then founded TransformationFirst.Asia in Singapore as my thought leader practice. As a result of my rewiring, I soon found myself speaking, training, and coaching people from all continents on leadership.

What does it take to rewire? Well, in my case, a lot of curiosity combined with intensive work. Technology has been a big part of this, and I learned how to conduct webinars and online coaching, set up online courses, and facilitate collaboration.

What about your interest in rewiring? If you want to explore your next phase in a new way, perhaps I can offer you some tips from my experience over the past 5 years. My approach in founding TransformationFirst.Asia was to take initiative rather than wait for opportunities to show up. Why not do the same?

The professional world is now filled with millennials who are looking for mentors, and with plenty of professionals and managers who are keen to be equipped to become leaders themselves, to go far beyond managing projects in compliance with ADB and government rules.

In my coaching and training programs, I work with a wide range of leaders, including executives, professionals, and emerging leaders. Also, through *Natalie in the Light*, an NGO that I founded in Manila in memory of my daughter, we are working with youth organizations to empower a new generation of high-school and college leaders who will contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

If you have questions, e-mail me so that we can set up a call to exchange experiences and discuss your ideas and plans to Rewire. <coachwouter@transformationfirst.asia> ■

Unbelievable, Unforgettable Botswana

W. Doug Ferguson (ADB 1978–2002)



Clockwise from upper left: Jim Rocket (partly hidden), Doug Ferguson, Peter Choynovski, Ben and Jerry, Christina Ferguson.

Our visit to Victoria Falls and Botswana in Southern Africa in October 2018 was a “once in a lifetime experience”—living in a small tented community in the middle of the natural habitat of Botswana’s wildlife, including elephants, hippos, lions, giraffes, buffalos, wildebeest, zebras, crocodiles, impalas, kudus, leopards, warthogs, baboons, monkeys, many bird species, and other animals. We came face to face with wild animals that we soon came to respect and admire. It became apparent that they were prepared to share their domain with *Homo sapiens* on their terms as long as they were not in danger of being killed or mutilated for their tusks or other parts. Too macabre!

Braving Africa. Prior to our trip, Jim Rockett, Peter Choynowski, and I and our wives Diana and Cristina had considered Africa to be major security and health risks, not to mention the actual dangers from “getting up close and personal” with some of the world’s largest and wildest animals in their environment. But in October 2018, following the wedding of Jim and Diana’s youngest daughter Jenny to John Scranton in Capetown, South Africa, we decided to face the risks and experience an adventure of a lifetime on safari in Botswana.



Victoria Falls.

Our flight from Capetown took us to **Victoria Falls**, Zimbabwe—another must for anyone’s bucket list. Two nights at the majestic Victoria Falls Hotel, first built in 1905 and reconditioned over the years, brings one in touch with Dr Livingstone who saw and named it in 1855. The majestic waterfall is on the Zambezi River on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe.

After the Falls, a 2.5-hour drive brought us to the Cresta Mowana Lodge in **Kasane, Botswana**. For the next 5 days we experienced the amazing wildlife that roams across the lush Okavango Delta, a huge natural inland swampy area in northern Botswana. It is formed by the Okavango River flowing from the Angolan highlands across Namibia into the Kalahari Desert.

Here we had our first view on safari of wild animals in their natural habitat, while cruising along the Chobe River and driving overland with experienced guides in the Moremi Game Reserve.

Our excitement level increased considerably at being able to coexist with these wonderful wild creatures and birds in their domain. On numerous occasions we were surrounded by, or would cross close to the path of a herd of 40 or more elephants. Many had babies in attendance, and would flap their large ears at us as a



David Livingstone Statue, Victoria Falls.



The expedition.

warning to keep our distance. In some cases, the younger elephants would feint a charge at our vehicle, which we found so unnerving, but our guide had experienced this many times before and stood his ground. This prepared us for the excitement—and concern—awaiting us at our next safari at Gomoti Plains.

