

Partner Philippines



- Economic Update
- Investor's Guide
- PEZA Economic Zones
- Philippine Art Trek 2
- A Philippine Sojourn

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Message from the Secretary of Foreign Affairs



I AM PLEASED TO EXTEND MY WARMEST GREETINGS TO THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN SINGAPORE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DECLARATION OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE.

Prior to the establishment of formal diplomatic relations, our countries' histories were already intertwined through Dr. Jose Rizal, who visited Singapore on five occasions on his way to and from Europe. This June, we will mark that significant moment in our history with the unveiling of a commemorative marker for Dr. Jose Rizal along the Singapore River.

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's visit to Singapore in June 2007 and her participation in the 13th ASEAN Summit and its Related Meetings in November 2007 further strengthened our long-standing bilateral relations.

The vibrancy of Philippines-Singapore economic relations continues to be remarkable in terms of trade, investments and tourism cooperation.

We find added meaning in the human element of our countries' relations as Singapore is host to around 130,000 Filipinos. Both our countries highly appreciate our kababayans' contributions to the progress and development of our economies.

Our countries also share an affinity for culture and the arts. In 2007, the first Philippine Art Trek was held in Singapore. More than 50 Filipino artists displayed their work in eight exhibits all over Singapore as part of the month-long commemoration of the 109th Anniversary of Philippine Independence. The success of Art Trek 2007 has paved the way for Art Trek II, which promises to be another excellent venue for showcasing Filipino talent, culture, heritage and traditions.

As we celebrate the 110th Anniversary of Philippine Independence, I am eager to see the development of an even more active Philippines-Singapore partnership in the years ahead.

Today, let us renew our firm resolve to take Philippines-Singapore relations to new and greater heights.

ALBERTO G. ROMULO

Secretary of Foreign Affairs

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Message from the Secretary of Trade and Industry



*ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY (DTI), I CONVEY MY WARMEST GREETINGS AND SINCEREST CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN SINGAPORE ON THE PUBLICATION OF THE THIRD EDITION OF **PARTNER PHILIPPINES**, IN CELEBRATION OF THE 110TH ANNIVERSARY OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE.*

Anniversaries are fitting occasions for counting blessings, and one such blessing is the mutually beneficial friendship that has flourished and deepened between Singapore and the Philippines. Indeed, the Philippines presents itself as an ideal partner for Singapore companies looking to expand services and manufacturing for the global market.

The Philippine economy soared at its fastest pace in three decades with real GDP growth hitting 7.3 per cent last year, and economic growth averaging 4.6 per cent since President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo took office in 2001. We take pride in our country's quality human resources, especially in the dynamic Business Process Outsourcing and Customer Care sectors. They are ready to contribute to the competitiveness of the global companies headquartered in Singapore.

In addition, world class logistics gateways such as the integrated Subic-Clark seaport and airport provide seamless global connectivity for high technology Singaporean manufacturing facilities.

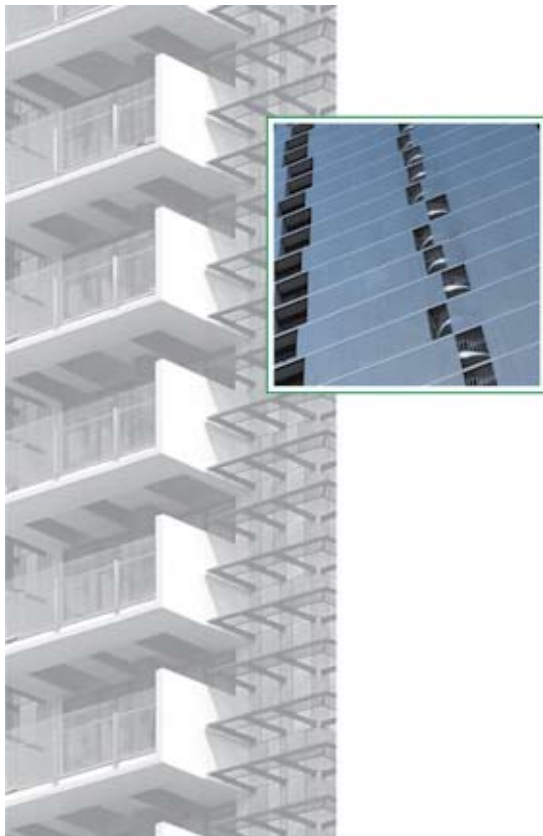
With these advantages, combined with a stable macroeconomic environment, the Philippines is truly a ready and able partner for Singapore businesses.

As we mark our 110th year of independence, we look forward to a stronger strategic alliance with Singapore.

Mabuhay!

