

RE-UNION

Filipino-American Associations in America

Searching for a kababata from your hometown, a college buddy or a Pinoy colleague? Your search is finally over. The Asian Journal brings you Re:Union, Filipino American Associations in America -- your link to a network of kababayan associations here in the United States. As your Filipino-American community newspaper, the Asian Journal recognizes your need to nourish and maintain ties with the people and the culture you were born with. This is our way of connecting our kababayans to the past, of creating new opportunities for the present and of inspiring you to pay it forward by becoming active members of your association and the FilAm community at large in the future.

Marinduque Association of Northern California

Contact: www.marinduqueinternational.org/manc/index.html

As early as mid-1950's, Marinduquenos have been coming to the United States and Canada in their quest to advance their education, their livelihood, and for many, ultimately to settle down as immigrants in these countries. By the late 1960's, and most of the 70's, Marinduquenos were in major cities in the West Coast, the Midwest, the Eastern Sea-board States and in Canada. They began to form regional organizations such as the Marinduque Association of Southern California (MASC) which was founded on September 22, 1979 in Los Angeles which included San Diego residents. Other major groups were formed such as the Marinduque Association of Chicago USA (MACUSA) from Illinois-Indiana states, the Marinduquenos of the Eastern Seaboard of America (MESA) founded on June, 1983, from the tri-state: NY, NJ, CT including PA, MD & VA areas; the Marin-

duque Association of Northern California (MANC) from San Francisco and the outlying cities; the Marinduque Cultural Society of Canada (MCSC) from the Toronto region; the Marinduqueno Association of the Capital Area (MACA) formed in 1992, from the Washington, DC-Maryland-Virginia states. Each organization grew and pursued various social activities to unite and strengthen their groups, through cultural activities which kept their unique Marinduque traditions like the Moriones festivals and the "putong", and special cuisines which we grew up with. But never forgotten were their needy fellow Marinduquenos in the province. Educational scholarships, livelihood projects, medical assistance, and monetary aids to some indigents of their home province were sent to help. The recognized that their projects are generally similar in nature and some could be more effective and efficient if the organiza-

tions combine their manpower, talents, and financial resources. That idea was in the minds of many whenever they met but the opportunity to discuss the possibility of working together came when the Marinduque Association of Southern California (MASC) organized an all Marinduque High Schools reunion in 1993, during their 14th annual anniversary celebration.

2008-2009 Executive Officers

President - Rene C. Santo Domingo • Vice President - Edgardo Lazarte • Secretary - Julita Real Alandy • Treasurer - Dinah Sosa Alino • Auditor - Noemi Ledesma • PRO - Rosy Palmiery

Board of Directors

Andre Belarmino, Chairperson • Cesar L. Alino • Rodolfo L. Ferranco • Elisa Orlina-Howard • Anthony Los Banos • Joseph Madrigal • Edgar Palma

Advisory Board

Edgar Alandy • Rafael Mondonedo • Larry Riformo ■

LEGAL RIGHTS



ATTY. JOHNSON LAZARO

An Immigrant investor's dream can turn to reality

THE recent economic downturn is shoveling a great deal of fear into the general public. Some of the fear is appropriate while in other scenarios it is over exaggerated and unnecessary. Despite the negative attitude, the weak economy has provided an ideal situation for investors. Now is the perfect time for foreign investors to infuse fresh capital in the current business climate and make a very large profit.

Foreign investors can enter and operate their business in the United States through an investor's visa. The visa allows the investor, his or her family, and even key employees the right to operate the business legally while living in the US.

The offer is especially tempting for residents of the Philippines, because a current treaty exists between the two countries that allow Filipino residents to immigrate to the United States and purchase or start up a new business. The E-2 visa, as it is commonly known, enables Filipino citizens to make their dream a reality while dumping money into the US economy.

Foreign investors who are interested in expanding to the United States should begin by obtaining a business visa (B-1 Visa). The B-1 Visa enables the potential investor to visit the country and personally explore business opportunities. Potential investors are usually shocked to discover the thousands of businesses for sale. Available businesses include the food, automotive, distribution, and manufacturing industries. Hundreds of services are also available for purchase. It's always advisable to purchase an existing business or franchise, because the infrastructure, suppliers, and equipment are already available.

