

A CALL TO FAITH

RP urges United Nations to take further steps to promote religious, cultural understanding

NEW YORK—The Philippines has called on the United Nations to take further steps to support ongoing efforts to propagate not only the culture of dialogue among civilizations but also to promote religious and cultural understanding through the mass media.

In his statement before the just concluded 31st Session of the Committee on Information, Ambassador Hilario G. Davide, Jr., Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations, said the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) should lend its facility for the dissemination of interfaith activities.

Ambassador Davide cited in particular the Tripartite Forum on Interfaith Cooperation for Peace chaired by the Philippines and made up of Member-States, non-government organizations, and the United Nations system, including the DPI.

“As the leading proponent of the interfaith initiative in the United Nations, the Philippines would wish a closer interaction between the DPI and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which serves as the focal point in the UN Secretariat on inter-religious and intercultural matters,” Ambassador Davide said.

“That global peace can be achieved by interfaith di-

alogue is an obvious understatement. Hence the UN must give special stress to this initiative through the DPI,” the former Supreme Court Chief Justice said as he thanked the DPI for its assistance in promoting the General Assembly Meeting on Interfaith Cooperation held in November.

In his statement, Ambassador Davide also cited the efforts of the DPI to promote a better understanding of various issues that are of importance to the international community. He said the thematic communications campaigns the DPI has been undertaking in support of the Millennium Development Goals, financing for development, human rights and climate change must be sustained and expanded.

The Filipino envoy also mentioned DPI’s Stand Up and Take Action for the Millennium Development Goals campaign that brought together as many as

► PAGE A3 Ambassador Hilario G. Davide, Jr.



Photo courtesy of DFA.GovPh

RP gov’t protests Alec Baldwin’s joke, actor issues apology

by MOMAR G. VISAYA
 AJPress



Alec Baldwin AP photo



FROM THE APRESS NEWS TEAM ACROSS AMERICA

NEW YORK—Actor Alec Baldwin issued an apology Wednesday, May 20, for joking that he might expand his family by “getting a Filipino mail-order bride ... or a Russian one” during an appearance on *The Late Show with David Letterman*.

“I’d like to offer an apology and a clarification to remarks I made recently,” the actor posted to his Huffington Post blog. “While on the *David Letterman* program, I joked that I might need a ‘mail-order bride’ to achieve the goal of having more children in my life. I believe that most people understood that this was a joke and took it as such. (A dated reference, no doubt, and another sign of my advanc-

► PAGE A3

Israel to honor Pinoy ‘Schindlers’ with monument



Flags of the world are raised during the celebration of Jerusalem Day at an open field in Pasay City last May 22. Philstar photo by Jonjon Vicencio

MANILA—More than 1,000 Jews fleeing persecution in Nazi Germany found refuge in faraway Philippines, thanks to the government’s “open doors” policy that Israel plans to honor with a monument next month, officials said last May 22.

The modern structure of three steel doors, frames and marble floor tiles commemorates the “courage, hospitality and the determination” of the Philippines to give humanitarian support for European Jews seeking refuge from the

► PAGE A4

Filipinos in Italy invest in ‘paluwagan’

by VERONICA UY
 Inquirer.net

MANILA—Even as they are miles away from home, Filipinos in Italy still retain many traditions, including financial traditions. An ongoing research by the International Organization for Migration shows that some of them invest in the so-called *paluwagan*.

According to the preliminary findings of the IOM research on remittance flows between Italy and the Philippines, some 26 percent of the interviewees said they had invested money in rotating and savings associations locally known as *paluwagans*, and 38 percent more had invested in cooperatives and in rural banks.

The research also shows that 72 percent of Filipinos in Italy send money home on a monthly basis, with 63 percent saying they remit on average 350 euros a month.

Forty percent of the respondents said

they had been sending money home for more than 10 years, with women on average remitting more money than men.

When asked about their plans, 55 percent of respondents said they wanted to bring their families to Italy, although an overwhelming majority (91 percent) said they planned to retire in the Philippines.

In 2008, the 8.73 million Filipinos overseas remitted \$16.4 billion, which represents 9.7 percent of the country’s gross domestic product.

However, the global financial crisis has led to a reduction in the number of Filipinos deployed abroad and to a slower growth rate of remittance inflow, with a two percent recorded growth in February 2009 compared to 13 percent annual growth recorded in 2008.

The IOM was recently in Rome to meet with Philippine and Italian gov-

ernment officials, non-government organizations, international agencies, and the private sector, and discuss ways to enhance the development potential of remittances.

The initial results of the study were released in the meeting which aimed to identify best practices that would encourage the investment of remittances in activities that would stimulate growth and employment in the Philippines.

The meeting is partly funded by the European Community to improve the knowledge of remittance corridors, enhance the development potential of remittances through inter-regional dialogue through the setting up of pilot projects in southeast Asia and Europe.

According to Philippine records, as of December 2007, there are 120,192 Filipinos in Italy, with 24,598 permanent, 82,594 temporary, and 13,000 irregular residents. ■

Immigrants have proud history of military service

by SAMANTHA HENRY
 AP Writer

NEWARK, NJ—The first foreign country that Christian Bueno-Galdos ever visited was the United States, when he was 7. The second was Iraq, where he was killed this month serving under the US flag.

Bueno-Galdos, a US Army sergeant originally from Peru, was one of about 31,000 foreign-born soldiers now in US armed forces—about 1.5 percent of the military—according to the Defense Department. Since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the department says about 150 immigrants have been killed while serving. Several among them, including Bueno-Galdos, lived in New Jersey.

His father, Carlos Galdos, said the family struggled to decide where to bury their son: in the Peruvian homeland he cherished or in the country he felt a patriotism for that lead him to the Army right out of high school.

“His happiness was the Army,” Carlos Galdos said in Spanish. “He loved this country, he felt it was his own.”

The 25-year-old is scheduled to be buried in Totowa, N.J., this Memorial Day weekend with full military honors. Flags across the state were flying at half-staff Friday, May 22 in his memory.

Bueno-Galdos became a US citizen in 2005 through his military service. He was

► PAGE A2

Good News!
 You Get More Savings
 With Our Roll Back Prices!

Cake Rolls
 Reg. \$11.99 \$9.99
 Lg. \$21.99 \$19.99

Fresh Lumpia
 \$4.99
 \$3.99

Sago't Gulaman
 \$2.99
 \$1.99

Goldilocks
 Cakes • Desserts • Pastries • Pizzas • Creams

New Hope Financial Services

- * Huli ka na ba sa pambayad sa bahay?
- * Mas malaki na ba ang utang mo sa bahay kaysa sa halaga nito?
- * Ikaw ba'y naka Option Arm or Adjustable?

STOP FORECLOSURE
 Specializing in Loan Modification

Tagalog and Bisaya Friendly
Call Today!!
 (866) 980-7477

New Hope Financial Services
 10535 Foothill Blvd, Suite 350
 Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730
 CA DRE License #01517909
 2 Attorneys on Staff

Evelyn Eldred and Santiago De Guzman

Summer time is
HALO-HALO
 time!

Only from **Jollibee**