

The Voice of FilAmerica

Political empowerment is still a treasure that eludes us as a community here in America. While we are the second largest Asian American community in the United States, we have yet to harvest the power that comes from our numbers. The Voice of FilAmerica features elected and appointed officials—regardless of political affiliation—in the different US states who are of Filipino ancestry. As your Filipino American community newspaper, the Asian Journal recognizes the fact that we all have a responsibility towards bringing political empowerment to fruition, especially for our future generations. It is our hope to have our voices heard all over America.

Ed Balico Councilmember, Hercules City

FIRST elected to the Hercules City Council for a four-year term in November 2000, Ed Balico was also appointed Vice Mayor in December 2001 and became Mayor in 2002. Balico was reelected in 2004, garnering the highest votes ever in the history of Hercules City. Because of that, in December 2006, he was appointed to serve a one-year term as Mayor.

Prior to being elected to the City Council, Balico served as a Planning Commissioner for six years and has served both as Vice

Chair and Chair of the Commission during his tenure.

He has also been appointed to various regional agencies as Board of Director for West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Agency, WESTCAT, West Contra Costa Transportation Authority, Contra Costa Transportation Agency, Contra Costa College Foundation, and as Executive Board of Director for the League of California Cities, East Bay Division.

Recently, Balico graduated from the League of California Cities Mayors and Council Member Leadership in Action, wherein there are only ten elected officials in this level. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Asian Pacific Islanders Caucus of the League of California Cities.

Balico holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering and has completed numerous certifications in the fields of Project Management, Total Quality Management and Problem Solving Process. He worked for one of the Fortune 100 companies for 20 years and left the company as a senior project manager. He currently owns a real estate and mortgage company.



RP science program lands in US magazine

by ALEXANDER VILLAFANIA
Inquirer.net

THE prestigious scientific publication *Science Magazine* has featured the Philippines' establishment of strong science, research and development programs through coordination among government offices, science and engineering firms.

The story, *Philippines Plans Research Revival* written by Dennis Normile also cited the activities of the Congressional Commission on Science and Technology and Engineering (COMSTE) in its December issue.

COMSTE is part of major initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and members of Congress under Senator Edgardo Angara and Cavite Representative Joseph Abaya.

The *Science Magazine* article highlighted the "Balik Scientist" program of the DOST, which encourages repatriation of Filipino scientists and engineers by offering them positions in the country's science and technology communities.



President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam viewing through a telescope while visiting the Philippine Science High School in Quezon City, as part of DOST's Balik Science Program

The article also featured heads of science and engineering departments, such as DOST Secretary Estrella Alabastro, COMSTE Executive Director Fortunato de la Peña and Mapua Institute of

Technology President Reynaldo Vea.

Returnee Filipino doctor Edsel Salvana was also cited in the article.

Salvana graduated from the

University of the Philippines but worked abroad, particularly in the Medical College of Wisconsin and Case Western Reserve University.

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