



**ASIAN CENTER**

University of the Philippines

# MUSYAWARAH

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## ABSTRACTS

## ALUMNI UPDATES

## Passionate Politics, Redefining Tool of the Future

Prof. Aurora Javate-De Dios was the guest speaker at the recognition rites for new graduates of the Asian Center and the Tri-College PhD Philippine Studies Program last April 22, 2007.

She is currently the Executive Director of the Women and Gender Institute and an Associate Professor of the International Studies Department at Miriam College in the Philippines. She was once the Gender Adviser to the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW).



Her selection as the guest speaker followed the college's tradition of inviting its distinguished alumni to address graduating students. Prof. De Dios was a graduate of the Asian Center, finishing her MA in Asian Studies in 1985.

In her speech, (see text on page 3), Prof. De Dios emphasized passionate politics as an instrument in reshaping and redefining the future.

She pointed out that social change has to be pursued with passion in various levels of society towards the realization of tolerance, respect for human rights, equality and non-discrimination.

Furthermore, she challenged the graduates to kindle that passion to rage against injustice, militarism and other forms of human rights violations prevailing in society.

## Etta Rosales, 2007 UPAA Presidential Awardee

AC Alumni and Representative Loretta Ann 'Etta' Pargas Rosales (MAAS'74) of Akbayan Partylist received the 2007 UP Alumni Presidential Award during the UP General Alumni-Faculty Homecoming and Reunion held last June 23, 2007 at Bahay ng Alumni, U.P. Diliman. Rep. Rosales earned the award for her exemplary contributions in the field of governance and human rights advocacy.



From 1998 until 2007, she filed bills for the benefit of the marginal and unrepresented sectors of society. Among these are the bill to amend the flawed party-list law, magna carta for public and private school teachers and non-teaching personnel, absentee voting, worker's bill to abolish regional tripartite boards and transform these into a national structure for across-the-board wage legislation, land and water use code and human rights bills. Due to her unwavering dedication to advancing the promotion and protection of civil liberties in the Philippines, the Asian Center through Dean Baviera and the AC Alumni Association (ACAA) through its president, Dr. Elizabeth T. Urgel (MAAS'87) nominated her for this prestigious award.

With reports from Dr. Elizabeth T. Urgel

## Enhancing Cultural Exchange in East Asia

Dr. Matthew C.M. Santamaria represented the Philippines in a meeting of the Network of East Asian Think-Tanks (NEAT) Working Group 2006-2007, held in Jeonju, Korea last June 7-9, 2007. This working group, the first in a series of at least six, provided the forum for country representatives from the ASEAN plus 3 (China, Korea and Japan) to present policy-oriented papers on how to enhance cultural exchange within the region.



In his paper titled 'Of African-American Spirituals, Of Chinese Acrobats and Of Lady Han: An Examination of Cultural Exchange in Four Decades of Experience,' Dr. Santamaria shared with the group his research findings on 'dimensions of cultural exchange.' These dimensions that were based on

his studies of cultural exchange cases in the Philippines are: nature (artifact exchange or people exchange), length (period of time), repeatability (frequency), magnitude (number of people affected), ownership (private, public or private-public funding sources) and direction (unidirectional or two-directional).

The convenor of the workshop, Dr. Park Sa-Myung, eloquently expressed in his opening statement the region's need for 'solidarity in diversity' and that '...in the context of global interdependence, 'unity' through cultural 'assimilation' is likely to be a tall order. It is, thus, solidarity through cultural 'integration' that offers a viable alternative, which is desirable as well as realizable through wide and deep cultural exchanges among East Asian nations in a long term historical perspective.

With reports from Dr. MCM Santamaria

## Philippines-Australia Status of Visiting Forces Agreement: Some Initial Observations\*

Another bilateral agreement that is likely to generate heated public debates in the Philippines especially in the political opposition-dominated Senate, is the 31 May 2007 Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA) between the Philippines and Australia. The 31-page SOVFA was signed by Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, Jr. and Australian Minister for Defense Brendan Wilson during the recent official visit of President Arroyo to Australia.

As expected, President Arroyo and Australian Prime Minister John Howard hailed the signing of the agreement. President Arroyo stressed that the SOVFA 'would make not just the Philippines but the Southeast Asian region safer and more secure from terrorists.' Prime Minister Howard, on the other hand, said that he is optimistic that the SOVFA 'will be widely welcomed' because of its counter-terrorism training component.

Since the official text of the SOVFA and its implementing rules are not yet publicly available, I can not share the exuberant optimism expressed by Philippine and Australian authorities. I do not understand why, instead of submitting the SOVFA to public scrutiny (by immediately releasing the full text of the agreement), the officials of the two countries preferred to disclose what the Philippines will be receiving from Australia following the signing of the agreement: (1) a donation of 28 high-speed and brand new gunboats worth US \$24 million; (2) a A\$250 million fund to support human rights projects in the Philippines; (3) a A\$4 million annual fund to support the anti-terrorism training of Filipino soldiers; and (4) an increase in the amount of Australian development assistance to the Philippines by almost A\$32 million (US\$26 million) in 2007 with overall aid to reach A\$100 million by next year. The aid increase will make the Philippines as the 'fourth largest recipient of Australian bilateral development assistance.' Like others, I want to know why these donations and 'financial assistance' were made public only after the signing of the SOVFA. Are these intended to influence Philippine public opinion so that there will be less opposition to SOVFA and to its early ratification by the Philippine Senate?

