



Ang Diyaryo natin...
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Because You Ask... What is new in our comm

Second Generation Filipinos organise for a better representation

THE TERM 2nd generation refers to the children of overseas migrant workers. Not many people are aware of the many cultural, identity and social difficulties faced by 2nd generation immigrants. There is a whole generation of Filipinos who were born in the UK and are undeniably British. Growing up in London, and learning the difference of being British and being a part of an ethnic minority is not always easy. The social status of Filipinos when compared to some ethnic minorities especially in the UK is also not altogether positive. Trying to find Filipino leaders and organisations who were already addressing this issue is difficult. There are none that are focused and fully utilise the 2nd Generation of Filipinos here in the UK.

These were the sentiments of the newly formed second Generation Filipinos.

Unbeknown to the many second generations in the Phil-Anglo community the Embassy has always underscored the importance of involving the second generation in its advocacy projects, and encourages their role in profiling the Philippines.

"It encourages them to make their own contributions simply by being good at what they do and connecting their achievements with their Filipino heritage," says Ambassador Edgardo Espiritu.

An event was then organized by the Embassy to give second generation Filipinos an opportunity to get to know one another and for them to know more about what the Embassy is doing, including projects concerning young Filipinos.

The attendees represent different faces and sectors of today's second generation Filipinos. There were students, actors, film producers, lawyers, marketing executives, financial analysts, academicians, entrepreneurs, accountants, journalists,

photographers, and events organizers, among others.

Several second generation groups were represented. These include Pinoy-UK, Pinoy's Finest UK, Igorot UK, Hounslow Group, Centre for Filipinos, Filipino Society-UK, New Manila, Philippine Generations, and Doce Pares among others. Also in attendance were Filipino students and alumni from various UK universities such as the London School of Economics (LSE), School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS), Oxford University, City University of London, Brunel University, Cambridge University, University of Birmingham and University College London. This year's Chevening scholars from the Philippines were also present.

Addressing the second generation Filipinos, Ambassador Espiritu said, "Your role will be critical as you will be the ones to carry the torch into the next generation – the link of this generation to the future generation of Filipinos."

Adrian and Mae Williams were among those that attended the forum at the Philippine Embassy. From here the formation of Philippine Generations began sometime in March last year.

After a series of meetings with the Philippine Embassy and with fellow second generation Filipinos, the idea of an independent Charity was born. **Philippine Generations Limited** (PGL) is a not-for-profit charitable community-based organisation. The five executive directors are: Adrian Williams (Chair), Vincent Fajilagmago (Vice-Chair), Mireille Vizcarra (Treasurer), Claire Bernabe (General Secretary) and Mae Williams (Company Secretary). Philippine Generations aim to promote appreciation, awareness, understanding and the cul-

ture of the Philippines, their arts, religions, and economies, and to foster closer relations between the Filipino community and British mainstream society. The group is supported by the Westminster Partnership for Racial Equality (WPRE) and the Philippine Embassy.

PGL officially launched its organisation last August 2007 at the Voluntary Action Westminster Building, Chapel St, London; attended by the Mayoress of Westminster, WPRE representatives, DCM Rey Catapang, Tess Lazaro and Linda Guzman of Philippine Embassy, TFO and other members of the community.

At the inaguration, the chair pointed out PGL's 2-point ultimate goal:

1) To eventually obtain a premises for the use of Philippine Generations and all associate organisations. "I'm talking about a place along the same lines as Asia house, as the Hellenic Centre or even the Africa Centre. All in Westminster, all extremely active cultural centres. So we are looking at room hire, café, exhibitions, dance & music studios," explained Adrian.

2) To create, manage and realise a Filipino festival in Westminster. "There are several barrio fiestas but outside of Central London. "The Hounslow festival for instance gets over 60,000 visitors: imagine the visitor numbers to same event in Central London? Here we can fully demonstrate to the wider community what the Philippines is all about," he concluded.

Their goals may be ambitious but it is an aspiration that may well be easy to achieve. Best Wishes to PGL!/□



Philippine Generations organisation for the premises of Voluntary Action Westminster. Photos show Adrian Williams with guests of the City of Westminster, and Linda Guzman of the Philippine Embassy, hosted by the Philippine Embassy.

Filipino Westm

THE FIRST anniversary of the Filipino Club at Westminster Cathedral (FCWC) is sounding success. It was held at the Cathedral Hall. Friends and families as many other ethnic groups came together for a night of ship, entertainment, food and fun. Most of the attendees were from South of London. Many Filipinos wore traditional dress and the costumes of the festival were added to the vibrant and packed Hall. The party was attended by some members of the Cathedral clergy including Dwayne Feather Sly...