PETER B. FAVILA

Secretary of Trade and Industry



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Message from the Secretary of Tourism



THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM JOINS THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN SINGAPORE IN ITS 110TH CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY, A SIGNIFICANT OCCASION WHEN FILIPINOS ALL OVER THE WORLD COMMEMORATE THE COUNTRY'S FREEDOM AND TO PAY TRIBUTE TO OUR PAST AND PRESENT-DAY HEROES WHO HAVE IN THEIR OWN WAY MADE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COUNTRY'S QUEST FOR NATIONAL STABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT.

We commend the 3rd Edition of **Partner Philippines** Magazine which showcases the Philippines' rich culture, delectable cuisine, unique tourist attractions and investment opportunities, among others. The magazine serves as a window to the many interesting developments in the Philippine travel trade. With the opening of new travel routes from Singapore to the other regions of the Philippines, we have the opportunity to gain an upward trend in the Singaporean inbound market and a keener interest in the Philippines among Singaporeans. Congratulations to our partners in Singapore for helping us take significant strides for the Philippine tourism industry.

Mabuhay!

JOSEPH H. DURANO

Secretary of Tourism



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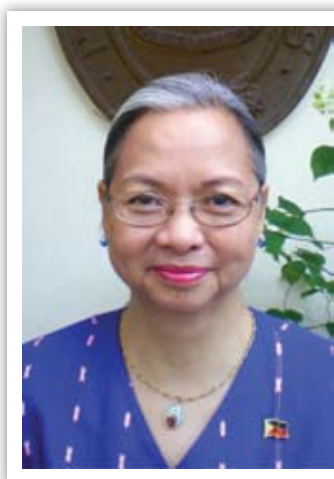
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*I AM PLEASED TO BRING YOU THE THIRD EDITION OF **PARTNER PHILIPPINES** TO CELEBRATE PHILIPPINES-SINGAPORE RELATIONS.*

The past year has seen steady growth in Philippines-Singapore relations. The visit of H.E. President Gloria Macapagal- Arroyo to Singapore from 23 to 26 June 2007 and her attendance at the 13th ASEAN Summit and its Related Meetings from 19 to 22 November 2007 illustrate our commitment to further strengthen our bilateral relations. During the Summit, all ASEAN leaders signed the ASEAN Charter, a historic agreement among the ten member-states to establish a legal and institutional framework for inter-governmental organization in the region. Indeed, Philippines-Singapore relations is a strong pillar of ASEAN and we are committed to build on Singapore's adopted theme during its chairmanship of ASEAN, "One ASEAN at the Heart of a Dynamic Asia".

The vibrancy of Philippines-Singapore relations continues to be remarkable. Singapore was the largest investor in the Philippines in 2007 with investments registering at around USD1 billion. Trade relations are just as strong with total bilateral trade amounting to USD9.4 billion in 2007. Tourism is also an important aspect of our two countries' relations and visitor arrivals in the Philippines from Singapore have improved from 81,114 in 2006 to 94,008 in 2007 representing a 15.9 per cent growth rate.

The human element of our two countries' relations is just as significant – Singapore hosts some 130,000 of the over 8 million Filipinos who are overseas. Their contributions to the development of various sectors in Singapore have been acknowledged and are very much appreciated.

The launch of this magazine coincides with the 110th Anniversary of Philippine Independence, an important date for the Philippines and the Filipino people.

We have much to celebrate this month of June. Building on the success of last year's "Art Trek", I am proud to bring to Singapore "Philippine Art Trek 2", which brings together nine galleries in Singapore showcasing some of the Philippines' most established artists, as well as new and promising ones, in eleven separate and distinct shows. The highlight of this year's trek is the Embassy-organised exhibit entitled "Glass and Brass", featuring master sculptors Ramon Orlina and Michael Cacnio. With the unstinting support of Singapore-based galleries, Philippine art is steadily gaining a strong following among collectors in Singapore and the region. I am hopeful that the Art Trek will continue in the years to come as Philippines-Singapore cooperation in culture and the arts moves forward to scale even greater heights.

On the 19 June, we unveil the marker to commemorate the travels of Philippine National hero Dr. Jose Rizal to Singapore back in the 19th century. Cast in stone and bronze, it will stand as a testament to the early links between the Philippines and Singapore and the enduring ties that bind the peoples of our nations together. I look forward with much anticipation to building on the achievements of the past years and in forging even stronger Philippines-Singapore relations.

Mabuhay!

H.E. BELEN F. ANOTA

Philippine Ambassador to Singapore

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MABUHAY!

*WELCOME TO ANOTHER EXCITING BRAND NEW ISSUE OF
PARTNER PHILIPPINES.*

This time of the year is always one that evokes pride and joy for Filipinos all around the world. It is when the country commemorates its liberation from colonial rule by celebrating the Philippine Independence Day.