Based on the statements of Philippine officials (President Arroyo and Defense Secretary Ebdane) and Australian officials

(Prime Minister Howard, Defense Minister Nelson, Assistant Defense Secretary Ben Coleman and Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Tony Hely), the following appear to be the highlights or the benefits that may be derived from the SOVFA: (a) it will help the Philippines modernize and professionalize its armed forces by having interoperability with Australian military forces (according to President Arroyo); (b) it would help in the battle against terrorism and transnational crimes (according to President Arroyo); (c) it provides a comprehensive legal framework that defines the rights, responsibilities and procedures to support the temporary activities of the AFP and the Australian Defense Forces (ADF) in each other's territories such as the conduct of training and military exercises (according to Defense Secretary Ebdane, Defense Minister Nelson and Ambassador Hely); (d) it will pave the way for joint counter-terrorism exercises between the Filipino and Australian military forces (according to Defense Secretary Ebdane, Prime Minister Howard and Assistant Secretary Coleman); (e) it will expand the training program already provided by Australia to the AFP and it will not result in the establishment of an Australian military base in Philippine territory (according to Ambassador Hely); and (g) it does not authorize Australia to deploy troops or conduct military operations in the Philippines (according to Defense Minister Nelson).

On the sensitive issue of jurisdiction, Defense Secretary Ebdane made the following clarifications: (a) criminal jurisdiction would be dependent on the rules of court of the receiving country; (b) should an Australian soldier visiting the Philippines be convicted of a crime, the Australian government shall honor Philippine laws, (c) an Australian soldier convicted by a Philippine court shall serve his sentence in the Philippines; (d) even before conviction, erring Australian soldiers will be under Philippine custody during the duration of the trial; (e) the accused would have to remain in the receiving country while his conviction is on appeal; and (f) Australian soldiers convicted of a heinous crime will not be subject to capital punishment.

The clarifications made by Defense Secretary Ebdane show that the RP-Australia SOVFA is an improved version of the widely criticized and highly controversial RP-US VFA. However, unless I read the full text of the SOVFA and the implementing rules, I have no choice but to take a skeptical view. Among the reasons why I adopt this stance are as follows: first, because of Australia's image as a strong ally of the US in its anti-terrorist war that has resulted in

numerous human rights violations in various parts of the world; second, because its key officials support the conduct of preemptive war against terrorists (like the US and Japan) wherever they are; and third, because the presence of foreign troops usually results in the spread of toxic waste and high incidence of physical violence, rape and prostitution in areas close to the camps of these visiting foreign troops. Like others, I do not want the SOVFA to give Australia the opportunity to violate the country's national sovereignty should it conduct preemptive military operations against perceived terrorists in Mindanao. Australia is the second largest defense supplier and a major ODA donor of the Philippines. Is this not a leverage that could enable her to make the SOVFA more protective of and beneficial to its military forces while 'exercising' in the Philippines?

A full-blown public debate on the merits of the SOVFA is in order. What needs to be done right now is the immediate release and dissemination of the full text of the agreement and its implementing rules. The Filipinos have the right to know and to judge whether the SOVFA is indeed a fair and balanced agreement. This right is not the monopoly of the Senate and of the Executive Department.

*\*Edgardo E. Dagdag is a professor of the Philippine Studies at the Asian Center.*

## AC Receives Donations

Asian Center is one of the recipients of the various donations from international institutions and generous individuals sympathetic to the advancement of Asian Studies. Foremost is the Japan Foundation in Manila that for this academic year will provide books and journals as well as financial assistance to hold the November 2007 Annual Graduate Student's Conference. JFM also pledged travel grants for Japan-related thesis writing and presentation of research and for a forthcoming photo-exhibit and lecture symposium on the early 20th Century Japanese Community in Baguio.

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) also supported the Center by assigning a volunteer who will take care of offering Korean language, as well as by providing various multi-media facilities to augment teaching.

For many years, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Library has also donated books and other reading materials to the Center, covering economic, cultural and other topics with emphasis on China, Japan and India. The library also benefits from the generosity of the Embassy of India in Manila which, through its Counsellor, Hon. Tsewang Namgyal, recently donated books on India's foreign affairs.

The Ramon Magsaysay Foundation, the National Historical Institute through Professor Robert Baldago and Dr. Milton Meyer also gave books, pamphlets and other materials to the Center.

## Lecture-Forum on Post-Coup Thailand Held

Last June 28, 2007, Dr. Kevin Hewison delivered a lecture on *Thailand After the 'Good' Coup* at a forum organized by the Asian Center, UP Third World Studies Center and the Journal of Contemporary Asia at Bulwagang Sala'am, Romulo Hall, U.P. Diliman. The speaker is the director of Carolina Asia Center and a professor of the Department of Asian Studies of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, U.S.A.

Dr. Hewison opined that the 'good' coup provided an opportunity for the conservatives and the royalists to revise the rules of politics in Thailand. The outcome for Thailand's political system and political participation has been highly paternalistic. He further stressed that decentralization has been rolled back to insulate the bureaucracy from both the political leaders and parliamentary control. The military has succeeded in promoting its own interests and those of its leaders. For the moment, this conservative turn appears to be supported by the Thai middle class.