The **Gomoti Plains Camp** lies deep in the **Okavango Delta** and is a short charter flight from Kasane to the Stanley Airstrip followed by a 45-minute drive. Gomoti Plains is a relatively small, well-managed, and recently established camp. We were shown to our luxury en suite tents on the fringe of a large lagoon. Our tents were about 50 meters apart and about 200 meters from the main dining and operations tent. After merienda, Mitra (our experienced driver and guide for the next 3 days) drove us through the undergrowth in search of wild animals. We were completely in the wilderness as there were few established tracks (and no signposts) to guide us.

Before long we came across six young lion cubs waiting patiently for their mothers to return with food. We came back to this spot a couple of hours later to find the cubs



Glamping: Inside of the tent.

obediently waiting in the same place. How remarkable and sensible! A short distance away, we noticed a female leopard and her two cubs casually walking toward the lion cubs. Fortunately, she smelled the lions and quickly diverted to safer ground.

Nocturnal Companionship. At 7pm we returned to base camp exhilarated by the day’s events, and shared dinner and drinks and the day’s experiences with other guests around a campfire. After dinner, we were accompanied by a security guard to our tents and clearly instructed not to leave our tents at night.

At about 1:00am we were suddenly startled awake by the loud noise of trees being smashed only meters from our tents by elephants that apparently use the area as a resting place,



Elephants on the Zambezi River.

and were making themselves comfortable at our expense! We were alarmed that they may try to enter our tents but had been told not to use the emergency siren unless there was a serious medical issue. The next 2 hours seemed like an eternity until the well-rested elephants walked off.

On the Wild Side. The next day, Jim had another close encounter. After taking a swim in the camp’s pool, he came face-to-face with an elephant as he walked back to his tent. The elephant flapped his ears, Jim momentarily froze, took a deep breath, and very slowly backtracked, trying not to



Lion cubs.

make a hasty retreat that would alarm the elephant.

For the next 2 days, we saw many wild animals and had many memorable moments:

- a lion feeding on the carcass of a small elephant;
- a lioness stalking a baby elephant before realizing that was a mistake with the elephant’s mother and a small herd nearby, and then started to stalk three warthogs until they caught the elephant’s scent and left in a cloud of dust;
- a ride in a Makoro—a traditional narrow canoe used to negotiate the waterways of the Okavango by traveling through its tall reeds.

In spite of some anxious times, we thoroughly enjoyed and highly recommend a safari experience! Our sincere thanks go to Ben, Gomoti Plains Camp General Manager; and Mitra, our driver who showed us many wonderful experiences; and the other camp staff who made our stay so enjoyable. ■



Goodbye.



Yum yum



Clockwise from above: Hippopotomus, male lion, zebra, wildebeest.

Pot Pourri

Yves Bellekens (ADB 1976–2001)



Yves and Sylvie Bellekens, Mont Blanc.

In the 1980s people and the Army met in the streets of Manila. President Marcos and wife Imelda left the country. Yellow became the color of the February season. Just as now is the case with the “Yellow Jackets” (*gilets jaunes*) storming boulevards and debating day and night in winter

with passers-by on roundabouts throughout France.

Again, what’s going on here? Just as when I wrote *Usage of Manila (L’usage de Manille, Actes Sud)* in the 1980s. Again I’m gathering monographies of people of all walks of life. In old-time Manila they ranged from jeepney driver, street vendor, janitor, gardener, maid, prisoner, and policeman to civil servant, lawyer, artist, business woman, and Forbes Park resident. Does that ring a bell of past good old times?

In Nepal in the early 1990s, the ADB mission worked the whole day (and night) in the hotel avoiding *Holi*



Yves and Sylvie Bellekens, Mont Blanc.

festivities. There too people of all walks of life gathered in the streets. They were joyfully throwing water and colored powder at one another to celebrate springtime and fertility. Similar events occur here to February 2 in the Pyrenean mountains separating Spain from France as bears emerge from their long hibernation and invade villages in search of a spouse. Nowadays it’s more a matter of young villagers disguising themselves as bears to take advantage of the pervasive joy that goes with the still lively pagan feast of the “returning light of the sun” and the fertility that goes with it. In February last year in Rajasthan there was no more excuse of “mission” work for staying at the hotel. Two young Rajasthanis took care of us, as shown in the picture.

