

Southern California Edison honors Asian Pacific American...

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Lito Hontiveros, Seafood City vice president, acknowledges SCE after receiving the award.



Lito Hontiveros (third from left) of Seafood City, after receiving the award for Seafood City, with Erwin Furukawa, SCE vice president of customer service; Alan Fohrer, SCE CEO; Dahne Ng, SCE community partnerships director; and Ted Chen, master of ceremonies and NBC-4 news anchor.

vices that we provide should reflect that," said Lynda Ziegler, senior vice president of customer service.

SCE serves 4.8 million customers in California, and out of this total, two million are Asian Pacific Islander Americans. "We are part of the community," Ziegler said. "We are part of the fabric of the community, and we take that seriously. We reflect diversity in our employees, in the services that we offer, and in language materials that we distribute. We can answer phone calls in many languages," she added.

SCE presented the Leadership Award to Susan Ahn Cuddy, a Korean American pioneer whose influence inspired the leadership and service of many young Asian Pacific Americans. The Corporate Award was given to Seafood City, a successful family-owned business that has made significant contributions to the Filipino community, and the Little Tokyo Service Center earned the Community Service Award for its commitment and dedication to serving the Japanese American and Asian Pacific American communities in Southern California for 30 years

State Senator Carol Liu, who represents Pasadena, Glendale, Burbank, portions of Los Angeles, and surrounding cities and communities, lauded the award recipients, saying, "the seed of the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month was planted in part by one of our own, Norm Mineta, in 1977."

The month of May was chosen to commemorate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in the United States on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of workers that laid the track of the railroad were Chinese immigrants. The first celebration of APAHM was for one week, in 1978, and that was extended to a month-long celebration in 1992. "We've come a long way," Senator Liu said. "There are now more than 50 million APAs in the United States, that's 14 per cent of the population. Asian Pacific Islanders are the fastest-growing racial and ethnic groups in the US," Senator Liu said.

Senator Liu was the first person of color that was elected to the council of La Canada-Flintridge in 1992. "I had very few counterparts in other areas' councils," she said. "Today APA representation in councils has grown in other regions." Likewise, when she was elected to the State Assembly in 2000, there was only one APA in the Legislature. "Now the members of the Joint APA Legislative Caucus have grown to

twelve, ten in the Assembly and two in the Senate," she attested.

She said those changes were brought about the nation's growing awareness and understanding of diversity within the APA population. "We are a people of many cultures, many histories, and many languages," Senator Liu said.

Susan Ahn Cuddy, who was born in 1915 in Los Angeles, was emotional seconds after she received the award. "I like to talk, but I am speechless. This is a very emotional, overwhelming presentation that I have accepted," she began. "I believe that living in America has been a wonderful thing for me as an Asian. I had every opportunity. Every place that I had been, I've always been welcome."

When she joined the US Navy officers' program in 1942, she was not accepted. "A few months later, they called me, and from then on, it was only a very wonderful experience. I am proud to be an Asian at this time of my life," she added.

Said Little Tokyo Service Center Executive Founding Director Bill Watanabe, whose organization was the recipient of the Community Service Award: "This award is a serendipitous confluence of events because this is our 30th anniversary. Recognitions like these are icing on the cake. We get to do what we love to do, and we get to do something that is fulfilling, and to be recognized is more special."

Vice President Lito Hontiveros, who received the Corporate Award for Seafood City, was ecstatic, telling Asian Journal that "the award is a great honor not only for Seafood City, but also for the Filipino communities in the United States."

"It's truly great to be recognized this way by such a prestigious company like Southern California Edison. I am sure that there are more out there that deserve this kind of recognition," Hontiveros said. "We cannot turn our backs from social responsibility towards our 'kababayans' in the Philippines, so we have to keep looking back and try to figure out ways to help them, because they are suffering right now."

"In our small way," Hontiveros said, "we continue to help by partnering with Gawad Kalinga and GILAS and we will continue to do these."

Ted Chen, NBC-4 television news anchor, served as master of ceremonies. He anchors the Saturday edition of *Today in LA* and the *Sunday LA* program on NBC-4's digital channel. (Rene Villaroman)

Bernanke: Economy should grow again later in 2009

WASHINGTON—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told Congress Tuesday, May 5, the economy should start growing again later this year, his most optimistic assessment of the country's financial health since the recession struck with force last year.