## REVISIONING THE FUTURE: INSIGHTS ON 'PASSIONATE POLITICS'

Address Delivered Before the 2007 Graduating Class of the Asian Center and the Tri-College PhD Program in Philippine Studies, April 22, 2007  
AURORA JAVATE—DE DIOS

Isang malaking karangalan na ako'y maimbita sa inyong pagtatapos ngayong hapon. Bilang isang graduate ng Asian Center ito'y isa ring masayang pagbabalik sa aking mga kaklase, kaibigan at guro. Tandang tanda ko pa ang aking mga guro na siyang naging haligi ng Asian Center – sina Dr. Josefa Saniel, SV Epistola (na pumanaw na), Dr. Ajit Rye, Prof. Ben at Roxy Lim, Prof. Espinas, Prof. Malay at mga masasayang araw naming mga estudyante dito.

When I was invited to speak before you this afternoon, I found myself struggling to compose an 'inspiring speech' given that all you are accomplished people in your own right. I thought I'd share with you some thoughts on significant events in my personal journey and engagement with women's groups, government and the United Nations on gender issues. I want to use these personal experiences as my take off point in discussing many of our urgent problems today and the ways in which social movements and advocacies – which I refer to as passionate politics – have been reshaping and redefining the future.

### The Personal is Political

Early on in my teaching career, and after our experience of having been detained after martial law, friends of mine in the nationalist movement gathered to socialize and just talk about our families and children. This led us to more intense discussions of issues in our lives that we never thought were important and were secondary to more strategic 'national issues'. Perhaps it was our age and perhaps because we were all mothers by then and are managing families, we realized and asserted that women's issues are priority issues just as strategic as other national issues, a political heresy in the 70s and in the 80s. My interest on gender issues was further intensified when I helped set up the Women's Resource and Research and Resource Center at Miriam College where I had the opportunity to work closely with numerous women's groups around the country which mushroomed after 1986. They too were preoccupied with the same discourse about issues and problems they had with work, families and relationships.

In these engagements, particularly in the urban poor areas, I found women surviving and making ends meet for their families through vending, washing clothes, working as household helpers and in the most desperate of situations selling themselves in prostitution. Women talked about 'Sabado Nights' when their husbands would be with their 'barkadas' for drinking sprees inevitably getting drunk and ending up beating their wives. Domestic violence, a silent epidemic in the country is the number one form of violence against women cutting across class lines. Through my research projects on women, I found our Filipina migrants practically driven to work as domestic helpers and entertainers abroad by their impoverished families who will often depend on them to support the family regardless of the cost to their own safety and survival. About a million land-based migrant workers have left for work abroad from the Philippines. 60-70% of whom are women who work as domestic helpers, entertainers and nurses.

Working with the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, an international NGO, enabled me to meet victims here

and abroad some of which are Filipinas who had been so traumatized by their abuse experiences that they do not wish to go back to their families for fear of being stigmatized and regarded as a 'failure'. Trafficking in women and girls has now reached crisis proportions implicating countries of origin, transit and destination. I will never forget this young girl who I met in the shelter of our partner organization, the Bangladesh Women Lawyers Association. Both her arms were cut by an old man to whom she was sold as a bride when she tried to run away. Child marriages are still quite common in many countries, including some parts of the Philippines.

I had never heard of 'honor killing' before but discovered that this practice was still prevalent in some South Asian and Middle Eastern countries and until 1987 when it was outlawed, also in Brazil. This practice gives license to men in the family to kill their own sisters, wives or mothers if they cause shame to the family – like running away with another man, being raped, etc. In Mali, according to my African colleague who herself has undergone female genital mutilation, millions of girls in Africa and some Arab countries still undergo the same oppressive and painful procedure at the age of nine. In Pakistan, a woman who is raped has to produce four male witnesses in order to be believed and if she is unable to, she can be jailed under Zina law.

It seems to me that women's conditions across the world varied only in the gravity of their oppression and the diversity of forms of their abuse and discrimination.

The word 'violence against women' is a phrase introduced by women's groups to describe this collective infamy perpetrated against women in different cultures and societies.

Mainly through the efforts of women who fought to have women's voices heard everywhere and through the leadership of women in the UN – among them Sen. Shahani, Helena Benitez, Rosario Manalo and Patricia Licuanan in the United Nations, many of these issues are now strongly addressed at the international level. The Convention Against All Forms of Discrimination Against Women which was ratified by 185 countries, mandates countries to integrate gender equality guarantees in their constitutions, and to eliminate discriminatory practices against women, we have gained many victories but still have to struggle against persistent and pervasive violence and discrimination.

I have taken pains to illustrate my personal involvement in women's movements to show that change, protracted but partial change in a particular advocacy can sometimes be achieved. This politics which I refer to as 'passionate politics' is the politics of issues, of individual and group advocacies and of social movements at the national and transnational levels such as those movements working for the environment, indigenous peoples, peace, women and children. These are redefining and reshaping the agenda for the future.

### Change, Crisis, Opportunity

We are today living in an exciting but complex world, a world characterized by both crisis and opportunity, of change and stagnation, of promise and despair. All across the different regions of the world, political and military conflicts; cultural, religious and ethnic tensions and divisions continue to bedevil many countries despite heroic efforts of many sectors to arrive at peace settlements. The Philippines has its share of these problems and despite

several attempts at reform through our episodic people power revolts, we have not seen the kind of substantive change that we all had expected.