Today, 110 years since it gained freedom, the Philippines has indeed come far, having created its own identity and earned a firm standing in the world stage. **Partner Philippines** captures not only this, but also the relations between Philippines and Singapore.

Singapore was the Philippines' biggest foreign investor in 2007 with P44.12 billion worth of investment flows. This is unsurprising given the investor-friendly strengths of the Philippines – a competitive labor force, solid infrastructure and an array of attractive incentives. These characteristics can also be seen in the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) ecozones, which we have featured in "Investment Havens".

The past year has seen the Philippines' presence grow in Singapore. The only Philippine restaurant in Singapore, 7,107 Flavors, opened last year at Marina Square, introducing Singaporeans to the mouth-watering cuisine of the country. At this year's NATAS travel fair, the Philippines stood out with an attractive pavilion booth and energetic shows by a traditional dance troupe that specially flew in.

And Singaporeans got a taste of the country's vibrant art scene when the first Philippine art exhibition, Art Trek, was launched last year. The trek is back again this year with an exciting line up of events. Learn more about it in "The Trek Is On".

Besides showcasing Philippine-Singapore relations, it has always been our aim for **Partner Philippines** to also bring the beautiful country of Philippines closer to our Singaporean readers. This purpose was better fulfilled this time as our editorial team took a short trip to Manila to gain a first hand experience of the country before starting work on the issue.

There, they were charmed by the sights and sounds, and warmed by the friendly people of the bustling capital city. They put together a special section "Philippine Sojourn", showcasing the vibrant culture of the country through photographs and descriptions.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of Partner Philippines as we have creating it.

NOMITA DHAR

Editor-in-Chief

AN INVESTOR'S GUIDE TO THE PHILIPPINES

General Facts & Figures

Land Area: 300,000 sq. km. (7,107 islands)

Capital: Manila

Political System: The 1987 Constitution provides for a presidential system of government with a bicameral parliament and three (3) equal branches: executive, legislative and judiciary.

Population: 92,681,453 (July 2007 est.)

Population Growth Rate: 2.05 per cent (2000-2005)

Labour Force Participation Rate: 63.6 per cent (July 2007)

Employment Rate: 92.2 per cent (July 2007)

Literacy Rate: 93.4 per cent (2003)

Languages: Filipino, English and other regional dialects

Ethnic Profile: Christian Malay 91.5 per cent, Muslim Malay 4 per cent, Chinese 1.5 per cent, others 3 per cent

Religion: 85 per cent are Roman Catholics, the rest are Protestants and Muslims

Climate: Tropical with temperatures ranging from 23-32 °C. Two distinct seasons: Wet (June to October) & Dry (November to May)

GMT/Local Time Difference: GMT + 8 hours

Currency Unit: Philippine Peso

Business Hours:

0800-1700 (Private/Gov't Offices)

0900-1500 (Banks)

1000-2000 (Stores/Malls)

GNP: 7.8 per cent (2007)

GDP: 7.3 per cent (2007)

Inflation: 2.8 per cent (2007)

Exports: US\$ 3,951 million (Nov 2007)

Imports: US\$ 5,084 million (Nov 2007)

Sources:

National Statistics Coordinating Board - www.nscb.gov.ph

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas - www.bsp.gov.ph

National Statistics Office - www.census.gov.ph

Economic Structure

Major Industries: Electronic components manufacturing, apparel and clothing accessories, woodcraft and furniture making, food processing, IT-enabled services, financial services, retail trade.

Major Exports: Electronic components, articles of apparel and clothing accessories, metal products.

Major Imports: Transport equipment, Iron and Steel, Materials/Accessories imported on consignment basis for the manufacture of Other Electrical and Electronic Machinery and Equipment and Cereals and Cereal Preparations.

Major Trading Partners: USA, Japan, Netherlands, Singapore, Taiwan, HongKong, Malaysia, Germany, Rep. of Korea and PROC

Major Investors: USA, Japan, Germany, Singapore, Taiwan, Argentina, Virgin Islands, France, Great Britain

Economic Update

Showing strength, stability and competence, the Philippine economy soared to a 7.4 per cent GDP growth in the fourth quarter of 2007, up from 5.5 per cent in 2006. Benign inflation, low interest rates and a strong currency created a conducive environment. All sectors registered positive growth, with outstanding performances by industries such as Manufacturing, Agriculture and Fishery, Private Services, Construction and Transportation, Communications and Storage (TCS). On the demand side, increased household spending and investment in construction were the main drivers, aided by the accelerated growths in government consumption, export of non-factor services and investment in durable equipment.

"Everyone is very positive about the Philippines. The peso is at an all time high, and the President and her economic team have turned everything around."