The US government requires that potential investors are "ready, able, and willing" to make the investment before the visa is granted and approved. Often de-

positing money into a US bank account falls under the "ready, able, and willing" definition.

The visa is for serious investors only. Individuals may purchase a visa for as little as \$150,000, although the visa is more preferred for "true entrepreneurs" looking to invest over \$500,000 in fresh capital. The visa is different from a "green card," because immigrants with a visa are defined as someone truly willing to invest or own a business. Individuals who plan to invest over \$500,000 dollars in the United States may earn permanent resident status.

The investor's family and key employees are all qualified to immigrate with the investor as long as he or she can prove they have adequate resources to sustain and care for the additional individuals. The spouse is allowed to work anywhere under a visa and children under the age of 21 may enroll in school.

If the investor needs advice on running the business, government agencies like the Small Business Administration may assist the investor if inquired.

In order to file for a visa, the potential investor must have a wide assortment of documents, which include a detailed and well-prepared business plan, articles of incorporation, a partnership agreement, organizational minutes referencing incorporation, election of officers, insurance of shares, financial statements, business and state tax licenses, a lease contract, and any proof of the investment made. It's quite a handful and best advised processed in the hands of a professional law firm and not the individual.

Law firms provide the protection an individual needs when taking the large step towards obtaining a US visa. Law firms will work with the individual right from the start, assisting the potential investor in obtaining a B-1 visa. If the individual is unsuccessful in obtaining a B-1 visa, the law firm can consult and evaluate the business of interest for the individual. The report will include information on the businesses past activities, operations, current status, competition, the industry, and its future potential.

Lawyers will also provide assistance and protection when depositing money into a US bank during the visa application process. The individual is placing a lot of money into the hands of a foreign country, so it's always advisable to hire a law firm to oversee the transaction. The lawyer will insure the funds are protected by verifying records in any account to prove availability.

Law firms also work with foreign investors during the sale if requested. This is highly advisable as the team of lawyers can negotiate the purchase price and financing, ensuring the individual receives the best deal possible. Once the individual is inside the US on a B-1 visa, the law firm can insure the investor and his or her family permanently remains in the US by switching the visa to an E-2.

The relationship does not end with the sale. Lawyers are always more than happy to assist new investors with any questions or concerns. Lawyers can also assist in establishing a business entity, advice on meeting liability insurance requirements, and handling labor employee issues. Law firms often even go as far as providing housing for new investors and their family.

Making the transition to a foreign country with a brand new investment is never easy. But the opportunity is ripe and if individuals have ever considered or weighed the option, let me suggest that now is the perfect time to make the move. But I never advise traveling the long road to a new investment alone. Hire a team of lawyers who understand the process well, and will provide the potential investor with the highest chance of success.

Lazaro and Associates is a Filipino-owned law firm that handles civil litigation. The firm's offices are located in San Francisco, Fremont/Newark/Union City California, Makati City (Philippines). Telephone (415)278-9577. E-mail: Law@LazaroLaw.com. Website: www.LazaroLaw.com.

This article should not be taken as legal advice for any individual case or situation. The information is intended to be general and should not be relied upon for any specific situation. This is not meant to create a lawyer-client relationship.

(Advertising Supplement)

Hubris and the Folly...

traption so skillfully that they looked like a giant replica of a bird's wings. He customized two pairs of wings for himself and for his son, careful to take each of their individual body weights into consideration.

But having wings was one thing, knowing how to use those wings to fly was another. So Daedalus strapped his wings and still taking his cue from the seagulls on how to soar, swoop, dive and glide, he proceeded to learn how to fly so that the wings felt like a seamless part of his arms and his body. He studied wind currents, the waters of the sea and the heat of the sun. Having gained the skill, he proceeded to teach his son patiently. At first, Icarus stumbled and fell and when he got past the first few fumbles, the youth learned quickly, his lithe, svelte form seemingly destined for flight. He learned to fly like a bird, swooping and diving, gliding and circling about, looking down below at the blue waters and their island prison, now a mere speck from above, and frolicking about overhead, chasing the seagulls and rolling in the clouds. Freedom was a heady drink. Icarus felt complete elation, knew the incredible lightness of being and tasted the sweet freedom of flight.

ing, Icarus plunged headlong like deadweight into the blue waters. Daedalus swooped down in hot pursuit to save his son but it was much too late. All he saw were a few feathers floating on the surface.