Talking of high mountains, but with no bears this time, you’ll enjoy the pictures taken with my wife at the breathtaking Mont Blanc (Europe’s highest summit, at 4,696 meters) during summer. Sylvie and I had the

privilege of bypassing the packed crowds queuing for access to the Téléphérique (cable car). Some hotels offer a special one-week pass “for free access” to all mountain sites and the train of the Chamonix Valley. What else to expect? ■

Sylvie Bellekens at the breathtaking Mont Blanc.



Finn Lunch

Robert Wihtol (ADB 1994–2013)



The Finnish ADB alumni met in August 2018 for their annual lunch, and spent a relaxed afternoon eating Finnish summer food, exchanging tsismis, and reminiscing about good times in Manila. ■

L-r, standing: Dolor Tejada, Max von Bonsdorff, Robert Wihtol, Aimo Juhola, Antero Vähäpassi, Heikki Noro; seated: Anita Kelles Viitanen, Anna-Liisa Kaukinen, Jyrki Wartiovaara.



Life after 80

Shamshad A. Khan (ADB 1969–1991)



Old age is a privilege many are denied." I read this quotation when I was young. At that time, the average life span was 60 years. Then, most Asian governments had fixed retirement age at 50. Since World War II, significant research has been made to prolong the span of life with the result that now retirement age in most Asian countries is 60 years. In the

United States (US) the average life span has increased to 78 years, per a survey of the US Census Bureau in 2012. The retirement age in most US organizations has also increased to 65 years.

Good diet and a healthy environment plays a very significant role in longevity. Though legally, persons over 65 may be considered old, many such people feel fit to continue to work and engage in sports for another 10–15 years. Many geriatricians call them the "young old" and

In the Swim

Victor Donge, posted this item in Facebook about his father, Bernarde Donge (ADB 1973–1995)

My dad was definitely the oldest snorkeler out there among the hundreds of people swimming. It is not easy skimming the waters over shallow rocks either. With Bernard in Hanauma Bay, Honolulu County, Hawaii. ■



use the term "old" only for those who are 80 or more. There are many books and much literature on "How to live after retirement." Valuable suggestions are advanced on topics such as (1) fitness exercises, (2) healthy diet, (3) kind of work (full time or part-time) to earn money or to keep busy, and (4) mental health improvement. These four factors are also necessary for the "old" group but their scope and nature changes. For example, to keep fit instead of strenuous exercises, light walking, playing golf, doing Tai Chi, or gardening are best.

According to the latest ADB Pension Fund Report (period ending 30 September 2017) total retirees were 2,237 out of which only 186 were over 80 years of age. At age 88, I feel lucky to be in that "privileged" group. This privilege consists of a special kind of freedom, happiness, wisdom, and spirituality.

Often I wake up very early morning. From the window I view the break of dawn. First I see only an outline of hills in the distance, then the horizon gets some light and



Me and my cherry blossom tree I planted.

then it becomes a little reddish before sunrise. It is a gorgeous scene and I marvel at the Universe and its creator. Then I hear the chirping of birds; my mother used to say they are singing a hymn to the creator. My wife was very fond of roses, so I planted many rose bushes around the house. In summer I tend to them as well as trees I have planted. When you water a tree on a hot day, its leaves start to shiver, giving you a feeling that the tree is thanking you. Recent

studies have shown that gardening is best for old people as it gives you an outdoor lifestyle with moderate physical activity. Okinawa, Japan has one of the world's highest concentration of centenarians, and most of them engage in gardening. According to an Australian research group, gardening reduces the risk of dementia in older people.