William 'Bill' Rhodes, Chair, Citigroup/Citibank
24 Jan 2008, Davos

On the production side, GDP growth was bolstered by the fast expanding Services sector whose growth of (9.0 per cent from 8.4 per cent in the same quarter in 2006, is the highest since 1982. Industry went up too at a higher pace of 5.8 per cent from 3.6 per cent the previous year.

Inflation rates fell in 2007 to 2.8 per cent as compared to 6.2 per cent in 2006. And as the second strongest currency in Asia according to Reuters, the Peso rose to as high as 40.55 per dollar in early January this year. This robust performance can be partly attributed to the lowering of the budget deficit and national debt, and increasing employment.



Rockwell and Power Plant Mall at night

“It is clear that the world is taking notice of the success our country has achieved in turning our economy around and in generating some of the highest economic growth levels in a generation,” said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo after attending the World Economic Forum (WEF) in January this year. Emphasising global engagement as a policy imperative, the President said her attendance yielded more trade and investments for the country, as well as boosted bilateral relations with its development partners.

She cited Citicorp, Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, Credit Suisse, United Bank of Switzerland, Dubai Investment Bank, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority and Qatar Investment Authority as among the financial and business groups that have recognised the Philippines’ unprecedented economic progress.

Despite the possibility of a US-led global economic slow down this year, projection figures by Merrill Lynch and the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) show confidence in the Philippine economy’s resilience.

The EIU believes that the Philippine economy will remain strong over the next two years, driven by private consumption and inflows of remittances from Filipinos working overseas. Its latest report forecast average economic growth at 5.2 per cent this year and 6.9 per cent in 2009.

Merrill Lynch cites the Philippines’ “creativity” in finding employment for its people and noted that global labour migration would continue to boost domestic income. It projects gross domestic economic growth of 6.6 per

cent this year and 6.8 per cent next year for the country, compared to growth this year of 4.6 per cent for Thailand, 5.7 per cent for Indonesia and 6 per cent for Malaysia.

Further, President Arroyo has approved the proposal for Government to come up with an economic package that would prevent the country from losing its growth momentum as well as mitigate the impact on the people of the imminent slowing down of the US economy. The economic stimulus package includes income tax relief, discounts on electricity bills, a boost in infrastructure and agriculture spending and enhanced social investments.

Why invest in the Philippines

People Power

The Filipino workforce is one of the most compelling advantages the Philippines has over any other Asian country. With higher education priority, the literacy rate in the country is 94.6 per cent - among the highest. English is taught in all schools, making the Philippines the world’s third largest English-speaking country. Every year, there are some 350,000 graduates enriching the professional pool.

Strategic Business Location

The Philippines is located right in the heart of Asia – today the fastest growing region. It is located within four hours flying time from major capitals of the region. Situated at the crossroads of the eastern and western business centres, it is a critical entry point to over 500 million people in the ASEAN market and a gateway of international shipping and air lanes suited for European and American businesses.

First-class lifestyle

Discover the best of sun, sea, sand and style in the tropical setting teeming with the best of western amenities. The Philippines is second home to expatriates who enjoy the company of the warmest people in the region, the country's openness to varied cultures and a decidedly global outlook. Expats enjoy accessible and affordable luxuries – business centers, housing, schools, hospitals, shopping malls, hotels and restaurants, beach resorts, and recreation centers.

Abundant resources

An archipelago like the Philippines offers diverse natural resources, from land to marine to mineral resources. It is also the biggest copper producer in Southeast Asia and among the top ten producers of gold in the world. It is also home to 2,145 fish species, four times more than those found in the Bahamas. The 7,100 islands boast of beautiful beaches and breathtaking sceneries that offer soothing leisure and relaxation spots for vacationers and tourists.

Low cost of doing business

Wages are typically less than a fifth of that in the U.S. Local communication, electricity and housing costs are also 50 per cent lower compared to U.S. rates. Foreign companies that are now outsourcing programming and business processes to the Philippines estimate 30 to 40 per cent savings in business cost, 15 to 30 per cent in call center services and application systems, and 35 to 50 per cent in software development.

Liberalised and business-friendly economy

An open economy allows 100 per cent foreign ownership in almost all sectors and supports a Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) investment scheme that other Asian countries emulate. Government corporations are being privatised and the banking, insurance, shipping, telecommunications and power industries have been deregulated. Incentive packages include the corporate income tax, reduced to a current 32 per cent, with companies in the Special Economic Zones subject to only 5 per cent overall tax rates. Multinationals looking for regional headquarters are entitled to incentives such as tax exemptions and tax and duty-free importation of specific equipment and materials.