Globalization has transformed the world making states, economies and cultures more interdependent. Economic liberalization has expanded markets, trade and investments creating global goods, global consumers and global products. Despite its promise of economic prosperity for all, the impact of globalization has largely been uneven and skewed. Growing disparities and insecurities as a result of trade arrangements and new global economic legal regimes are putting poorer countries at a great disadvantage aggravating the vulnerabilities of the most marginalized – women, children, indigenous peoples, the disabled and the aging.

Changes in politics are most evident in the shift to more democratic systems, broader people participation in political processes and reforms. But democratic systems have their own sets of problems in different settings rarely working in the same way as those in more advanced countries.

Information and communications technologies instantaneously connect us to the rest of the world. We are immediately and urgently drawn into the conflicts in Mogadishu, Darfur, the massacre at Virginia Tech, the death of Julia Campbell and the victory of Manny Pacquiao in Las Vegas and we celebrate, weep and rage alongside every human being. Yet these same technologies are used in the trade of selling women and children by criminal syndicates alongside the struggles for human rights the way Ka Satur Ocampo was able to project his cause via the YouTube.

Diverse cultural and national identities are under threat of being obliterated by the totalizing and dominant cultures of the West and whole ethnic communities are subjected to cultural genocide. Countries are forced to adapt by 'globalizing' their products and market orientation in order to compete and survive in the world market.

None of these issues have instant solutions. But they do require collective response and a collective imagination on how change can be realized.

### Cultivating Humanity

In the launching of the campaign for 'Another World is Possible', the World Social Forum referred to 'alliances of peoples, communities, NGOs, scientists, women, youth, some governments and parts of the United Nations', as critical actors working towards respect for local cultures and knowledge systems, genuine harmony with nature, quality outcomes of real benefit to communities and countries, equity and democratic government'.

More and more, organized social movements and advocacies – peace movements, environmental movements, indigenous people's movements, women's movements – causes that people are passionately committed to are together defining the agenda of governments and international institutions.

The most exciting and empowering breakthroughs may not be in technology but in concepts that value the humanity in people. Concepts and approaches such as the 'capabilities approach' by Amartya Sen and the reconceptualization of security as 'human security' and of economic development are but some samples of how scholars are now reconfiguring our understanding of problems and issues from people-centered perspectives. Participatory and consultative decision making processes in political systems are challenging traditional hierarchies and slowly democratizing access to power.

Martha Nussbaum in her book **Cultivating Humanity** proposed that for education to be holistic and responsive to the challenges of the present, students must be educated 'to see beings bound to all other human beings by ties of recognition and concern: as 'citizens of the world' as the ancient Greco-Roman tradition expressed the idea. 'Cultivating our humanity in a complex interlocking world involves understanding the ways in which common needs and aims are differently realized in different circumstances.'

Tony Meloto, the leader of the Bahay Kalinga movement once said that the 'greatest tragedy that we are experiencing now is that our people have lost their capacity to dream. This is at the root of our poverty. This is not the poor being hopeless because they have long learned to cope with hopelessness. What is alarming is the hopelessness that has seeped into the psyche and into the spirit of the rich, the educated and the working middle class.' My own school, Miriam College passionately advocates for 4 core values: *social justice, peace, gender equality and environment*, hoping to develop women leaders who will exemplify these values in their families and communities.

In his Inaugural Speech as a Nobel Peace Prize awardee, Nelson Mandela reflected that the value of South Africa's bitter experience and eventual victory against apartheid, is 'to demonstrate in practice, that the normal condition for human existence is democracy, justice, peace, non-racism, non-sexism, prosperity for everybody, a healthy environment and equality and solidarity among peoples.'

Social change has to be pursued with passion, at various levels using creative approaches that involve individuals, sectors, groups, societies. It is a process we all must be part of to partake in the shared vision of a better world – towards tolerance, respect for human rights, equality and non-discrimination – one step at a time.

Dear graduates, each one of us are change agents who can redefine the future of our society – each one of us has our own advocacy, our own passionate politics – let us enkindle that passion to rage against injustice, to protest if we must, against the resurgence of militarism and violations of human rights that are now a daily staple of people's lives today, to move decisively against yet another creeping authoritarianism.

I thank you for listening.

*Prof. Aurora Javate-De Dios is a professor of Miriam College and an alumna of the Asian Center (MAAS).*

## ABSTRACTS

**PERSISTENT THEMES IN THE HISTORY  
OF THE SULUS\***
**DR. ASIRI J. ABUBAKAR**

Struggles to defend their freedom, homeland and way of life as well as the quest for peace are persistent themes in the history of the Sulus, particularly the Tausugs. Interspersed with peace treaties and resumption of hostilities, the embattled existence of the Sulus has been going on for more than four centuries.

A glance at Sulu's history will reveal that armed resistance seems to be a destiny that the Sulus have learned to accept. Indeed, it was a destiny manifested by one of the longest series of wars ever fought not only in the Philippines but in South-east Asia. What makes this fact significant is that literature written about the Sulu Moros hardly hints at a history of peace. Indeed, since the last quarter of the 16<sup>th</sup> century up to the present, there is no generation in Sulu archipelago that has not fought or witnessed war in their homeland. Other segments of Philippine society today are still tempted to say that the Sulus have never been peaceful people. This attitude tends to perpetuate the image of the Sulus, including Islam in the Philippines, as one that espouses violence and exclusivism. It appears that the state of war for centuries was, and still is, the source of the underdevelopment of Sulu society as well as the alienation and antagonism between the Sulus and other segments of what is now the Philippine national community.

