



# ONE PHILIPPINES

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# Hot

## Doce Pares invites participants to the WEKAF Open Invitational Tournament

DOCE Pares is inviting participants to the 1<sup>st</sup> World Eskrima Kali Arnis Federation (WEKAF) Open Invitational tournament organized by Filipinos on March 2, 2008. The tournament will be held at Mile End in East London, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WEKAF was formed in 1989 in Cebu, Philippines to promote Filipino martial arts through a sporting version of stick-fighting or eskrima throughout the world. It is the first world sporting organization for Filipino martial arts and is still to this day recognized as the largest organization promoting the Filipino martial arts through sports.

WEKAF world championships are

held every two years with every second championships being held in Cebu City, Philippines. Participants from all over the world come together in competition to prove themselves and represent their country in different categories of full contact stick fighting and forms.

In addition to world championships, which have been held in the Philippines, the United States and the United Kingdom, European and national championships have also been held.

Doce Pares, a group of eskrima masters, has been actively promoting Filipino martial arts in the United Kingdom. Under the able leadership

of two-time World Champion Ermar Alexander, more commonly known as "Alex", Doce Pares has elevated Filipino martial arts from what it has been traditionally known for – "simple" fighting technique.

Last year, Alex started seriously teaching Filipino martial arts to the British Filipino community. That same year, he opened his first class in Chatham, Kent. From Kent, it spread like wildfire and now, Alex conducts classes in several areas in London. Alex's efforts bore fruit when his London classes produced four British champions at the British WEKAF Championships held in November 2007.

Alex's group is now preparing for the WEKAF World Championships to be held in July 2008 in Cebu, Philippines, where he is also to defend his World title.

The Philippine Embassy fully supports the initiative of Doce Pares in promoting Philippine martial arts and encourages second generation Filipinos to also support and participate in this activity and other similar endeavours.

For more information on the Doce Pares and the WEKAF Championships, interested parties may visit the website of Doce Pares at [www.dgdocepare.com](http://www.dgdocepare.com) or contact Alex at [info@dgdocepare.com](mailto:info@dgdocepare.com) or telephone number 078 900 40 222. ☉