Unlimited business opportunities

As Asian economies integrate within the vast framework of the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA), the Philippines is the natural and most strategic location for firms that want access to the large ASEAN market and its vast trade opportunities. The Philippines has enhanced and primed up various areas for investors and offers a dynamic consumer market accustomed to an array of product choices created by a competitive domestic economy.



Developing Infrastructure for Global Growth

A well-developed communication, transportation, business and economic infrastructure links the three major islands and distinguishes the Philippine economy. Highly accessible by air, water and cyberspace, liberalization of inter-island shipping and domestic aviation further sparked improved facilities and services. The container terminals are suited to handle cargo traffic at the highest levels of efficiency.

Communication provides reliable international connectivity 24/7 with fiber optic cable as primary backbone network and satellite as backup. Economic reforms emphasize regional growth, converting remote areas into business centers. The landmark BOT legislation allows private investors to build and operate infrastructure, then turn it over to the Philippine government after a set period of time.

All you need and more

The Philippines offers state-of-the-art telecommunications facilities, and adequate and uninterrupted power supply. There are ready-to-occupy offices and production facilities, computer security and building monitoring systems, as well as complete office services in specialized IT zones. With the government's focus on building up an IT-enabled economy, the Philippines is on its way to becoming the E-services Hub of Asia.

Source:

BOI - www.boi.gov.ph

INVESTMENT HAVENS

PEZA ECONOMIC ZONES



Investors have been flocking to PEZA's economic zones. Given the ecozones' robust infrastructure, competitive costs and attractive incentives, it's not hard to see why. Partner Philippines looks at these advantages, as well as PEZA's instrumental role in the ecozones' success.

Raking in investments at an impressive pace and scale, Philippine Economic Zone Authority's (PEZA) economic zones have earned their place at the forefront of the Philippine economy.

Investments in PEZA increased by a whopping 60 per cent from P83.67 billion in 2006 to P133.73 billion in 2007. This, together with the P215.34 billion investments approved by the Board of Investment (BOI), brought total investments in the Philippines to P349.08 billion in 2007, a 28.67 per cent leap from P271.29 billion in 2006. Overseas investments, at P159.36 billion, accounted for 54 per cent of this total.

Singapore was the country's biggest foreign investor in 2007 with P44.12 billion worth of investment flows. Japan came in second with P38.37 billion, while the US came close with P36.05 billion.

"This surge in investments is a manifest reflection of the investors' confidence brought about by the improved economic condition of the country and the enhanced business environment," a statement quoted Trade

Secretary Peter B. Favila saying. With solid infrastructure and attractive incentives, PEZA's 160 industrial zones and IT parks provide conditions that facilitate and boost business operations. Some of the advantages of operating in these environmentally-friendly economic zones are clean and uninterrupted power and water supply, ready-to-occupy standard factory buildings and administrative support such as banks and computer security and building monitoring.

PEZA has also been working to reduce the costs of these infrastructural essentials. To make power supply more affordable, PEZA recently implemented in its public economic zones a simplified 'open access' power supply scheme. This would give electricity users the freedom to choose their suppliers. Power expert Fernando Y. Roxas of the Asian Institute of Management told GMA News that he estimates a reduction in power rates by P1 to P1.30 per kilowatt-hour once the scheme is in full operation.

Companies located in PEZA's economic zones also enjoy a range of incentives. Importation of capital goods such

as raw materials is tax-free and duty-free. Enterprises also enjoy income tax holidays of up to six years, with a special tax rate of 5 per cent thereafter. They are also exempted from export tax and enjoy additional discount for incremental labor expenses, among other goodies.

When asked about the Filipino worker, PEZA investors are often full of praise. "The Filipino worker is absolutely superb. The Filipino worker is very well educated, very eager to learn more, extremely fluent in English, and has marvelous work ethics," Steven Leece, Philippine Managing Director of Moog Controls Corp, a worldwide precision components and systems manufacturer, said in a statement.

Information Technology: Moving from Strength to Strength

In a show of the sector's rapidly growing development and investment potential, IT investments with PEZA rose by 52.45 per cent from P9.614 billion in 2006 to P14.657 billion in 2007, up from the 31.18 per cent increase in 2006 from 2005. This is also testament to the competent labour force and robust infrastructure in place at PEZA's 80 or so IT parks and centres.

According to a survey conducted with expatriates in Asia, the labour force in the Philippines' IT industry is seen to be a new breed of highly competitive service professionals. Referred to as global knowledge workers, they possess intelligence and skills that meet international standards. While it takes four to six months to train workers in other countries, it takes just two months for the Filipino worker.

While semiconductors and electronics manufacturing still take the bulk of the investments registered by PEZA, call centres and business processing outsourcing (BPO) are seeing an influx in investors. The entire BPO sector is expected to generate US \$12 billion in revenues for the country in 2010, according to PEZA projections.