*\*presented at the National Conference on the History and Culture of the Tausug, Ateneo de Zamboanga University, February 21-22, 2007.*

Relations between the Philippines and China appear to have gone through a 180 degree transformation in the last 10 years or so. Many who remember China's show of muscle in the disputed islands in the South China Sea and the vehemence of Philippine opposition to such Chinese assertions of sovereignty in the mid- to late 1990s would be surprised at how the Philippines and China now seem to sing only paeans for their good relations and its favorable prospects. This paper traces and explains this transformation by looking how the global and regional strategic environment, bilateral interactions between the two states, and domestic political imperatives in each of the countries have helped shape and reshape the way Beijing and Manila perceive and relate to each other.

This paper puts forward the proposition that the bilateral relationship of these two countries may be more important than their asymmetry and dissimilarity might otherwise suggest. The ups and downs of Philippines-China relations in the post-Cold War period can only be understood in the context of the changing global and regional security environment, specifically: US dominance in a unipolar order accompanied by the rise of China to great power status, the rapid spread of regionalism and multilateralism in East Asia with ASEAN playing a central role and heightened competition and conflict over resources in the maritime arena.

Manila appears to pursue three tracks for managing its disputes with Beijing: bilateral engagement focused on confidence building measures and findings ways to cooperate; multilateral dialogues through ASEAN addressed towards sustaining low-level pressure on China and binding it to norms of behavior; and keeping the military alliance with the United States ready just in case the first two are unsuccessful. In the meantime, growing economic interactions and active political and people to people exchanges are helping to improve the overall climate of relations. For both China and the Philippines, asymmetric countries separated (or united, as some may prefer to see it) by a mass of water, living with each other has been an occasion for much learning to take place.

*\*presented at the Institute for Defense and Strategic Studies, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, February 2007.*

**WALTZING WITH GOLIATH:  
PHILIPPINES-CHINA ENGAGEMENT  
IN UNSTEADY WATERS\***
**DR. AILEEN SP. BAVIERA**
**INSTITUTIONAL ORIGINS OF THE  
PRESENT CRISIS:  
THE CONSEQUENCES OF EVENTS  
THAT FAILED TO HAPPEN\***
**DR. EDUARDO T. GONZALEZ**

Alone of Asian nations, the Philippines has had a shorter historical narrative because of the accident of geography: it was not in any of the main routes of old expanding empires and kingdoms on which the national communities of other Asian countries were founded. Until the 16th century, no significant institutional forces and traditions reached the Philippine archipelago on any exceptional scale. To determine whether the present socio-economic and governance crisis is an outcome of this unfortunate void in history, an index of the depth of experience with state-level institutions, or state antiquity, is used for a large set of countries. In general, state antiquity is significantly associated with measures of institutional quality and social development and

with the rate of per capita economic growth between 1990 and 2003 across nations. In particular, state antiquity contributes significantly to the explanation of marked differences in current growth rates and improvements in governance and social development between the Philippines and its Asian neighbors. To offset the disadvantages of not having an early and durable history of political organization, the Philippines must step up both its adaptive ability as a nation-state and its cross-border linkages, which involves raising its stakes in regional economic arrangements and power coalitions.

*\*presented at the the Philippine Studies Lecture-Series in honor of Dr. Normita G. Recto, Bulwagang Sala'am, March 2, 2007.*



This paper discusses the cultural impact of the 'US shadow' on the northern Luzon highlands in the 20th Century, as manifested by the history of the so-called salidummay songs, a modern folk song genre of the region. The ethnographic knowledge on salidummay is compared with secondary knowledge on shoka, Japanese pedagogical songs, as recent progress of Japanese musicology on Meiji era reveals. Both salidummay and shoka are characterized by metered rhythm and unhemitonic pentatonic scales, thus to facilitate group singing—in unison or with simple tonal harmonization. In other words, both reveal the traits of Anglo-Saxon Protestant hymns at the turn of the 20th Century which had tremendous impact in the early stage of music education both in the Philippines and Japan. Furthermore, largely because of aforementioned musical features, both eventually got utilized as war songs during World War II. The ethnomusicological discourse on Westernization that hints of the trinity of the church, education and military (Nettl), interwoven with that of identity—largely Andersonian—serves as theoretical framework to the study.

## SONGS OF MODERNITY AND 'U.S. SHADOW': COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON SALIDUMMAY AND SHOKA\*

PROF. MICHIO YONENO-REYES

\*presented at The First Philippine Studies Conference of Japan (PSCJ 2006), Ichigaya, Tokyo, Japan, November 11-12, 2006.

## PEASANTS AND OUTSIDERS: CHANGE AND CONTINUITY IN THREE RURAL VILLAGES IN THE PHILIPPINES\*

DR. EDUARDO C. TADEM

For a period of forty years from the 1950s to the early 1990s, a community of three farming villages in an upland area in Central Luzon in the Philippines has been subjected to a series of interventions from various outside forces each with their own agenda for change. In the early 1950s peasant families from surrounding lowland areas started cultivating lands in what was then part of a U.S. military reservation. Before long a community arose based on small family farms utilizing simple technology, subsistence-orientation, minimal market contacts and a set of traditional norms and practices associated with a peasant ethic. The latter included reciprocity, village solidarity, justice, concepts of land and property rights, informal land transactions and ways of settling disputes.