But Bernanke warned that even after a recovery gets under way, economic activity is likely to be subpar. That means businesses will stay cautious about hiring, driving up the nation's unemployment rate and causing "further sizable job losses" in the coming months, he told the Joint Economic Committee.

The recession, which started in December 2007, already has snatched a net total of 5.1 million jobs. The unemployment rate "could remain high for a time, even after economic growth resumes," Bernanke said.

But while some economists believe unemployment could hit 10 percent by the end of this year, the Fed doesn't share that view. The unemployment rate will probably climb "somewhere" in the 9 percent range, Bernanke said.

"The loss of jobs is one of the most distressing aspects of this whole episode," he said.

Even with all the cautionary notes, the Fed chief offered a far less dour assessment of the economy.

"We continue to expect economic activity to bottom out, then to turn up later this year," he told lawmakers. "We expect that the recovery will only gradually gain momentum."

Recent data suggest the recession may be loosening its grip on the country, Bernanke said.

"The pace of contraction may be slowing," he said. It was similar to an observation the Fed made last week in deciding not to take any additional steps to shore up the economy.

The housing market, which has been in a slump for three years, has shown some signs of bottoming, he said. Consumer spending, which collapsed in the second half of last year, came back to life in the first quarter.

In the months ahead, consumer spending should be lifted by tax cuts contained in President Barack Obama's larger \$787 billion stimulus package. Still, rising unemployment, sinking home values and cracked nest eggs will still weigh on consumers willingness to spend freely, Bernanke said. (AP)

It's Pacquiao's time

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Pacquiao executed the game plan with perfection.

In the first round, Hatton started aggressively. He charged Pacquiao, clinched and threw short body blows. However, Pacquiao answered back. Pacquiao gained some distance and threw a quick left hook to the head that stunned the British champion.

He landed a few more combinations before knocking down the British fighter with a right hook to the chin midway through the first round. With the Filipino crowd on its feet, British fans were in disbelief.

Pacquiao pounced on Hatton again a few moments later. This time, Pacquiao landed a flurry of punches before a left straight to the head of Hatton fell the Englishman.

Pacquiao finished off Hatton in the subsequent round.

Pacquiao landed a left hook on the chin and below Hatton's earlobe, a textbook knockout punch. Hatton was out before he fell to the canvas.

Referee Kenny Bayless immediately waved the fight over with one second remaining in round two.

"I was just doing my job in the ring and doing my best to make the people happy," said Pacquiao. "There's nothing personal I was just doing my job this was a big for me as the De La Hoya victory."

Hatton was not made available for comment after the fight.

The British boxer was rushed to the hospital for precautionary measures, according to Golden Boy CEO Richard Schaefer.

"Ricky is desperately sorry to all his fans," said Garret Williams, the CEO of Hatton Promotions. "He got caught with a great shot. Congratulations to Manny Pacquiao. He is the best fighter, possibly of all time there's no shame in losing to somebody like that."

"I thought Ricky would get him," said Floyd Mayweather Sr., after the match. "I don't want to get into it more than that."

Before the match, Roach predicted a Pacquiao knockout in three, he'll settle for two.

"Manny is unbelievable," said Roach at the post-fight press conference. "I'm the best trainer in the world because I have the best fighter in the world."

Roach said that Hatton was very

predictable.

"Every time he throws the left hook and cocks it, he is wide open for the right hook from the south-paw stance," Roach explained. "We worked on that every day in the gym and it just worked beautifully."

"I knew it was over," added Roach. "Ricky fights the same way over and over. He doesn't have the ability to adjust. I watched the tapes over and over the last few months. I know him as well as I know my fighters."

The win catapults Pacquiao in the boxing history books.

Pacquiao becomes the first Asian to capture six world titles in six different weight division - flyweight, junior featherweight, featherweight, junior lightweight, lightweight and now, junior welterweight.

He also joins Oscar De La Hoya as the only boxers to captures sixth different title belt in a different weight division.

The Hatton victory is Pacquiao's fourth win in a row in a different division.

The win improves Pacquiao's record to 49-3-2, 37 KOs. Hatton's record falls to 45-2 32 KOs. ■



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