

**2009 FIESTA FILIPINO**  
A COMMUNITY OF ONE  
in celebration of  
**PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY**

in participation with  
NAFFAL NEVADA CHAPTER  
LIONS CLUB Las Vegas III-Art Link Club  
YFAPA

**Come delight in our heritage, feel the vibe and get into the Festival!**

**Catch the excitement of the grandest Filipino event in Las Vegas.**

**Come and celebrate the second half of the Fiesta Filipino Celebration with our Community Service Awards Gala Night at the Treasure Island Hotel.**

**2009 FIESTA FILIPINO Community Service Awards Gala Night**  
Date: June 20, 2009  
Time: 5pm  
Place: Treasure Island Hotel (Grand Ballroom)  
Attire: Formal

**“A Touch of Elegance!”**

**Ticket Price: \$50.00**  
**Dinner, Show, and Dance**

**PROGRAM**  
5:00 p.m. NO-HOST BAR, COCKTAIL RECEPTION

- RED CARPET PHOTO OP WITH GUEST
- MEET & GREET MAYOR OSCAR GOODMAN

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# ADB: Asia Pacific key against climate change

by AMY R. REMO  
Inquirer.net

COUNTRIES in the Asia-Pacific region have been urged to draw long-term solutions and invest more in green technology to combat the adverse effects of climate change.

The Asia Pacific region already accounts for about a third of global greenhouse emissions. Asian Development Bank president Haruhiko Kuroda warned that Asia's share of global greenhouse gas emissions could even run up to more than 40 percent by 2030, "quickly making this region the main driver of climate change."

"(The Asia Pacific region) is certainly at a critical crossroad. In recent decades, rapid development has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty while bringing the region as a whole to higher living standards," Kuroda said in his speech at the High-Level Dialogue on Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific. The forum, which runs until Friday, June 17, is hosted by ADB.

"Along with this economic expansion however, has been a rise in environmental pollution—including greenhouse gas emissions," Kuroda added.

Rajendra K. Pachauri, director general of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), also stressed that the Asia Pacific region should take the lead in drawing up solutions because of the fast growth in its population compared with those of other regions.

"Even if we halt emissions to zero today, the effects of climate change will continue for seven decades," Pachauri warned.

According to the ADB, reducing gas emissions to sustainable levels is the key, with Asia's response deemed as most critical since the region's sharp economic growth in recent decades has made it the fastest growing source of new emissions and it will soon be the largest absolute source.

An Oxfam international study estimated that at least \$50 billion would be required per year to support adaptation measures in developing countries like the Philippines if current emission rates were stabilized.



THE 'ALIENATED' Greenpeace members put on "alien" masks as they rally for genuine climate solutions while trying to gain entry to the Asian Development Bank in Pasig City, which is hosting the High Level Dialogue on Climate Change in Asia and the Pacific ongoing until Friday, June 19. Inquirer.net Photo by Raffy Lerma

Pachauri, who is also the chair of the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) in India, also noted that the region has been most vulnerable to climate change in terms of fresh water supply, crop yields, coastal and marine ecosystems, and employment, among others.

Pachauri said that the impact of climate change has been aggravated by multiple stressors such as population growth and conflict.

ADB further warned that rising temperatures and extreme weather events would likely reduce crop yields by as much as 10 percent as early as 2020, putting 132 million people at risk of extreme hunger by 2050.

"Global consensus already tells us that 1.2 billion people could experience freshwater scarcity by 2020," Kuroda added. Fresh water supply is expected to decrease in Southeast, Central, East and South Asia.

Experts also urged developed countries to reduce gas emissions by 2020, by as much as 40 percent to avoid adverse effects of global warming, which is expected to lead to floods, higher sea levels, droughts and worsening storms.

A total of 24-34 percent of coral reefs would likely be lost while the region's coastal megacities, which included Manila, Bangkok, Jakarta, Karachi, Mumbai and Shanghai will face increased flooding and damage from unpredictable weather patterns.

Pachauri said that these scenarios should thus prompt countries worldwide to band together to reduce gas emissions.

Combating climate change should become part of development strategies, he added.

"This requires a new paradigm of development, new metrics to measure development," he said.

