

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

RP out of 3rd world status...

PAGE A1

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.

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 breakout 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 GK leading a culture of change not just in the Philippines but around the world as well.

Dr. Alex Brillantes, Dean of the UP-National College of Public Administration and Governance

(NCPAG), said that GK could be an emerging and possible template for development in the Philippines.

"If we look at the UN Millennium Development Goals that seek to reduce poverty by half by 2015, among others, we can see that each of these goals has a counterpart among the various programs of GK, almost a one-to-one correspondence," Brillantes remarked.

The model that Brillantes discussed refers to the convergence of the state/public, business sector and the civil society in order to come up with the solution to the pressing problems in the Philippines, key among them poverty.

"What we have here is a nascent indigenous Philippine development model for public administration and good governance, one which has become a converging point for partnership and a usable template for others," he added.

GK as a genuine model of poverty alleviation vehicle and paradigm has all the ingredients to become a template since it meets the most basic criteria, according to Brillantes.

"From the leadership of Tony Meloto as the transformative and credible leader, to the network of donors and supporters, to the fact that the organization is both local and faith-based, something that is very Filipino and ingrained

in our culture, those make up for a very workable model," he added.

Meloto turned over the reins of GK a couple of years ago to Luis Oquiñena, who has been working with him when the latter was just 16 years old.

Oquiñena represented GK when it was chosen as the lone Filipino non-governmental organization to participate in the Clinton Global Initiative in the New York in 2007, a gathering of key people and reputable organizations addressing pertinent global issues among them poverty. Strictly by invitation only, the Clinton conference back then saw Gawad Kalinga as an emerging successful template for development which could be adopted by other developing countries such as Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, and Indonesia where there are now existing GK communities.

"GK in its simplest form is *bayanihan*. It is all about engaging without judging, embracing without secluding. Both the public and private sectors have the transformative capacity to collaborate and develop programs to eradicate poverty, and we will all do it the GK way," Oquiñena said.

Change
 The historic Boston summit gathered partners from all over the world, including Singapore, Brazil, Colombia, Philippines and Canada. Each one, through a piece of paper, proclaimed their resolve to end poverty of the five million poorest families in the country by 2024 and gave their

pledges.

Among those who gave their pledge was Su-Chzeng Ong, a resident of Singapore and the director of GK Hope Institute, who is a strong believer in the project.

"There may not be poverty in Singapore, but we want to bring GK and make it relevant there. What we have there I think is emotional poverty, and through giving to GK, we can address that," she said.

As the organization grows exponentially, so does its network of partners. This is one of the reasons why the organizers thought of bringing the first global summit to Boston.

"Boston is the most prestigious city as far as education is concerned, it is home to Harvard and MIT, and we would like all these great minds here to study what we have here in the academic setting so that we can grow properly," Meloto said.

Since its launching as a patriotic movement for nation-building in 2003, GK has evolved into an international organization where competing brands and corporations have collaborated to work on a singular goal. McDonald's and Jollibee, ABS-CBN and GMA, Ateneo and La Salle, Smart and Globe, among other rival corporations have banded to support the cause.

"People need to be inspired to rise above partisanship and parochial interests and whatever rivalries we have because as Filipinos, we keep on dividing, whether it is politics or religion," Meloto added.

UP and Ateneo are also working together with GK on research ventures to bring the science into the spirit of community development. The partnership aims to form an academic curriculum to bring organizational and technical expertise to the GK villages.

GK has become a transcendent cause, and through the numerous villages and homes that have been built around the country, it has also successfully bridged the Muslim and Christian communities and fostered a closer relationship among the partner organizations.

Various Filipino-American organizations have also come together to sponsor villages in the Philippines and have been doing so immediately after GK was launched in the Philippines.

"We are also here in the summit to honor the outstanding GK partners starting with the GK village builders of North America, who have made heroic sacrifices to grow the GK movement and to attract more patriots and partners to our cause of nation building," Meloto said. "You were among the first communities who responded to our call and we would like to thank all of you," he added.