Light and easily digested food such as vegetables, fruits, whole grains, legumes, and fish should be the diet of old people. To utilize their time and to impart their skilled knowledge, many professionals such as lawyers, physicians, and professors continue to practice. In the United Kingdom, there is no age limit for professors to serve in their educational fields. US Supreme Court judges have no age limit. Some old people become writers. I am fond of reading and spend at least 2 hours a day reading books.

"Man is a social animal." Hence social life is also necessary for old people. The role of a spouse or life partner is very crucial for mental health. In most Asian countries, many old people live with their grown children, so they have the company of grandchildren. Since the death of my wife, I live with my married son and enjoy the company of his three small children. In western countries, there are social clubs for old people. Some even volunteer in places such as hospitals or soup kitchens to have social contact. Religious people join their church [mosque, temple, or other] groups, which serve them both socially and spiritually. In my personal life I found that a firm belief in God, the creator of the universe, gives me spiritual happiness. It helps in bearing any pain or loss, and it is an antidote for depression. ■

Seventy-Five Monsoons

Barindra Ganguli (ADB 1979–1995)



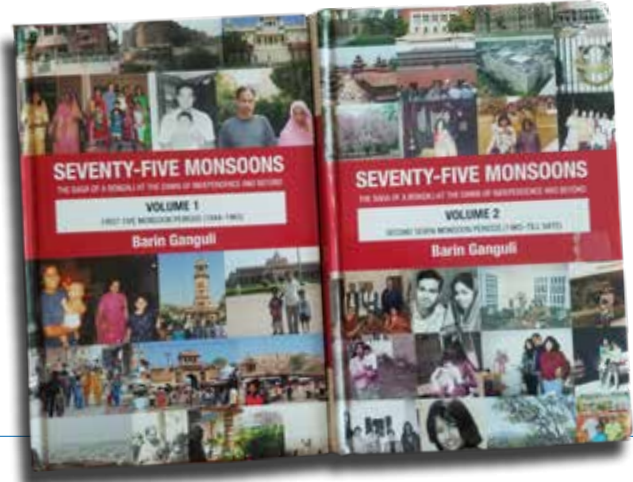
Ed: Barin Ganguli has recently published his memoirs in 2 volumes, copy edited by SAGE India Language Services, and Notes he will soon put it on Amazon for sale. Meanwhile, contact him directly for a copy.

Review by Sampriti Julie Ganguli, Daughter of Barin Ganguli

The man that many know of as Manik, Manikda, Kaku, Pisho, Chotomama, Bubibaba, Nana, Barin, and Barin Ganguli is known simply, but most profoundly, as Baba to me. His life journey began in an obscure railway colony in Sealdah, Calcutta (now Kolkata), in the then undivided Bengal in prepartition India. From Kolkata to Ann Arbor to Manila, to the waters of the South Pacific, the forests of Kalimantan, the Himalayan hills, and the pine and spruce forests of Finland, he has traversed the globe for five decades, has made many friends, and has accumulated a multitude of experiences along the way.

From the dawn of India's Independence, in turmoil and disorder in the 1940s, to the Vietnam War protests in the Quad of the University of Michigan in the 1960s, witnessing the silent People Power Revolution on Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA) in Manila in the 1980s, to returning to an India rising in the 2000s, he has been an active part of global history.

In *Seventy-Five Monsoons*, he has detailed this historical journey of his life. It has taken him more than 10 years to write the book. I should know—he spent summers in my basement in Arlington regaling our children in these stories.



Surprisingly, his photographic memory did not fail him, although when he finished this book, he had crossed a few more than the stated 75 years. Perhaps it is because he had a habit of writing his diary every day, which he relied on to help him with the details. No doubt, my mother, who has been by his side for more than five decades, also helped him with those recollections.

