

## Fil-Am environmentalists deliver account of Chevron's toxic operations at oil giant's annual meeting

SAN RAMON, CA—On May 27, the Filipino/American Coalition for Environmental Solidarity joined a delegation of concerned activists and community leaders at Chevron's annual shareholder meeting. Delegates exposed Chevron's human rights abuses and environmental damages to investors, and demanded the oil giant address its human rights and environmental responsibilities.

FACES advisor Christine Cordero represented the Philippines as a proxy shareholder, with community leaders and allies of Chevron-affected communities in Nigeria, Ecuador, Richmond, Burma, Kazakhstan, and Canada. Inside the meeting, delegates delivered testimony and the groundbreaking alternative annual report, The True Cost of Chevron, to shareholders, CEO David O'Reilly and the Board of Directors.

Cordero delivered an account of Chevron's operations in Pandacan, Metro Manila, a densely populated district where Chevron and its partners Shell and Petron operate a controversial oil depot. "Over 82,000 residents in Pandacan are impacted," said Cordero. "I told O'Reilly and investors that the health of Chevron is not the size of its profit. It is the bodies, lungs, and hearts of the communities that they impact. This is about the health of communities and the long term of health of Chevron, and whether the corporation will choose to ignore the

true costs of its operations." Pandacan has been called the potential site of the world's worst petrochemical disaster. Residents suffer from chronic exposure to toxic emissions and the threat of catastrophic spills, fires, and explosions. Since 2006, FACES partnered with Pandacan groups advocating for closure and cleanup of the depot site. In March 2007, the Supreme Court mandated the depot's removal, citing concerns for human safety. Despite this, the oil companies continued operations. On May 28, a week after the SC denied further appeals from Chevron and its partners, Manila Mayor Lim signed the contested Ordinance 7177. The ordinance, authored without consultation of residents, circumvents the Supreme Court decision and allows the depot to stay. Proponents say they will continue to challenge the issue.

Internationally, Chevron is a defendant in a 15-year historic legal battle over the dumping of billions of gallons of toxic waste in the Ecuadorian Amazon. Chevron is faced with complicity in human rights abuses in Burma and connections with the military junta, military violence and shooting of peaceful protestors in Nigeria. In Richmond, where Chevron operates a huge, decades-old refinery linked with widespread cancers and asthma, groups are legally challenging Chevron's proposed expansion.

## Multiracial people become fastest growing US group

by HOPE YEN  
AP Writer

WASHINGTON—Multiracial Americans have become the fastest growing demographic group, wielding an impact on minority growth that challenges traditional notions of race.

The number of multiracial people rose 3.4 percent last year to about 5.2 million, according to the latest census estimates. First given the option in 2000, Americans who check more than one box for race on census surveys have jumped by 33 percent and now make up 5 percent of the minority population—with millions more believed to be uncounted.

Demographers attributed the recent population growth to more social acceptance and slowing immigration. They cited in particular the high public profiles of Tiger Woods and President Barack Obama, a self-described "mutt," who are having an effect on those who might self-identify as multiracial.

Population figures as of July

2008 show that California, Texas, New York and Florida had the most multiracial people, due partly to higher numbers of second- and later-generation immigrants who are more likely to "marry out." Measured by percentages, Hawaii ranked first with nearly 1 in 5 residents who were multiracial, followed by Alaska and Oklahoma, both at roughly 4 percent.

Utah had the highest growth rate of multiracial people in 2008 compared to the previous year, a reflection of loosening social morals in a mostly white state.

"Multiracial unions have been happening for a very long time, but we are only now really coming to terms with saying it's OK," said Carolyn Liebler, a sociology professor at the University of Minnesota who specializes in family, race and ethnicity.

In Middletown, NJ, Kayci Baldwin, 17, said she remembers how her black father and white mother often worried whether she would fit in with the other kids. While she

at first struggled with her identity, Baldwin now actively embraces it, sponsoring support groups and a nationwide multiracial teen club of 1,000 that includes both Democrats and Republicans.

"I went to my high school prom last week with my date who is Ecuadorian-Nigerian, a friend who is Chinese-white and another friend who is part Dominican," she said. "While we are a group that was previously ignored in many ways, we now have an opportunity to fully identify and express ourselves."

The latest demographic change comes amid a debate on the role of race in America, complicating conventional notions of minority rights.

Under new federal rules, many K-12 schools next year will allow students for the first time to indicate if they are "two or more races." The move is expected to cause shifts in how test scores are categorized, potentially altering race disparities and funding for education programs.

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