Kuroda also called on countries to "escalate our efforts to put the region on a path of low carbon growth."

Although 75 percent of the power sector gas emissions in 2020 were already "locked in," investments in the next decade would be critical to a low carbon future in the longer term, ADB said.

To help countries make adjustments and adaptations to counter climate change, ADB has developed a three-pronged strategy.

For one, it is now analyzing climate change consequences and identifying cost effective measures to improve infrastructure and shield populations from adverse impacts. It is now earmarked Manila, Bangkok, Jakarta and Kolkata for its analysis.

Second, ADB is now "climate proofing" infrastructure and project designs to ensure they take into account predicted future changes and other negative climate events.

The third consisted of specific, defensive measures to reduce climate change impacts, particularly in Central Asia, where it is helping countries develop drought-resistant crops, improve irrigation, among others. ■

# N. Samar town gets bridge after 60 years

by JOEY A. GABIETA  
Inquirer.net

LAS NAVAS, Northern Samar—This impoverished town finally got its first and only bridge after 60 years.

The P143.5-million bridge, which connects this town to Catubig, is only about 100-meters long but will be of great help to this town, according to Las Navas Mayor Arlito Tan.

Las Navas is a fourth-class municipality with a population of at least 35,000.

Tan said before the bridge was built, Las Navas residents could reach Catubig only by boat.

"Before, our only means of transportation is the river," he said at the inauguration of the bridge attended by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"I am confident that our economy will improve," the mayor said.

About 90 percent of Las Navas residents earn their living from rice and coconut farming.

Tan said Ms Arroyo's visit was especially significant because the only other president to visit the town was her father, the late Diosdado Macapagal, in 1963.

Funding for the Catubig Bridge came mostly from loans from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

It is a component of the P1.86-billion Help Catubig Agricultural Advancement Project (HCAAP), which seeks to spur agriculture and economic development not only in Catubig and Las Navas but also in the towns of Palapag, Pambujan and Laoang.

Arroyo was scheduled to proceed to Iloilo City, but the trip was cancelled due to bad weather.

Raul Baniyas, her assistant for Western Visayas, said the President was supposed to launch a special program on English, Science and Math for public elementary students in Iloilo.



Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo with (L) Catarman DYZM Reporter Tito Tepage, (R) Gov. Raul Daza, (2nd-R) Aangtay Tayo partlist Rep., Daryl Grace Abayon, (3rd-R) Cong. Emil Ong, (4th-R) Cong. Paul Daza during the Windshield Inspection of a portion of the Catubig-Las Navas Road Project, Inauguration of Las Navas Bridge and Regional Media Interview at the Northern Samar. Photo by Melyn R. Acosta for PCPO

The program was to be launched in nine public elementary schools. ■

# 'Government to keep Imelda jewels'

by MARVIN SY  
Philstar.com

MALACAÑANG said last June 16 the jewelry collection worth P15 billion supposedly belonging to the Marcoses would be placed under government control.

Secretary to the Cabinet Silvestre Bello III echoed the statements made by Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera on the issue of custody of the jewelry collection.

"If you will read the position of Secretary Devanadera, who is Secretary of Justice and has oversight over the PCGG (Presidential Commission on Good Government), obviously (her) position... is the position of government," he said.

Devanadera declared the collection was considered part of the Marcos family's stolen wealth and remained the subject of a civil forfeiture case pending in an anti-graft court.

"The Supreme Court has said that any property that is well and beyond the legitimate income of President Marcos are considered ill-gotten wealth," Devanadera said.

"The issue on the jewelry pieces is still pending before the Sandiganbayan and therefore there is no way for the PCGG and the OSG (Office of the Solicitor General) to have these jewelry released," she added.

Concerns about the jewelry reverting back to Mrs. Marcos came about after Devanadera's predecessor Raul Gonzalez issued a legal opinion saying the former first lady "remains to be the legitimate owner" of the prized jewel collection.

If there are no legal impediments surrounding the ownership of the jewelry then it should be returned to the owners, Gonzalez said.

It was not clear why Gonzalez, who was earlier removed from the justice department after a five-year stint, issued the legal opinion and he was not available for comment yesterday. ► PAGE 2