As you read this book, you will be taken on the journey of his life starting from the days in Suri, in Birbhum, in the then Bengal where he used to go to spend quality time in his maternal grandfather's house, traveling through space and time, meeting individuals, and accumulating experience. You will notice, as you cover chapter after chapter of this book, that there is a common thread—that hard and sincere effort is the path to success. And then, there is the point about focus—after all, who would spend 10 years recalling the first seventy? My father's joie de vivre, his intense curiosity about those who live around him and those he has met and described in this book, has made this book readable. I hope you enjoy reading this book as much as I did and find many of a life's lessons along the way. ■

*Sampriti Julie Ganguli, C.E.O, Arabella Advisors,
Arlington, Virginia, US*

8 Frog Street

Rezaul Khan (ADB 1992–2016)



Ed: The description below of Rezaul Khan's book is taken from <https://www.liferichpublishing.com/Bookstore/BookDetail.aspx?BookId=SKU-001206292>. The book was published in October 2018 by Reader's Digest, An Imprint of Trusted Media Brands Inc. It is available from the above as

an e-book and in hardcopy.

8 Frog Street is an amazing story of Lee Chan, the tycoon of Manila. Richie King, a neighbor of Lee, narrates the thrilling and incredible mysteries surrounding the business tycoon. The mysterious tale reveals strange and shadowy entities and the effect of the mystical cultures that still reign in the Philippines.



A giant snake and some oversize frogs belonging to Lee attacked Richie's home. Richie also bumped into some supernatural entities who were related to Lee. Lee, a poor immigrant from the Fujian province, China, settled in Manila in 1930 when he was only ten years old. The poor kid thrived and became a global Forbes-listed multibillionaire because of him being business savvy, his hard work, and his frugality. Richie discovered that Yu, the spook of Lee's grandmother, also followed him from Fujian and helped him to reach the height that only a few people have ever achieved. ■

New Members

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

June 2018

Ayson, Ma. Elizabeth I. (Philippines)
Geronimo, Lamberto S. (Philippines)
Nugent, James A. (Canada)

July 2018

Alam, M.D. Nazmul (Bangladesh)
Gatti, Marco (Philippines)
Del Carmen, Renan B. (United States)
Oya, Toshio (Japan)
Strauss, Michael (Hong Kong, China)
Tran, Thi Thanh Phuong (Viet Nam)

August 2018

Chang, Philip Han (Australia)
Enjaynes, Lorna (Philippines)
Nair, Omana Govala (Malaysia)
Saffran, Aleli (Germany)

September 2018

Cano, Mercedita (United States)
Garcia, Eufemia (Philippines)
Samson, Ma. Cecilia (Philippines)

October 2018

Arceo, Rosebella A. (United States)
Barry, Ahmadou (Ivory Coast)
Casimiro, Chona (United States)
De la Paz, Jeanette Magdalena P. (Philippines)
De Vera-Portnoy, Ruby (United States)
Evangelista, Jovita (United States)
Masaki, Emiko (Japan)
Molina, Tito (United States)
Sacacas, Marilyn L. (United States)
Sinco, Ma. Luisa K. (Philippines)
Tubianosa, Charisse J. (Spain)
Villaluz, Segundina F. (Philippines)

Yabut, Teresa E. (Philippines)
 You, Victor (United States)

November 2018

Mejia, Josefino (Philippines)
 Tanchoco, Gracelle P. (Philippines)
 Torres, Rosalinda (Philippines)
 Veal, Karina Susan (Australia)

January 2019

Aw, Siew Juan (Singapore)
 Boestel, Johanna (Germany)
 Dojima, Toshimasa (Japan)
 Edmonds, Christopher M.
 Juntado, Eileen G. (Philippines)
 Lugos, Dolores Cruz (Philippines)
 Maruyama, Mineo (Philippines)
 Meer, Maristela (Philippines)
 Paed, Demetria B. (Philippines)
 Poick, Walter (Austria)
 Velasco, Veronica C. (Philippines)
 Wei, Hong (Philippines)

Senior Appointments in ADB

AFE-ADB congratulates the following staff members on their new appointments.