Changing Lives
 "The past seven months have been the most fulfilling I have ever experienced," said Jonah de Lumen, who left a lucrative job as a global brand manager at Unilever in New York to pursue a

full-time GK work. "I did global work with Unilever and I thought that was big but doing small things that make big impact on people's lives is really amazing," she added.

For now, De Lumen has to contend with what she considers as her primary challenge: dealing with the bureaucracy in the government.

"I am still getting used to it," she said, "There are gems in the rubbles and there are people who are really out there to help."

"The calling became very strong probably a year ago through a conversation. I really felt very blessed that I wanted to give back to the country especially when I know that there's a lot of people who do not have enough," De Lumen added.

Earlier this year, GK and the Department of Agriculture launched Bayan Aniham, which is GK's food sufficiency program. De Lumen is helping in this project, through its food sufficiency program.

"The whole idea is to empower communities by teaching the families to farm. We give them the seeds and we teach them how to farm and they reap what they sow. The primary purpose is food on the table. Whatever surplus, they can sell," she explained.

GK is on the process of perfecting the model, which they intend to replicate on a nation-wide scale. They have launched 115 farms in the past three months, with 25 metric tons of vegetables harvested and over 17,000 individuals fed.

Like the other GK projects, Bayan Aniham is also a multi-sectoral endeavor involving the government, local government units, youth, non-government organizations and the academe.

A lot of things have been achieved since GK's official founding in 2003. Over 900 communities all over the Philippines and in other developing countries, such as Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia and East Timor have welcomed Gawad Kalinga with open arms.

GK groups based outside of the Philippines were also established in recent years. GK Hope Initiative Limited (GK HI) was incorporated in February 2009 and registered as an International Charity Organization in the Singapore Economic Development Board to give Gawad Kalinga an official presence in Singapore.

GK HI is composed of volunteers who work to promote GK and its vision in the Lion City. Singapore volunteers have participated in a number of builds and immersions in the Philippines. They have also been involved in charity work for orphans in East Timor and for the elderly and handicapped in Singapore.

Delegates from Singapore led by GK HI director Su-Chzeng Ong and active supporter Antonio del Rosario, president of Coca Cola Singapore and Malaysia officially announced that the country will be hosting the 2010 GK Global Summit next June. ■

PinoyDIRECT Package ONLY **\$24.99** a month

Call us today and sign-up.

FLB CORPORATION
 NATIONWIDE/INTERNATIONAL SALES AND INSTALLATION SERVICES
 310.816.9371 / 877.532.2677

Customers must first subscribe to DIRECTV Basic (\$12.99/mo.) or any DIRECTV base programming package (29.99/mo.) or above.

PMC Procare Medical Center
 ProCare Medical Center is a walk-in urgent care center
 Open from 7 am - 8 pm Monday thru Friday 8:00 am - 6:00 pm Saturdays, and 10:00 am - 6:00 pm Sunday

FAMILY & URGENT CARE
 DIAGNOSTIC TESTS
 • Lab Work
 • HIV & STDs Testing
 • X-Ray
 • EKG
 • Alcohol Breath Testing
 • Drug Screening

PHYSICAL EXAMS
 • School, Sports, Work
 • DOT

VACCINATIONS
 • Traveler's Vaccine
 • Flu Shot
 • Hepatitis B
 • Tetanus

Sang Tran, M.D.
 sang.tran@procaremedicalcenter.com
 Phone: (702) 396.6000
 Fax: (702) 396.6001

6870 S Rainbow Blvd, Suite 106 & 107 Las Vegas, NV 89118
 Phone: (702) 396-6000 FAX: (702) 396-6001
 Website: procaremedicalcenter.com

DISCOUNT AIRLINE TICKETS

LAS VEGAS

↓

SOUTH EAST ASIA

(The Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, China, Japan, *You can ship over to Japan etc. with an additional fee: \$100 or from \$300)

IACE TRAVEL
 4632 S. MARYLAND PKWY #5
 LAS VEGAS, NV 89119
 TEL: 702-310-4224 MON - FRI: 9:30 AM - 6:30 PM
 www.iace-usa.com SAT: 10 AM - 2 PM
 Cruise Division: http://www.iace-cruise.com
 Asia Division: http://www.iace-asia.com