This peasant society and its accompanying features were put to the test and challenged by the plans and programs of the outside world as represented by external agents. The most prominent of these were a high-handed government development project bearing sugar-coated promises of a modern and prosperous life, leftwing rebel insurgents with a utopian Marxist vision of a new and just society, and 'sugar capitalists' offering the lure of profits from a market economy. Less intrusive were a U.S. military installation that halfheartedly asserted its jurisdiction over the area and inept government relocation and resettlement program in the wake of a volcanic eruption.

As a result of interactions with these outsiders, changes took place in the villages with the introduction of new agricultural technologies, crop diversification and intensification, increased market contacts, some form of social differentiation, declines in the proportion of farm families relative to non-farming households, growth of a wage-earning class and corresponding decline in absolute numbers of the peasant class, institution of formal village governmental structures, increased contacts with and knowledge of the non-peasant external world, and the physical separation of families as members left the area to work in urban areas or in foreign lands. In 1991, a major physical change took place when a volcanic eruption devastated most of the villages and destroyed croplands and houses, forcing evacuation to lowland areas.

The peasant-settlers adapted to these changes as best as they could while at the same time retaining their traditional norms, practices, and economic modes. Using a multidisciplinary methodology and various frameworks of analysis derived from an analysis of the nature of peasant society and class, agrarian change, rural development, social movements, everyday forms of resistance, moral economy and the subsistence ethic, and a history from below approach, this study depicts the resiliency of traditional peasant society in the midst of changes brought about by external factors and essentially retain the basic characteristics that go with a household-based small farm socio-economic system. Socially-determined norms and practices have remained and the experiences built on these have served to strengthen feelings of community and solidarity. Change and continuity therefore characterize the dynamics of the encounters between peasants and outsiders.

\*Dissertation for PhD, Southeast Asian Studies Programme, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore, 2005.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

By

AC FACULTY

- Aileen SP. Baviera. 'Regionalism & Community Building in East Asia: Challenges and Opportunities' in Melissa G. Curley & Nicholas Thomas, eds. Advancing East Asian Regionalism (London & New York: Routledge, 2006)
- Edgardo E. Dagdag. 'China-Taiwan (Cross Strait) Relations and the Philippines' in Ho Khai Leong and Hou Kok Chung, eds. Ensuring Interests: Dynamics of China-Taiwan Relations and Southeast Asia (University of Malaya - Institute of China Studies, 2006)
- Raul Perterra, ed. The Social Construction and Usage of Communication Technologies: Asian and European Experiences. (Quezon City: University of the Philippines Press, 2007).
- Carolyn I. Sobritchea. 'Constructions of Mothering: The Experience of Female Filipino Overseas Workers' in Theresa Devasahayam & Brenda Yeoh, eds. Working and Mothering: Images, Ideologies and Identities (Singapore: National University of Singapore Press, 2007).

'Pre-departure & On-site Experiences: Filipino Women Migrant Domestic Workers' Attitudes, Beliefs and Practices' in Life and Health on the Move (Quezon City: Action for Health Initiatives, Inc, 2006).

'Gender in European Union Development Cooperation Initiatives in Asia' in Marjorie Lister & Marizio Carbone, eds. New Pathways in International Development: Gender and Civil Society in EU Policy (UK: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2006).

## Updates on Alumni Affairs

The AC Alumni Association (ACAA) officers are happy to inform everyone that former representative Loretta Ann 'Etta' Rosales (MAAS'74) was selected as one of the 2007 UP Alumni Presidential Awardees. She was honored last June 23, 2007 at the UP General Alumni-Faculty Homecoming and Reunion in Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman.

Moreover, the officers of ACAA held brainstorming sessions in relation to the ongoing fundraising drive for the construction of a new building that will house classrooms, faculty and administrative offices, conference facilities of the Asian Center. The estimate project cost is approximately 30 million pesos. Thus, the ACAA in cooperation with the Asian Center, plans to undertake various activities such as solicitation through email, sponsoring dinner party among the various contingents of foreign alumni and benefactors, organizing film showing sessions, soliciting and selling paintings, artifacts and other valuables from the alumni and other supporters.

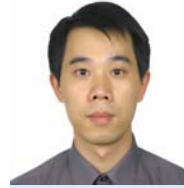
The ACAA has also expressed interest in conducting lecture series at least once per semester beginning this school year until December 2008. The fora will tackle relevant national issues and preferably should be delivered by the college's alumni. Possible topics range from ASEAN Charter and its significance to the Philippines, to global concerns such as poverty alleviation, as well as promotion of the Philippines through sports.

The ACAA also hopes to strengthen links among its alumni both here and abroad. The assistance of the UP Alumni Association (UPAA) will be sought for this purpose.

We are hoping for your valuable assistance in making these activities successful as we prepare ourselves in celebrating the centennial year of our beloved University of the Philippines.

