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# OBSERVER

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## JAN-FEB 2008

p.8  
Note to  
PGMA



p.18  
farewell  
Embassy'



p. 21  
where?



### Completing Year 2007 Circle

## Cheers! Barrio Fiesta sa Hounslow '07:

CHEERS! – The Summer of 2007 saw the traditional yearly Barrio Fiesta sa Hounslow celebrating its 23<sup>rd</sup> (?) anniversary in a better climate, and for that matter (hopefully) in a much better state of affairs – free from all troubled times and difficulties. The Philippine Centre, claiming to be an umbrella organisation, had been organising the *Barrio Fiesta In London* and other charitable events. However, it was also having problems with the Charities Commission, its creditors, massive debts, runaway funding, and much tortuous so-called expertise from contracted 'outside and third-party managers' who for some reason, still today are not to be found or for that matter charged with the perpetrated anomalies committed at the expense of a querying community asking where has all the money gone? Coming to rescue the waning reputation of PhilCentre's Hounslow fiesta, was the timely promotional, moral support and subtle involvement of the Philippine Embassy and the Department of Tourism through an open-to-all reception & karaoke in their white fenced space (see photos with red check mark). Unnoticed as it may have been to most of the fiesta loving Phil-Anglo community, PDOT and Embassy's active participation was indeed effective enough to bring back that much needed confidence in the *fiesta*. On-the-Go' and on a mission with a capital C– that is to correct whatever loss there was of Filipino



image and reputation were Ambassador and Mrs Espiritu, DCM Rey & Mrs Catapang, Col Limoso, ConGen Leo Herrera-Lim, Tourism Attache Chikoy Enerio and wife Tere with Embassy and DOT's staff. Performances like the Doce Pares' martial arts exhibition; cultural dance numbers and song renditions from home-grown talents and a strictly-one-hour concert from Philippine songbird Regine Velasquez also contributed to the festival fun not to mention the different wares, services, food supplies and Filipino dishes to chose from. Indeed DCM Catapang and Tourism Attache Enerio have every reason to happily "toast" the fiesta loving community with the the *Filipino-fiesta-must-drink* San Miguel Beer, Cheers! TFO compliments same with a similar "cheers" for a job well done!