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FROM THE FRONT PAGE

RP out of 3rd world status...

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Jun Bernabe, Cagayan de Oro 2nd District Congressman Rufus Rodriguez, Camarines Sur Governor LRay Villafuerte, former Globe President Gerry Ablaza, Pilipinas Shell President Ed Chua, Seafood City's Steve Go and other personalities mingled with the almost 700 delegates who trooped to Boston to attend this three-day summit.

Senators Francis Pangilinan and Miguel Zubiri, Agriculture Sec. Arthur Yap, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga, Parañaque Mayor

Former Cabinet secretaries Avelino Cruz (Defense), Elisea Gozun (Environment and Natural Resources) and Cito Lorenzo (Agriculture) also participated.

"GK has become a testament to what our future will be as a nation. We will not allow despair to triumph over genuine change. Through the synergy of the government and private sector, we will be able to change the quality of life of our people," Sen. Pangilinan told the audience during the last plenary.

For about six hours on Friday, June 12, Kendall Square in Cambridge was transformed into a small Filipino town fiesta, with colorful performance arts, exhibitions and culinary samplings. Earlier in the morning, Vice President Noli de Castro, Philippine public officials and leaders of Fil-Am organizations raised the Philippine flag and sang *Lupang Hinirang*, the Philippine national anthem.

Meloto also launched the book called *The Builder of Dreams*, a first-hand account of the Gawad Kalinga journey, its history and the dream to end poverty for five million poorest Filipinos and build a first-world Philippines. Copies being sold at \$25 sold out immediately.

During the last day, seven signed copies of the book were auctioned, with prices ranging from \$250 to \$440 per book. Danny Javier of the Apo Hiking Society helped during the auction. World-class Filipino artists led by maestro Ryan Cayabyab, Joey Albert, Louie Reyes and Stephanie Reese entertained the delegates on both evenings.

Response to the UN-MDG

"We are on the first phase of a three-phased campaign, starting with social justice from 2003 to 2010. We are happy to say that as of 2009, we have enough land for 700,000 families all over the country," Meloto added.

Apart from the plenary sessions, there were also four break-out workshop sessions where the delegates were divided into groups.

Two of the sessions were held at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. One focused on GK as social artistry and a global template for development and the other dwelled on

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