

Local studio wants Filipino animators

by ERIKA TAPALLA
Inquirer.net

Walt Disney, Warner Brothers and European client Atlantica.

"We are excited about this acquisition since it brings to the Philippines much-needed jobs from abroad and keeps world-class talent home," said BCII president Ramon Del Rosario.

"The animators are on contractual-basis, hired on project-basis who gets compensated on their output," added Toon City chief financial officer Orlando Verde.

According to Del Rosario, BCII wants to seek opportunities in the business process outsourcing sector because of its attractive returns.

"In the animation production services, 6.7 million US dollars

were invested for 80 percent interest in One Animate Ltd.," Del Rosario said.

One Animate Ltd. has a 95-percent interest in Toon City Animation Inc.

It was acquired November 2008 from the Bahamas-based Baker family who retained a 5-percent stake in the company.

"The crisis does not affect the company or the industry because people will always want to be entertained. It takes one to two years before videos are produced and if production stops there will be others; otherwise, what will be shown in the one or two years?" Verde said.

Toon City Animation Inc. is located in Mandaluyong City. ■

SM Group of Companies President praises GMA

MANILA—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's prudent fiscal and economic policies reaped praises today from Teresita Sy-Coson, president of the SM Group of Companies and CEO of Banco de Oro and China Bank and Trust Company.

"Everyday, bad news confronts us dampening our spirits. The United States, Japan, China and Europe have banded together to tackle the crisis and the G20 nations have now reached a stimulus package for global recovery," Sy-Coson said.

"The Philippines is relatively better off than these countries. Our growth may have gone slightly down but because of the economic astuteness of our President and the fiscal policies she has implemented, including sound banking policies, we are not as badly affected as 2/3 of the world's economy," Sy-Coson said.

She said the Arroyo administration has done a marvelous job in managing the economy—keeping it in a better position than most of its neighbors—but there are problems that persist. "To us Chinese, we look at problems as opportunities," Sy-Coson said.

"We should continue supporting our government by intensifying our investments in the country. We must draw our strength



Teresita Sy-Coson

in numbers and pool our efforts and resources together so we will make a difference," Sy-Coson added.

She challenged the participants in the 27th Biennial Convention of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. (FFCCCI) to each adopt projects (in the 170 chapters) that can employ and generate income for a greater number of our population so that we can do our share in lifting our economy out of the global financial crisis.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo thanked Sy-Coson for "believing in your government and for not wavering in your support to prop up our economy." She said the SM Group of Com-

panies is an example of how a Filipino Chinese family can bring economic progress to a country.

She also lauded the FFCCCI for "always espousing the spirit of volunteerism which I am now reviving by harnessing local talent, resources and cooperation to help our country get out of the current crisis and propel it to first world status in 20 years."

She said her decision to scrap the annual parade during Independence Day and replace it with nationwide Jobs Fairs, which she asked the FFCCCI to "actively participate in through their individual companies" is to ensure that "we provide employment to the unemployed, the underemployed and those displaced by the current crisis abroad and in local export-oriented industries."

"Of course, I will miss the dragon dance, which I personally asked to be included in the annual Independence Day parade but the nationwide jobs fairs are far more important to me now than parades," the President stressed.

The President disclosed that the 46,000 displaced workers from abroad can find local employment here from the different companies that are participating in the jobs fair as well as from another 5,000 jobs that will soon be available in Sentosa and Kuala Lumpur, which prefer Filipino labor. ■

'Racist' HK writer wants to visit RP

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an order lifting the ban against him based on the recommendation of the consul general."

He said Tsao "has to go through the formalities."

If Tsao is allowed to enter the Philippines, Libanan said: "I will show him how multifaceted the country is. I will show him the cross-section of our society, from the bosses to the maids."

Some community members were determined to push through with a rally in Hong Kong on Sunday, April 5, to protest discrimination against Filipino domestics.

The United Filipinos (Unifil) in Hong Kong, together with the Mission for Migrant Workers and the Migrant Workers Union-HK, also filed a complaint against Tsao and his article before the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC), a statutory government body, and the Hong Kong Press Council.

'Go back to school'
The migrants rights and wel-

fare advocacy group Blas F. Ople Policy Center said Tsao should "go back to school, not only to learn how to write a good satire but also to master the art of humility."

In a statement from Hong Kong, Unifil chair Dolores Baladares said: "Our complaint letters are a proof that we will not take racial slurs such as Tsao's sitting down."

The EOC, an agency of the Home Affairs Bureau of the Hong Kong government, entertains complaints related to discrimination regarding sex, disability, family status and race.

The Hong Kong Press Council is a self-regulatory body that promotes professional ethical standards among local newspapers.

The complaint letters demand that both institutions reprimand Tsao and the publishers of HK Magazine.

130,000 maids
Tsao's description of the Philippines as a "nation of servants" came in an article mocking Ma-

nila's efforts to pursue its claim to some of the isles in the potentially oil-rich Spratly Islands.

Tsao said the Philippines had no right to claim the Spratlys, which China claims to be its own.

"There are more than 130,000 Filipina maids working as US\$3,580-a-month cheap labor in Hong Kong. As a nation of servants, you don't flex your muscles at your master, from whom you earn most of your bread and butter," Tsao wrote. (With reports from Jerome Aning and Cynthia D. Balana in Manila) ■



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