Nevada Seller of Travel Registration No. 2002-0846

New York - Boston - Chicago - Arlington HTS - Washington, DC - Orlando - Atlanta - Dallas - Columbus - Detroit - Seattle - Las Vegas - Los Angeles - West LA - Orange County - San Jose - San Diego - Honolulu - Vancouver - Toronto

LIN LAW GROUP
 A Law Firm with Medical Knowledge and Experience

Focus in Personal Injury and Auto Accident

- Wills, Trusts, and Estate Planning
- Contract, Business Formation
- Bail
- Family Law, Divorce, Prenuptial
- Immigration
- Incorporation, LLC
- Criminal Defenses
- Traffic Tickets (\$100.00) (No Point No School) in most cases
- All Types of Civil Litigation / Disputes

PERSONAL AND BUSINESS BANKRUPTCY: Chapter 7, Chapter 11 and Chapter 13

For Consultation: 702-871-9888

MICHAEL M. LIN, D.C., Esq.
 Nevada, Federal District Court Attorney, SREY Board School of Law Juris Doctor, Nevada, California, Arizona Licensed College, Doctor of Chiropractic

The call that takes care of your questions and troubles!

24 Hour Injury Hotline: (702) 824-8866
 We speak: Tagalog, English, and Mandarin
 5288 Spring Mtn. Road, Ste 103, Las Vegas, NV 89146
 Facsimile: (702) 648-8888

You may have to pay the opposing party's attorney fees and cost in the event of a loss

Pinoy Cash makes borrowing easier!

We offer lower rates & longer terms!

Ask about our convenient payment plan.

"Kapag nangangailangan PINOY CASH and tawagan"

We also offer title loans

We Speak Tagalog, Ilocanos & Visayan

PINOY CASH
 6000 Spring Mtn. Road #4-A (next to Nanay Gloria's)
702-889-9991

Supreme Court junks petitions...

PAGE A1

the approval of HR 1109. Lozano immediately filed an appeal.

At Malacañang, Secretary to the Cabinet Silvestre Bello III said the decision was expected.

"I thought it would come earlier because I think the petitioner knows there is no justiciable issue yet and I don't even know if he is the right party (to file the petition)," Bello said.

Speaker Prospero Nograles, for his part, said he would have to consult with other House leaders on what to do next. He said such consultation may take place after President Arroyo's State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 27.

"Con-ass may or may not happen at all depending on our meeting," he said.

He also said the SC decision proved that "all the noise against con-ass was premature."

In its ruling, the SC said there is no justiciable issue yet since the House only resolved to "convene at a future time for purpose of proposing amendments or revisions to the Constitution" and that "no actual convention has yet transpired and no rules of procedure have yet been adopted."

Legal observers have said that the SC could find justiciable cause only if the House actually pushes through with con-ass and then approves constitutional changes by a three-fourths vote of the chamber. A voice vote will not suffice, as in the case of HR1109; congressmen's signatures are needed.

"House Resolution No. 1109 involves a quintessential example of an uncertain contingent future event that may not occur as anticipated, or indeed may not occur at all," the SC resolution said.

"The House has not yet performed a positive act that would warrant an intervention from this Court," the SC said.

On the petitioners' lack of legal standing to pursue the case, the SC said they failed to prove that they suffered some actual or threatened injury as a result of the passage of the House resolution.

The High Court also explained that only in cases where allocation or disbursement of public funds is involved can a taxpayer's suit be considered.

"While the Court has taken an increasingly liberal approach to the rule on locus standi (legal standing), evolving from the stringent requirement of 'personal injury' to the broader 'transcendental importance' doctrine, such liberty is not to be abused," the SC said.

"It is not an open invitation for the ignorant and ignoble to file petitions that prove nothing but their cerebral deficit," the SC ruling read.

Puno penned the ruling with Associate Justices Leonardo Quisumbing, Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Antonio Carpio, Renato Corona, Presbitero Velasco Jr., Antonio Eduardo Nachura, Teresita Leonardo-de Castro, Arturo Brion, Diosdado Peralta and Lucas Bersamin concurring.

Associate Justice Minito Chico-Nazario abstained while Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales was on official leave.

There are presently two vacant posts in the SC. ■