One of the main reasons for this trend is the affordable telecommunication costs in the Philippines, which are one of the lowest in the world. This, together with a large, educated human resource pool, and competitively-priced and well-equipped business locations, has attracted investors in the BPO sector.

Established only 10 years ago as the first IT community in the country, Eastwood City Cyberpark now hosts more than 60 firms, more than half of which are into BPO. Eastwood's



PEZA Investors' Recognition Night 2008

PEZA-accredited BPO firms reported a 60 per cent growth to US \$188.57 million in export earnings for 2006. Some of the multinational companies that deal with BPO at Eastwood are Citibank, Dell, Siemens and eTelecare.

As more new investors climb on board, existing investors are expanding their space. PEZA's largest investor, American chipmaker Texas Instruments, is expected to embark on the second phase of a US \$1 billion project. IBM Corp. is expected to start operating its third call centre in the Philippines this year, adding 1,300 more seats to the more than 500 existing ones.

In the future, besides building new IT parks and upgrading and expanding existing ones, PEZA also hopes to host Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO). This type of outsourcing would provide higher level information services such as market research and analysis, where only those with a master or doctorate degree qualify to work in.

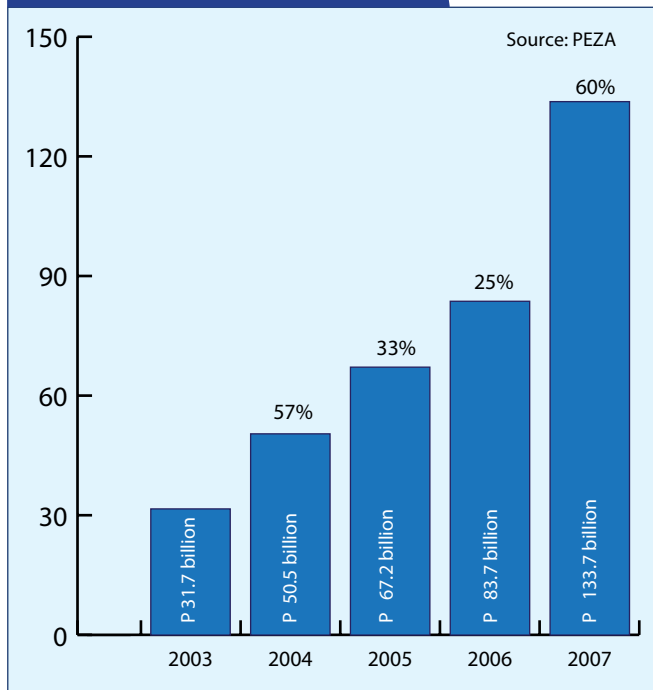
PEZA: Engineering Success

Behind the scenes, orchestrating the world-class performance of the economic zones is PEZA. With its no-nonsense and graft-free office, PEZA has gained a solid universal reputation. "We don't have red tape. We have a red carpet for investors," BizNews Asia quoted PEZA Director General Lilia B. de Lima saying.

Under the watch of De Lima, who has occupied her current position for the past 13 years, PEZA saw a surge in investments. Cumulative PEZA investments for the period 1995 to 2005 was P955.7 billion, a staggering increase from P24.5 billion in the period 1984 to 1994 under the old Export Processing Authority.

As part of the Philippine government's strategy to promote the country's economic zones as ready-to-occupy locations for foreign investors, PEZA was established in 1995 through legislative enactment known as 'The Special Economic

Economic zone investments



Zone Act of 1995'. Since then, PEZA has continuously spun initiatives and efforts that have produced results.

Besides attracting new investors, PEZA also looks after the existing ones. Today PEZA has a 610 strong staff, with three deputies, four zone administrators, five group managers and zone managers to tend to the needs of the operating economic zones, companies and other stakeholders such as service and logistic providers. Because, as De Lima told BizNews Asia, "happy investors are our best promoters".

Early this year, PEZA set a target increase of 15 per cent in investments for 2008. The less ambitious figure is due to the already strong position of P133.73 billion investments. Early this year, PEZA set a target increase of 15 per cent in investments for 2008. The less ambitious figure is due to the already strong position of P133.73 billion investments in 2007, according to PEZA director-general Lilia B. De Lima. Per De Lima, this year's investments are likely to be fuelled by the shipping and electronic sectors, and expansion of existing zones.

There are also plans to increase the number of economic zones, which mean more opportunities for investors. The government's target is 40 more economic zones to be set up, especially in the countryside, by the year 2013. According to PEZA data, about 43 per cent of the economic zones are in the National Capital Region. The Philippines currently has about 60 manufacturing and industrial zones and about 80 information technology (IT) parks and centers. The other economic zones such as the tourism economic zones and medical tourism parks have yet to be fully operational.