Dr. Elizabeth T. Urgel, ACAA President

## AC Welcomes Exchange Scholar



**DR. DAI FAN** is an assistant professor of the Institute of Overseas Chinese Studies of Jinan University in Guangzhou, People's Republic of

China. He will be at UP as an exchange scholar of the Asian Center from June 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

Dai Fan was born on September 14, 1979 in Tian men City in Hubei. He finished his doctoral degree from Jinan University with his dissertation entitled *Identity Politics: Chinese Overseas and Sino-Southeast Asian States Relations—A Case of Indonesia*. In the Philippines, he will pursue a research undertaking on *'The Chinese Immigration in the Philippines since 1980s'*.

Among Dr. Dai Fan's achievements, he received the Jinan University PhD Fund to support Bringing Forth New Idea in 2004, and was awarded First Prize as Outstanding Graduate both of Jinan University in 2003 and of Guangdong province. He was also the Outstanding Student Cadre of China University of Geosciences in 1998.

## Sigani Balayo! My Korean Experience

*Sigani balayo!* A Korean phrase for 'time flies' which exactly describes my experience in South Korea. My fascination with this country started from the books and literatures touching on the cultural dimension of Korea. I dreamed to visit the Kyongju Museum

and see for myself the famous crown of the monarchs. Such fascination turned into excitement when I took up MA Asian Studies, specializing on Korea. Still I thought, my hopes to see Korea will just remain a dream.

Fortunately, through the benevolence of the Korean Foundation, this dream became a reality. Last year, I was given the opportunity to study language in the Korean Language Institute at Yonsei University. This subsequently enabled me to visit those places which I formerly visited in books.

I made a lot of friends with whom I shared wonderful moments. I was also amused by the country's climate (four seasons), most especially the autumn period where trees in their red, green, yellow and orange canopies dominated the landscape. Moreover, the experience of seeing snow also made my stay memorable as I felt that my childhood fantasy was already realized.

Living in Korea for a year provided me important realizations. First, I now deeply comprehend the value of a family and the support mechanism it provides. I always wanted to be independent and I used to be independent for so many years.

My stay in Korea, however, was an eye opener of how much I missed Christmas in the Philippines with friends and relatives around. Second, it boosted my 'Filipino-ness' and made me realize that I am still lucky to be born as a Filipino. It is good to hear from the Koreans their wonderful experiences in the Philippines and how they praise our beautiful beaches.

These are just a few of the memorable experiences I had in Korea. Given the chance again, I wish to go back there. The opportunity to visit other countries opened my eyes to more meaningful insights about my country. Contrary to what others say that the closer I get to Korea, the farther off I am from my country, this experience truly fortified my love for the Philippines. After all, there is no place like home.

*Michelle Palumbarit, is currently finishing her degree in MA Asian Studies -Korea.*

## AC Students Given International Scholarships

Some AC students were once again successful in getting scholarships that will give them opportunities to have a closer look at their respective countries of specialization.

Two students got scholarships to visit Korea. Armida Geronimo is a recipient of Language Fellowship Grant under the Korean Foundation from March 2007 to February 2008 and Joyce Ann de la Cruz was granted the 2007 ASEAN-ROK Exchange Fellowship.

Lori Ann Hao, on the other hand, has been selected as one of the recipients of Japan Foundation Grant to study in Japan beginning September 5 until December 19, 2007.

The Asian Center family hopes for their safe journey and wishes for a very productive stay in the said countries.

## Symposium and Film Presentation on Aceh Held

On April 10, 2007, The Asian Center and Japan Foundation sponsored a *Symposium and Film Presentation on 'The Acehnese Conflict and Peace Process and its Implications for Peace Building in Mindanao'* at Bulawagang Sala'am. This activity was co-organized by UP Institute of Islamic Studies (UPIIS), UP Third World Studies (UPTS) and the Center for Moderate Muslims.

The opening remarks were given by Dr. Asiri Abubakar of the Asian Center

followed by welcome remarks by Dean Mashur Bin-Ghalib Jundam of the UPIIS. A message was given by Prof. Taha Basman, president of the Center for Moderate Muslims.

The guest lecturer was Miss Shadia Marhaban, president of the Acehnese Women's League and a member of the Free Aceh Movement (GAM) peace panel during talks with the Indonesian government. She highlighted the sacrifice made by GAM in order to get the peace

talks going. Despite reluctance,

demand for an independent Aceh and opted for broad autonomy. She also mentioned the positive and negative dividends from the peace agreement including the resumption



## Student Symposium on Environment Organized

Mankind's irresponsible utilization of the environment resulted in the *tragedy of the commons*. This allegorically refers to the situation in a pasture that is open to anyone who wishes to graze cattle. Each herdsman will seek to maximize his gains and will want to keep as many cattle on the *commons* as possible. By adding additional animals to his herd, the herdsman gains in the value of additional animals but also loses in the effects of overgrazing on his pasture.

The symposium on **Kalikasan, Kaunlaran, at Kinabukasan: A Challenge for the Filipino Youth** at Bulwagang Sala'am, Romulo Hall held last May 18, 2007 was indeed timely and well-attended. Students from Concordia College and St. Mary's College joined the audience from UP.

