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GK GLOBAL SUMMIT IN BOSTON

RP out of 3rd world status by 2024



Tony Meloto poses with Eugene Amano of the Tennessee Titans
AJPress Photo by Momar G. Visaya

BOSTON—"It is our dream at Gawad Kalinga to bring the Philippines out of the third world by 2024 through the collaborative effort of all sectors of the Philippine society in the Philippines and abroad," Gawad Kalinga (GK) founder Tony Meloto announced to the media before the formal unveiling of the organization's first global summit in this city.

The GK 2024 vision is a 21-year timeline to end the poverty of five million Filipinos and build a First World Philippines through community development and people empowerment with engaged multi-sectoral and trans border partnerships.

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Filing and processing of Filvets claims remain on track—Gaa

AFTER recent consultations with the US Veterans Administration, Ambassador Willy C. Gaa today said the filing and processing of claims by Filipino World War II veterans remain on track.

"We are in constant consultation with the concerned officials of the US Veterans Administration and the filing and processing of our claims remain on track," Ambassador Gaa said, adding that the Philippine Embassy, particularly the Veterans Affairs Section, will continue to monitor the process.

"As of today, the 32,657 claims have been received," Ambassador Gaa pointed out.

Of these "2,834 have been granted," the Ambassador said.

Ambassador Gaa also said that a total of 1,060 claims have been denied and that a total of 28,763 claims are pending.

"As we celebrate our Independence Day this month, we must always remember the courage and sacrifice of our Filipino World War II veterans and rededicate ourselves to the ideals and values they fought for and to ensure that they continue to receive the recognition and benefits that they so justly deserve," Ambassador Gaa said.

"We must also take this opportunity to thank our many friends in the US Congress and in Filipino-American communities across the United States for all their efforts on behalf of our veterans," the Ambassador emphasized.

Overseas Filipino voters exceed 100,000 mark

DFA expects more to register before deadline in August

MANILA—The number of Filipinos overseas who have registered to vote in next year's presidential, senatorial, and local elections has surpassed the 100,000 mark, the Overseas Absentee Voting Secretariat of the Department of Foreign Affairs said June 18.

DFA Undersecretary for Special Concerns Rafael Seguis said he expects more Filipinos abroad would register as the deadline for overseas absentee voting registration nears.

Registration for overseas Filipinos started on February 1 and will end on August 31.

"This has always been the case in previous registration drives. The nearer it is to the deadline, the greater the number of last-minute registrants," Seguis said.

As of June 17, the number of absentee voting registrants is 104, 475, with Asia and the Pacific getting the most number

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FACCOC provides 'Access to Capital'

by APRIL TIAMZON
AJPress

SEAL BEACH—The Filipino-American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County (FACCOC) held an educational and networking event—"Access To Capital" last Monday, June 15 at the Old Ranch Country Club.

Getting access to capital in today's marketplace can be the difference in weathering this economic storm and closing your business doors. The attendees learned about the different traditional and non-traditional capital

sources that are currently available to small businesses.

The group of distinguished panelists included: Greg Arbues, Client Advocate Network—How to Connect to the right Capital; Dan Gufrey, Financing programs available through Small Business Financial Development Corporation; Allen Ilano, Citibank, SVP Regional Manager, Orange County Commercial Banking; Linda Onestinghel, Working capital financing programs available through Goldleaf Financial Solutions; Stacey Sanchez—Financing programs available through So. Cal. Reinvestment CDFI and CDC Small Business Finance; Ruth Cossio-Muniz (Facilitator), Assistant Director, Orange County SBDC.

Access to Capital was made possible by FACCOC in partnership with Small

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FACCOC President Edith Andres, Patrick Aguiluz, Greg Arbues, Allen Ilano, Dan Gufrey, Linda Onestinghel, Stacey Sanchez, Ruth Cossio-Muniz



HOME ON THE ROCK Steve and Marcia Kwiecinski arrived on Corregidor Island in 2008 with only 4 suitcases but are here to stay for its beautiful sunrises and sunsets, for the sound of birds and for deeply sentimental reasons.
Inquirer Photo

US couple retires in Corregidor

To honor father who fought there

by ROSS HARPER-ALONSO
Inquirer.net

MANILA—While many dream of retiring into a private island in the Philippines with long stretches of deserted fine, white sand beaches or enjoying a luxury resort lifestyle still close to where the action is, an American couple has chosen to do the unusual.

Steve Kwiecinski, 57, a retired computer programmer and his wife, Marcia, 56, a retired physical therapist assistant, left Michigan in 2008 to start a new life on Corregidor, the island fortress that has become a national shrine as a symbol of the determined resistance of its Filipino and American defenders against the invading Japanese in World War II.

The island, also known as the "The Rock" because of its rocky landscape and heavy fortifications, holds a special place

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TEAM TAKBONG PANGARAP AT THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL. Takbong Pangarap in Colorado. Staying on highway 160, Joy Rojas and Mat Macabe (whose run across America project called Takbong Pangarap has already seen successful crossing in California, Nevada, Utah, and Arizona) are now in Colorado, en route to a big event in Denver on June 23 hosted by major sponsor Western Union. On their way, Rojas and Macabe run past the historic Old Spanish Trail on Rio Grande, and the Continental Divide, which divides the flow of water from the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean.
AJ contributed photo by Danny Titus

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