"It has been a success story from the day we opened shop, as you can see from the large assortment of companies here. We are always excited to provide the infrastructure and services for companies to optimise their performance."

Engr. Cecilia Z. Velena,
Zone Administrator, Cavite Economic Zone.

Why invest in PEZA

Competitive workforce

- Literacy rate of 93.4 per cent (2003)
- English-speaking
- Easy to train

Incentives

- Tax and duty free importation of capital equipment and raw materials
- Income tax holiday
- Tax credit for import substitution
- Exemption from wharfage dues, export tax and import fees
- Tax credit on domestic capital equipment
- Additional deduction for incremental labour expenses
- Unrestricted use of consigned equipment

One-stop shop

- Administration handled by PEZA
- Building and occupancy permits
- Special non-immigrant visa
- Import and export permits
- Environmental clearance
- Harmonized customs processes

Ecozone perks

- Fully-secured area perimeter
- Clean, uninterrupted power supply
- Adequate water supply
- State-of-the-art telecommunications facilities
- Ready-to-occupy standard factory buildings
- Waste water treatment
- Computer security and building monitoring system
- Banks, fire fighting facilities, sports facilities

THE TREK IS ON!

CELEBRATING PHILIPPINE ART IN SINGAPORE



After a successful initial run in 2007, the Philippine Embassy-organized Art Trek will go on a second staging this year with more Filipino artists coming to Singapore to exhibit and celebrate Filipino creativity and artistry through their works at various participating art galleries all around Singapore.

The anchor show for this year's trek is GLASS AND BRASS featuring internationally-renowned and multi-awarded Philippine artists/sculptors Ramon Orlina and Michael Cacnio, working with their favourite mediums of glass and brass, respectively, in depicting imageries and sceneries of everyday scenes as well as that of human emotions and the inspirations they derive from the human form, nature and man-made environment. To be shown at the Singapore Management University (SMU) Gallery along Stamford Road from 5 to 13 June 2008, the show is a synergistic collaboration between two major galleries — Utterly Art and Galerie Joaquin.

After a successful initial run in 2007, the Philippine Embassy-organized Art Trek will go on a second staging this year with more Filipino artists coming to Singapore to exhibit and celebrate Filipino creativity and artistry through their works at various participating art galleries all around Singapore.

Meanwhile, an inspired assemblage of Filipino women artists will be on show at the Art Space in Royal Plaza on Scotts Hotel in a show entitled LADIES FIRST from 25 May to 8 June. To be featured are up and coming women artists such as Joy Mallari, Pamela Yan, Marika Constantino, Sandra Fabie-Gfeller and Tina Fernandez.

Several one-man shows are featured during the trek, which will include Leo Abaya's TROPICAL, BAROQUE from 3 to 15 June and Rodel Tapaya's INTO THE FOREST from 17 to 30 June, both at the Utterly Art Gallery.



The two-person show of Dominic Rubio (Old Asia) and Lydia Velasco (Idyllic Summer) will be featured at the Galerie Joaquin from 7 to 30 June. Three art galleries - Lukisan Gallery, Forth Gallery and Artesan - join the trek this year with shows by Carlo Magno – THROUGH THE AGES at Lukisan on Smith Street (4-15 June) ; Reynold Dela Cruz – LIBRE at the Forth (11-22 June); and at the Artesan, "xii"

with tomorrow's big names — Poklong Anading, Bembol de la Cruz, Pardo de Leon, Ranelle Dial, Carlo Gabuco, Waling Waling Gorospe, Robert Langenegger, Romeo Lee, Keiye Miranda, Ian Quirante, Wire Tuazon, Paulo Vinluan from 26 June to 17 July.

Momentous Arts Gallery in Boat Quay will feature a brilliant array of Filipino contemporary artists—the likes of Edwin Wilwayco, Rene Robles, Pandi Aviado, Raul Isidro, Bengie Cabangis, Paul Rocero, Rico Lascano, Coble Cruz, Marcial Pontillas, Jose Ibay, Raymond Legaspi, and Cid Reyes with the show running from 13 to 30 June 2008.



Manuel D. Baldemor, the main featured guest artist at last year's Art Trek, joins the trek anew with a choice collection focusing on his interpretations of river scenes from his travels around the world. That his show opens on 19 June is no coincidence, this day being the birth date of the Philippines' national hero Dr. Jose Rizal (born in 1861), who, like the artist, had an affinity with rivers and was equally mesmerised by their allure and flowing history.



His impressions of the Singapore River are given various interpretations in this new collection of art works — in homage to Dr. Jose Rizal whose many passages through Singapore in the 19th century in his voyages to Europe and back, left him with many fond impressions of the country. This exhibit, entitled RIVER SCENES also coincides with the unveiling of the marker of the Philippine national hero along the Singapore River as part of the National Heritage Board's "Friends to our Shores" programme.