Rustam Abdukayumov—Director; Procurement Division 2; Procurement, Portfolio and Financial Management Department (PPFD); assumed office on 14 January 2019.

Thomas Abell—Advisor and Chief of Digital Technology for Development, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC), assumed office on 7 January 2019.

Abdul Abiad—Director, Macroeconomics Research Division, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD), effective 15 January 2019.

Bobur Alimov—Advisor, Strategy and Policy Department (SPD), assumed office on 6 September 2018.

Albert Dean Atkinson—Director, Knowledge Support Division, Department of Communications Department (DOC), assumed office on 8 October 2018.

Joven Balbosa—Advisor, Office of the Director General, Southeast Asia Department (SERD), effective upon assumption of office.

Do Keun Cho—Assistant Auditor General, Office of the Auditor General (OAG), effective upon assumption of office.

Marc Crowe—Advisor, Office of the Secretary (SEC), and Head, Information Access Unit, SEC; effective 2 January 2019.

Bruce Dunn—Director, Environment and Safeguards Division, SDCC, assumed office on 23 August 2018.

Sunniya Durrani-Jamal—Country Director, Cambodia Resident Mission (CARM), SERD, assumed office on 17 September 2018.

Colin Gin—Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel (OGC), assumed office on 27 August 2018.

Edimon Ginting—Deputy Director General, ERCD, assumed office on 1 October 2018.

Rana Hasan—Director, Economic Analysis and Operational Support Division, ERCD, effective 15 January 2019.

Xinning Jia—Director, Operations Planning and Coordination Division, SPD, assumed office on 13 August 2018.

David Kruger—Director, Media and External Relations Division, DOC, assumed office on 8 October 2018.

Cynthia Malvicini—Country Director, Uzbekistan Resident Mission (URM), Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), assumed office on 17 December 2018.

Catherine Lucy Marsh—Assistant General Counsel, OGC, assumed office on 30 August 2018.

Makoto Ojiro—Advisor, Office of Administrative Services (OAS), effective upon assumption of office.

Patrick Osewe—Chief of Health Sector Group, SDCC, assumed office on 13 August 2018

Bart Raemaekers—Advisor, Private Sector Operations Department (PSOD) and Head, Guarantees and Syndications Unit; assumed office on 22 August 2018.

Robert M. Schoellhammer—Representative, European Representative Office (ERO), SPD, assumed office on 1 October 2018.

Yasuo Takamura—Director General; Budget, Personnel and Management Systems Department (BPMSD); assumed office on 18 July 2018.

Yoshinobu Tatewaki—Assistant Controller, Loan Administration Division, Controller's Department (CTL), effective upon assumption of office.

Jiro Tominaga—Director; Strategy, Policy and Business Process Division; SPD; assumed office on 26 November 2018.

Said Zaidansyah—Deputy Country Director, Indonesia Resident Mission (IRM), SERD, assumed office on 6 November 2018.

Hao Zhang—Deputy Country Director, PRC Resident Mission (PRCM), East Asia Department (EARD), effective upon assumption of office.

Joseph Zveglic, Jr.—Deputy Chief Economist, ERCD, assumed office on 1 October 2018.

Obituaries

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

Sayed Baha, former Director, passed away on 3 December 2018 at the age of 84. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Fatima Baha at fatimab@hotmail.com.

Philippe Benedic, former Resident Director General, passed away on 11 October 2018 at the age of 70. Condolences may be sent to his wife Anh Benedic at lossdas@yahoo.com.

Christopher Beresford-Jones, former Senior Programs Officer, passed away on 2 October 2018 at the age of 79. Condolences may be sent to his brother Nicholas Beresford-Jones at nberesfordjones@gmail.com.

Ping-Yung Chiu, former Controller, passed away on 28 August 2018 at the age of 71. Condolences may be sent to his son Chih-Yang-Chiu at cchiuadb.org.

