

Loren produces film on climate change

by HELEN FLORES
Philstar.com

A short documentary film that aims to increase Filipinos' awareness about climate change has been produced by environment advocate Sen. Loren Legarda.

The 45-minute film *Ulan sa Tag-araw: Isang Dokyu-drama Ukol sa Pagbabago ng Klima (Rain in Summer: A docu-drama on the changing climate)* tackles significant social, economic and health impacts of climate change in the Philippines.

"There is a need to mainstream climate change in the Philippines because we are one of the most ecologically-challenged countries," Legarda said in a recent media forum in Manila.

The film, which features actress and environmentalist Chin-Chin Gutierrez and veteran actor Roy Alvarez, will be launched Nov. 13 at the Shangri-La Mall Cinema Complex in Mandaluyong City.

The film showing is open to students, journalists, and environmental advocates. Registration starts at 10 a.m.

"The docu-drama dramatizes the tale of a community suffering the backlash of shifting weather patterns, interspersed with scenes from news clips and actual experiences," Legarda said.

Legarda, a former broadcast journalist, also pointed out that

"media is vital in educating the people on the menacing effects of climate change."

"In this movie, we want our viewers to relate to the ill effects of climate change that we are already experiencing and to take the necessary measures to abate further damage to our already ailing planet," she stressed.

The documentary also includes interviews with five Filipino scientists who were part of the United Nations-organized Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former US Vice President Al Gore.

"By presenting the concepts in clear, non-technical terms and incorporating practical measures that can be easily adopted, I hope that Filipinos will get the truth about climate change before it's too late," she said.



Atty. Olegario 'Ollie' Cantos VII: Blind Fil-Am Lawyer Inspires Bush

by MOMAR G. VISAYA
AJP/Press



His disability did not deter him from dreaming big, and today, he is an inspiration not only to the millions of Filipinos out there but also to people with disability.

Last May, President George W. Bush appointed Olegario 'Ollie' Cantos VII to serve a full two-year term as Member of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities.

Cantos is a blind lawyer who rose from the ranks to become the highest designated person with disability in the US federal government with positions such as the Associate Director of Disabilities of the White House Domestic Policy Council, where he served for two terms. He was the first ethnic minority and first Filipino-American ever to serve in this capacity.

"It is such an honor to get to serve the president in this capacity. It is so wonderful. President Bush is such a wonderful human being and to get to work on domestic policy issues and help millions of Americans is so much fun," Cantos told the *Asian Journal* in a previous interview in Washington, DC.

Cantos has led a distinguished career as a public official in the United States federal government and a staunch advocate for people with disabilities.

One of the highest-placed persons with a disability in the federal government today, Mr. Cantos began his work at the Justice Department in August 2004 when he was originally commissioned by Attorney General John D. Ashcroft as Special Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights.

"Members of the disability community, including children and adults with intellectual disabilities, deserve to live in a world that is free from barriers to full societal participation," Cantos said. "I am honored to serve the President yet again, and I look forward to working with colleagues on the Committee to craft meaningful recommendations whose decisive implementation will foster ongoing improvement in real opportunities for greater integration than ever before."

Cantos was the first and only person ever to serve as General Counsel and Director of Programs for the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD), the largest cross-disability national membership organization in the country, which presently boasts membership in excess of 130,000. Prior to joining AAPD in June 2002, Mr. Cantos served as Staff Attorney and Director of Outreach and Education at the Western Law Center for Disability Rights (now renamed the Disability Rights Legal Center) in Los Angeles.

Active in work both within and outside the disability field, he continues to be a sought-after speaker as an example of how people with disabilities may reach the highest levels of success in every area of life by exercising both the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. His engaging personal style and ability to convey thoughts through the written word have solidly established him as a national leader, also known in various parts of the world.

ALFRED LAURETA : A True Filipino Inspiration



1st Filipino-American to be appointed U.S. district judge (1969)

- 1st Filipino-American to be appointed judge of Hawaii's Circuit Court One

- 1st Filipino-American to hold a state Cabinet position in Hawaii as Director of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations in Hawaii (1963)

Alfred Laureta was born on May 21, 1924 in Ewa Plantation's Banana Camp in Hawaii, just two years after his parents immigrated to the Islands from the Philippines in 1922.

Laureta studied at the University of Hawaii. After graduation, he went on to complete his fifth year teaching credential. While teaching at the University, Laureta was approached by a Fr. Osmundo Calip. "Fr. Calip urged me to go to law school," Laureta remembered. "He stressed the need for Filipinos in the profession." Laureta was interested, but admitted he knew nothing about law schools and had no money. Fr. Calip promptly found him a law school—New York's Catholic Fordham University—and a scholarship from the Hawaii Memorial Foundation. Thus, Laureta went on to study law on the East Coast.

Upon graduation, he returned to Hawaii. "When I got back to Hawaii in 1953, I went around to all of Hawaii's larger law firms looking for work. None of them would hire me," he said.

But true to Laureta's commitment to serve the community, he did not stop working even after his retirement. Until April 2008, he was on the Board of Directors on the Kauai Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC).

Laureta is married to Evelyn Reantillo and they have four children.

(Sources: Various sites on the web and *Crosscurrents: Filipinos in Hawaii's Politics* by Dan Boylan)



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It was during the Exposition when the products and services of Ms. Elvie Pineda were introduced to the consumers in the United States and were accepted warmly in California and New Jersey. Due to public demand, she opened her office in Walnut to cater and reach directly her avid clients.

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