The activity was officially opened by Dr. Aileen SP Baviera, Dean of the Asian Center. Among the presenters were Dr. Ma. Corazon Rodriguez, Dean of Asian Institute of Tourism, on the symbiotic

relationship of tourism and the environment in the Philippines; and a representative from *Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya* who spoke on the importance of science in the preservation of the environment. Ms. Renee Fontanilla discussed environmental politics in the Philippines. She represented Director Armando Rutaquio of the Forestry Technical

governmental organizations. Ms. Beau Bacongus talked about the electronic toxics and the pollution it caused while Ms. Abigail Joy Jabines discussed the utilization of energy and its effects on global warming. Both of them are campaigners of Greenpeace Southeast Asia. Lastly, Mr. Lemuel del Valle of the

ABS-CBN Bantay Kalikasan presented the successful restoration of the La Mesa Watershed and actively called for the continuous assistance of the public.

The program culminated with closing remarks delivered by Prof. Joe B. Santarita of the Asian Center. The activity was organized by his Asian Studies 254 students namely Emie Baylon, Maricar Ortaleza, Jocelyn Diano, Irene Artigas, Marissa Ong, Jeofrey Abalos, Sara Mediatrix Toraldo, Mary Cita Hufana and Melody Senia.

Office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Region IV. The lectures were closed by an intermission number performed by the HARTS Dancers of St. Mary's College of Meycuayan, Bulacan.

A second part of the program focused mainly on the environmental advocacies of selected non-

of normal economic and social activities by the population.

The presentation was followed by the showing of the controversial film 'The Black Road' which graphically and dramatically depicts the Aceh conflict on the ground, presented from the point of view of the Acehnese. The filmmaker, William Nessen, was able to work from within both the Indonesian Army's side and the GAM's side while clearly showing a bias for the latter. The film was eventually banned from public viewing by the Jakarta government.

After the film showing, Prof. Rudy Rodil, member of the Philippine government peace panel and Attorney Musib Buat of the Moro National Liberation Front peace panel compared and contrasted the Mindanao and Aceh experiences. Both also appeared optimistic that major hurdles in the Mindanao peace talks will be overcome.

The open forum was facilitated by Prof. Macrina Morados of UPIIS. Closing remarks were delivered by Dr. Eduardo Tadem of Asian Center.

With reports from Dr. Eduardo Tadem







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The Asian Center of the University of the Philippines offers graduate level multidisciplinary academic programs on Asian studies and Philippine studies, and conducts research into a broad range of political, economic, social and cultural issues affecting Asia and the Pacific. The Asian Center's mandate is underpinned by law, Republic Act 5334.

*Musyawarah*, a term in Bahasa Malay meaning 'discussion' or 'deliberation', is a fitting title for the Center's newsletter that hopes to promote information exchanges and strengthen linkages towards academic excellence.

## The Malay That We Know

Dr. Armando S. Malay Jr. was born on March 17, 1942 in Manila, Philippines. He is the 2nd child of the prominent writer and activist Armando Malay and former Paula Carolina Santos. Badi, as fondly called by his colleagues and friends, is through and through UPian in heart and soul. The University of the Philippines has been his home and haven all through his youth beginning from his primary to master's education. He earned his bachelor's degree in English and MA in Asian Studies from UP before earning his Doctor de Troisième Cycle in Histoire (option Tiers Monde) from the Université de Paris VII with a dissertation entitled '*Maoisme loi martiale et insurrection aux Philippines 1966-1980*' in 1985. He was also awarded as French Government Scholar from 1966-68 (Lyon) and 1981-1982 (Paris). He is happily married to Odile Defrance and blessed with 3 children.



He has published numerous articles in books and internationally circulated journals. From August 1989 to October 1991, he wrote a weekly commentary under the rubric 'Free Market' for Philippine Newsday on current questions including those of Asian and international interests.

Up until his retirement this year, Dr. Malay was a professor and former dean of the Asian Center. He also served as the College Secretary of the Asian Center from 1979-1980; Chairperson of the Asian Center's Library and Language Teaching Committee, 1995-1997 and Member of the Asian Center's Academic Personnel Committee, 1995 & 1997. Dr. Malay was also MMC Diamond Jubilee Professorial Chair holder, AY 1990-1991; Visiting Research Fellow, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Jan-Sept. 1988; and Fellow of the Third World Studies Center, 1978-2006.

After thirty years of service to the university, Dr. Malay finally bids goodbye to the strenuous demands of university life. Now, he has more time to play with his two grandchildren and pursue his passion for research, photography and painting in his own pace and space.

## Jocano, AC Professor Emeritus, Maringal Na Pinuno

On March 15, 2007, Dr. F. Landa Jocano was conferred the rank of Grand Officer (Maringal na Pinuno) of The Philippine Legion of Honor for his achievements as a 'social anthropologist, author, dedicated educator and renowned social scientist.'

The ceremony was held at the PHIVOLCS Auditorium during the 25th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Council for Industry and Energy Research and Development (PCIERD) of the Department of Sciences and Technology. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo bestowed the medal, together with a plaque, certificate and full decoration.

The Philippine Legion of Honor was established in 1947 and is conferred by the President of the Philip-



recognize outstanding public service that has benefited the Republic, particularly in the preservation of the honor of the country and in nation building.

The recipient is currently Professor Emeritus at the Asian Center of the University of the Philippines and Executive Director of PUNLAD Research

House. Dr. Jocano received his MA (1962) and PhD (1963) degrees in Anthropology from the University of Chicago, Illinois, USA. For almost 4 decades now, Dr. Jocano contributed and continues to contribute to the development of scholarship in Philippine society and culture. These academic efforts have earned for him several meritorious awards.