Mrigendramani Dixit, former Senior Financial Analyst, passed away on 27 December 2018 at the age of 83. Condolences may be sent to his spouse Shyama Dixit at mandsdixit@gmail.com.

Rodolfo I. Dulay, former Senior Documents Assistant, passed away on 15 August 2018 at the age of 78. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Arlene Dulay at arlinedulay@yahoo.com.

Kaleemuddin Haquani, former Assistant General Auditor, passed away on 3 December 2018 at the age of 79. Condolences may be sent to son Viqar Haquani at mvhaquani@gmail.com.

Pyong Whi Min, former Chief (Office of Administrative Services), passed away on 10 November 2018 at the age of 91. Condolences may be sent to his wife Haiwon Phyllis Min at haiwonmin@comcast.net.

Shoji Nishimoto, former Director General, passed away on 6 November 2018 at the age of 73. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Sakura Nishimoto at sakura.nishimoto.110474@gmail.com.

G. Ramachandran, former Head (Travel and Staff Services), passed away on 3 September 2018 at the age of 78. Condolences may be sent to his son Anand Ramachandran at akartha01@gmail.com.

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

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- (1) Articles and images may be accepted for inclusion if, in the opinion of the AFE-ADB Publications Committee, they are germane to AFE-ADB activities and membership; are of interest to a significant portion of the membership; and do not contain material that promotes a political or religious stance or is potentially inflammatory or offensive to the readership.
- (2) Articles that are accepted will be edited for language, content, and length that the Publications Committee deems appropriate for the readership. Images must be of print quality (at least 280 kb or 600 dpi is preferred).
- (3) Any photograph that was not taken by the sender should be sent with the photographer's permission for AFE-ADB to publish it. Please identify all people shown in photographs so we can include adequate captions.
- (4) Authors and photographers will be acknowledged and retain ownership of any material submitted for publication.

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Articles for publication may be sent in MS Word as e-mail attachments to afe-adb@adb.org. 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's former assistant, provided invaluable help, including typesetting and layout. Steve Banta, Julia Holz, David Parker, and Jill Gale de Villa edited and proofread. AFE sincerely appreciates ADB's Department of Communications and Office of Administrative Services for assistance with finalization and distribution.

Announcements

2019 Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors

The 52nd Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank will be held on 1–5 May 2019 in Nadi, Fiji.

The AFE Annual General Meeting, Chapter Coordinators Meeting, and Cocktails will be held on 1 May.

Chapter Events

The **New Zealand** Chapter will hold its 2020 reunion in Marlboro Country. Contact Gordon Fox at Gordon.fox@xtra.co.nz for details.

The **Indonesia** Chapter plans to organize a group outing this year to the East Java town of Banyuwangi and vicinity, most likely in early July 2019. Members from other chapters are welcome. The group size will be limited to about 30 so if interested please respond to Putu Kamayana at putu_kamayana@yahoo.com for details.

The **Europe** Chapter's 2019 reunion will be on 12–17 September in Deauville in Hotel La Closerie, Normandy, France, hosted by Guy de Bourbonlon agdeb3@gmail.com.

The **Australia** Chapter will hold its 2019 annual reunion on 22–25 mid-October in Jindabyne, New South Wales. All AFE members are welcome. Contact Paul Turner at paulturner53@hotmail.com.

The **Philippines** Chapter will hold its Annual Get-Together on 21 November 2019 at the EDR, ADB Headquarters Building. Contact Gam de Armas at gamdearmas@yahoo.com.

The **Canada** Chapter groups' 2019 gatherings will be:

1. Ottawa–Montreal: dinner in the fourth quarter,
2. Toronto: pot lucks throughout the year and a gala dinner in the fourth quarter,
3. Vancouver: dinner early in the fourth quarter,
4. Vancouver Island: brunch in the third quarter.

Contact Bruce Murray at bmurray.xadb@gmail.com.

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

Annual Association Dues

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

Keep Your Address Updated with AFE–ADB

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

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