



Brilliant at Cannes
Brillante 'Dante' Mendoza wins Best Director at the 62nd Cannes Film Festival



ASIAN JOURNAL

THE FILIPINO-AMERICAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

www.asianjournal.com

Volume 16 - No. 23 • 2 Sections—16 Pages

MAY 29-JUNE 4, 2009



Stephen Simon (right), LA AIDS coordinator with APAIT executive director Jury Candelario (left) and APAIT Orange County Program Manager Elizabeth Mediano. AJPress photo by Rene Villaroman

Banyan Tree Project honors supporters at its 5th HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

CHINATOWN—Five years ago more than 7300 Asian Pacific Islanders Americans have been diagnosed with AIDS, with over 1100 cases in Los Angeles alone, declared Stephen David Simon, AIDS coordinator for the City of Los Angeles. Simon was one of the honorees in the 5th Annual Asian Pacific Islander National HIV/AIDS Awareness Day Luncheon held at the Empress Pavilion Restaurant last Tuesday.

The other honorees were actor James Kyson Lee, who plays "Ando" in NBC's *Heroes*, and Rita Gonzales, executive director and co-host of *IMRU*, the long-running gay and lesbian radio on KPFK. "Together we have looked not only at stigma and discrimination from outside, but also at stigma and discrimination from within API communities," Simon

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300 miles and counting Pinay runner makes brief pit stop in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS, NV—THE last time we saw Joy Rojas she was sprinting outside of Eagle Rock Plaza.



Joy Rojas
AJPress Photo by Robert Macabagdal

That was last May 10. The 44-year-old Pinay's goal was to run across America and 12 days later, she's made it to Las Vegas, NV.

"It's been the most colorful 12 days of my life," said Rojas in a press conference during Western Union's customer appreciation day outside of The Palace Station Hotel and Casino last Saturday, May 23. "It's a very difficult task to do but we have no regrets. In the 12 days since we ran from the Glendale, CA area

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GMA: There will be elections in 2010

Says party merger 'tangible proof'

by LIRA DALANGIN-FERNANDEZ
Inquirer.net

MANILA—Setting off the election fever, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared that elections would push through in May 2010 and that the merged Lakas-Kampi-CMD (Christian Muslims Democrats) party would dominate it.

At the same time, the President gave marching orders to her allies to stand "strong and united" behind the merged party, which she said was the "best guarantee for success in 2010."

After shunning talk of politics in the past months, Arroyo came out strongly on Thursday, May 28 during the merger of the two administration parties, as she shot back at critics who said that Charter change efforts were

meant to extend her stay in office and postpone the 2010 elections.

The President said the merger of the two parties was a "tangible proof" that elections would be held next year.

"Cynics and detractors love to paint grim scenarios on the cancellation of the 2010 elections," she said in a speech, adding, "Let this merger of

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Vice President Noli de Castro and Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro greet each other during the merger of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD. De Castro and Teodoro were special guests at the party held at the Manila Hotel. Philstar.com Photo by Willy Perez

OC/PRSA celebrates 5 years of diversity

by APRIL TIAMZON
AJPress

COSTA MESA—Members of the Orange County Public Relations Society of America (OC/PRSA) gathered last May 21 at The Clubhouse in South Coast Plaza as its award-winning diversity committee hosted its 5th



(L-R) Diane Medina, Tiffany N. Smith-Anoa'I, Judy Iannaccone, Dean Bob Bassett, Dean Rick Pullen, Emma Daugherty Phillin
AJPress Photo by April Tiamzon

Annual Diversity Conference. This year's theme is *A Look Back, A Look Forward: A Celebration of Advancing Diversity in Orange County*.

Diversity is an important part of everyday values—it is a smart business strategy, a necessity to move forward both today and tomorrow. The panelists discussed how Orange County academic and media professionals have advanced diversity in Orange County in the last five years, and how diversity will impact Orange County's media through 2014.

This year's conference featured guest speakers Dean Rick Pullen—College of Communications from California State University, Fullerton; Dean Bob Bassett—Dodge College of Film and Media Arts, from Chapman University; Emma Daugherty Phillingane, APR—Professor of Public Relations and Journalism, from California State University, Long Beach; Mel Rogers—President & CEO of KOCE-TV; Tiffany N. Smith-Anoa'I—Vice President of Diversity & Communications from CBS Entertainment and Diane Medina—Vice President of Diversity & Community Relations from KABC-TV.

As co-founder and inaugural co-chair of the OC/PRSA Diversity Committee it was appropriate that the speaker panel

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RP students shine anew in int'l science tilt

by ALEXANDER VILLAFANIA
Inquirer.net

MANILA—Two Filipino high school students have again made the country proud for bagging special awards in the recently held 2009 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in the US.

Angeli Joyce Yap Dy and Jovani Saso Tomale won special awards in chemistry and mathematics. These were awarded in Reno, Nevada, USA last May 14.

Intel Philippines corporate affairs manager Arlita Narag confirmed the victory of the two students in the recent ISEF.

Dy, a 14-year-old student from the Capiz National High School won the second award given by ISEF partner the American Association for Clinical Chemistry.

Her project is entitled *Study of the Cytotoxicity against Human Lung (A549) and Colon (HCT 116) Carcinomas, Antioxidant and Antibacterial Potentials of Milkfish (Chanos chanos Forsskal) Bile*. "It studied the medicinal benefits of a locally known fish called bangus.

She received \$1,000 for her work.

Meanwhile, 16-year-old Tomale also garnered a second award given by the

American Statistical Association for his work entitled *Mathematical Models for the Gender Determination of Philippine Eagles (Pitheophaga jefferyi)*.

Tomale, a student of the Davao City National High School, received \$500 for his project.

The Intel ISEF is an annual international competition that gathers the brightest high school students to show their projects in the fields of science, mathematics and engineering.

The Philippines has been consistently winning awards since it participated 12 years ago.

Erap eyes own merger of opposition parties

by JOSE RODEL CLAPANO
Philstar.com

SAN FELIPE, Zambales—Former President Joseph Estrada hinted last May 28 at the possible merger of his party, the Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), with PDP-Laban, the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC) and the Liberal Party (LP) for the national elections next year.

In an interview, Estrada said a merged PMP, PDP-Laban, NPC and LP would all the more strengthen the opposition in 2010.

Estrada also belittled the chances of administration candidates even with a merged Lakas and Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi).

"Like in the 2007 senatorial elections, we have a strong lineup of candidates for the 2010 elections. The administration will enter the needle's eye. The opposition will be an issue-oriented one in next year's elections," Estrada said.

He said that the administration will have a hard time explaining to the people the issues on "rising unemployment, rampant graft and corruption and the peace and order problems in the country today."

"Our country has been named as the most corrupt country in Asia; second to the most corrupt country all over the world. International human rights groups also tagged the Philippines as a very dangerous place for journalists. We would easily beat the administration candidates," Estrada said, adding

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