

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

RP out of 3rd world status by 2024

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Vice President Noli de Castro delivered the keynote during the reception, and welcomed patriots from all over who have not forgotten to help the motherland. De Castro even managed to sing *Wonderful World*, the Louis Armstrong classic. "*Para sa GK, itataya ko ang reputasyon ko.*" (For GK, I will bet my reputation) he

remarked. The historic event also gathered a veritable who's who in the worlds of Philippine politics, business and civil society. Senators Francis Pangilinan and Miguel Zubiri, Agriculture Sec. Arthur Yap, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga, Parañaque Mayor

Jun 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

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