

## PEOPLE AND EVENTS

## Invitation to the GK 2024 Global Summit

*Boston, Massachusetts, 12- 14 June 2009*

**G**AWAD KALINGA invites you to the first Gawad Kalinga 2024 Global Summit, a historic initiative that will take place in Boston, Massachusetts on June 12- 14, 2009 dedicated to the eradication of poverty in the Philippines and other developing countries.

Since its launching as a patriotic Filipino movement for nation building in 2003, Gawad Kalinga has successfully brokered private and public partnerships, bridged friendships between Muslims and Christians, and fostered collaboration among Catholic lay organizations. Due to its transformative impact, both on the poor and the rich alike, it has a growing global base of over 1 million volunteers.

We want to share the GK way with like-minded global citizens to help expand our work. Through the GK 2024 Global Summit, we hope to achieve the following goals:

1. To proclaim the resolve of Filipinos to end poverty of the five million poorest families in the country by 2024, following the twenty one year timeline and template of Gawad Kalinga. This is the coming out party in the most credible academic setting in the world of Filipinos who share the dream of a prosperous nation that they can build together.

2. To launch Gawad Kalinga as a global template of social development consistent with the UN Millennium Development Goals. We will showcase the best practices of Gawad Kalinga in the Philippines and abroad and recognize partners from government, business, and civil society. Outstanding governors and mayors will present their development plans to build trust, attract grants and investments, and encourage tourism in their respective areas.

3. To honor outstanding GK partners starting with the GK village builders of North America, who have made heroic sacrifices to grow the Gawad Kalinga movement and to attract more patriots and partners to our cause of nation-building and building a better world.

We would like to invite you to this gathering of GK patriots and friends. To register and for more information, please visit [www.gawadkalinga.org/globalsummit](http://www.gawadkalinga.org/globalsummit) or call 714 906 1488 and look for Che Mari.

We look forward to the sharing and shaping of our collective dream of a Philippines that every Filipino can be proud of. ■

## Asian-American Community comes together with Reid staff and leaders

**L**AS VEGAS NV— In recognition of Asian American (AAPI) Heritage Month leaders of the Las Vegas Asian-American community met for a roundtable discussion this week at the office of Nevada Senator Harry Reid. Participants from the many diverse communities were present, including leaders from Nevada's Chinese-American, Filipino-American, Korean-American, Japanese-American, Vietnamese-American, and Sikh communities.

Peter Ashman, an immigration attorney, joined Reid's staff in discussing comprehensive immigration reform and the development of legislation that will make it less cumbersome to reunify immigrant families. The group discussed a proposal that would give green card holders the ability to request legal immigrant status for spouses, parents and children under 25 years old.

Dr. Noel Fajado was also part of the discussion. Dr. Fajado discussed certain health disparities that exist among Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders. He encouraged AAPI leaders to educate others in their community about the importance of Hepatitis B screening and treat-

ment, which disproportionately affects Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Reid's staff also took the time to brainstorm with leaders how to overcome language barrier when accessing health care services.

"I am pleased my staff facilitated such a productive and informative meeting with

members of our vibrant Asian-American and Pacific Islander community," said Reid. "Listening to community leaders is essential as we prepare to tackle the challenge of comprehensive immigration reform that is fair and seeks to reunify families, and health care reform that takes into account the needs of a diverse community." ■



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