Daedalus, with a heavy heart at the tragic loss of his beloved Icarus, managed to fly to Sicily. In his grief, Daedalus retired his wings, lost his love for life and never flew again.

Over and over again through the generations, we see this tendency of some of the young ones to "forget" the things they have been taught and allow hubris and folly to rule. Some throw away everything they have learned and painstakingly worked for in one impetuous decision or action. It is as if their overwhelming sense of freedom, newly-attained independence and sense of power goads them to "fly close to the sun." Humility gets torpedoed and overweening pride rules. They feel they no longer need guidance from anyone. Sometimes a good scare or a tiny thorn of bad experience can be humbling and worth more than a lifetime of warnings, advice and

admonitions to nudge prideful youth back to reality and on the straight and narrow.

While we may think that this tendency of the youth today is unique to our times, we only have to look back several thousand years to know that the scenario may have changed, the cast of characters in every generation in every nation may be different, but the predilection for hubris and folly in some of the youth remains the same.

We need to be reminded too that as adults, we were once just as young and just as foolish, perhaps even more so. But we were lucky and got a pass because life was magnanimous enough to let us get past this harrowing stage with barely a scratch and live long enough to see the cycle repeated in our children.

And on and on until the sun dies, the cycle goes.

Nota Bene: To ask questions, send feedback and requests as well as to inquire about advertising in any or all of the 6 print editions of Asian Journal in California, Nevada and New York/New Jersey and/or advertising in the Print Edition Online of Asian Journal, e-mail monette.maglaya@asianjournalinc.com



IN REUNION THERE IS STRENGTH.

In our continuing efforts to serve the Fil-Am Community, Asian Journal will be featuring profiles of Filipino-American associations here in the United States.



Please submit a brief background of your association, a list of current officers and your contact information for the benefit of our readers who may want to get in touch with you.

FAX. (213) 481-0854 • Email. pr@asianjournalinc.com



The largest Filipino/Asian retail business in US needs to fill up the following positions in

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

We are looking for qualified individuals to be trained for Store management positions. Retail experience would be an advantage. People oriented: Enjoys interacting with others; able to work as part of a team; has leadership qualities to manage and mobilize a group of people to achieve assigned goals. Has positive attitude: Energetic, enthusiastic and optimistic.

Successful applicants must be willing to be trained in all aspects of grocery and fresh food operations, be able to lift up to 50 lbs., work long hours in a standing position and must be willing to work in any of the Seafood City Store branches for short to medium durations depending on the needs of the company.

SUPERVISORY TRAINEES

We are looking for candidates willing to be trained in certain areas of Store Operations such as grocery, seafood, meat and produce departments. A Self starter and people oriented: Should be a "hands on" person with good people skills and able to support and lead a team of 10-20 people in a department. Candidate should possess excellent time management and organizational skills and must be able to lift up to 50 lbs., work for long hours in a standing position.

Successful applicants will undergo 3-6 month training program in an assigned dry or fresh department. Must be willing to work in any of the Seafood City Store branches for short to medium durations depending on the needs of the company.

CASHIERS

Responsible for cashiering and point of sales operations in the store. Must possess good customer service skills, must be able to pay attention to details and can work long hours in a standing position.

MEAT SLICERS/ CLERKS

Service customers' meat orders. Fast & safe worker. Willing to learn. Able to work with minimum supervision. Able to lift 50-lb boxes. Experience not necessary. Will train qualified candidates.

FISH CLEANERS

Responsible for cleaning and scaling fish. Can work with minimum supervision. Able to lift 50 lb. boxes. Experience not necessary. We will train qualified candidates.

UTILITY PERSONNEL

Responsible for keeping the store orderly and clean. Sweeps, mops, scrubs, etc. Able to lift 50 lb. boxes.

Please e-mail resume to hrdepartment@seafoodcity.com or mail application to 2883 Surveyor Street, Pomona, CA 91768