Philippine National Artist Bencab (short for Benedicto Cabrera, and the name by which he is more famously known) returns to Singapore with the launch of a new book and an exhibit of nudes at the Substation — another gallery joining the trek for the first time. A past Artist-in-Residence at the Singapore Tyler Print Institute (STPI), he revisits the country once again to what will surely be a warm welcome by his collectors and art enthusiasts.

With 40 Filipino artists on show during this second Installment of the Art Trek, a joyful celebration of art, creativity, imagination and skill, is in the offing.

Let's join the trek!



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RAMON ORLINA'S LUMINOSITY



Ramon Orlina, the sculptor famous for creating *Quintessence*, the 75-sq. foot glass and bronze installation done in 1995 that is a centerpiece at the Singapore Art Museum, returns to Singapore this year for a very special exhibit. Titled "*Glass & Brass*", the show opens June 5, 2008 at the SMU Art Gallery and will showcase 18 major Orlina pieces, alongside brass works by fellow Filipino sculptor, Michael Cacnio.

Glass & Brass serves as the official launch exhibit for Philippines Art Trek 2, a series of art events in the month of June in celebration of Philippine National Day. Presented by the Philippine Embassy, Galerie Joaquin and Utterly Art, the show features works by Orlina done specially for the occasion. These pieces include "Michael's Martial Arts", "Holy Family-08", "In Mother's Embrace" as well as the 80 kg. 5-piece sculptures "Skyscrapers" and "Garden City". Aside from works in Orlina's beloved green asahi glass, the exhibit will include pieces in unusual colours such as azure blue, amber and lime green.

While most glass sculptures are heated and blown in order to form shapes while the medium is still malleable, Orlina's style is creatively different. Art historian Dr. Rod Paras-Perez in an article written for the Asia Times titled "Heart of Glass" notes that Orlina "molds the glass as a sculptor would a piece of marble or any stone. Often by painstakingly guiding each work into the shape or form he wants."

Glass is usually thought of as a cold, hard medium but under Orlina's artistic sensitivity, heavy blocks are transformed

into abstract emeralds. Orlina has several major public works displayed in Singapore. Aside from the artwork at the Singapore Art Museum, his *Fertile Crescent* stands at the Singapore Indoor Stadium. In 1986, Orlina did a 67-piece work of birds in flight titled *The Wings of Victory* for Wisma Atria on Orchard Road.

The artist has had 28 one-man shows in a stellar career that has taken him to leading galleries in Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Hong Kong and the United States. He has also participated in group shows in Sweden, Australia, Japan, Norway, Italy, China, Czechoslovakia and Monaco. *Glass & Brass* is a much anticipated return for Orlina who was last in Singapore for a show titled *Forms of Light* in 1991 at the then National Museum Art Gallery.

Glass & Brass will be held at **SMU Art Gallery**, Level 1, School of Economics and Social Sciences, 90 Stamford Road. It will commence on Thursday 5 June at 7pm and continue to Friday the 13 June. Opening hours will be 11am to 7pm from the 6 June.

For more information, call (65) 67253113. Or visit www.galeriejoaquin.com.sg

MICHAEL R. CACNIO: SCULPTOR



Nearly twenty years in the art scene, TOYM (The Outstanding Young Men) Philippines 2006 awardee, Michael Cacnio, is considered to be one of the country's finest brass sculptors today. Since his graduation from fine arts at the University of the Philippines in 1991, he has made himself much beloved as a sculptor of the everyday Filipino, depicting children playing traditional games such as sungka, luksong baka, tirador (slingshots) and saranggola (kites), or workers engaged in cheerful and industrious labour like his vendors, sorbetero, magtataho, fishermen and fruit pickers, or simply tender scenes of parent and child in various poses of affection and loving tutelage.

his fellow man. Drawing from the inequity of our society and its uneven distribution of resources, Michael depicts the realities of daily living through the stresses and paradoxes faced by the haves and the have-nots.

Contrasting portly, prosperous figures against lean, downtrodden ones, in groups or individual arrangements, he brings our attention to conundrums faced by both the rich and poor, the powerful and the disenfranchised. An orphan-like figure cries out for more food while sandwiched between two large gluttons in *In Between*. The stout figure in *Back to Back* is vigorous and upright, while the thin one appears listless. A businessman takes a wild uncontrolled

"I pray to be identified as the Filipino Sculptor who has contributed to the preservation of the Philippine heritage, who is respected by fellow artists, and who believes that it is through God's Providence that I am able to create my own sculptures."

- Mike Cacnio



Shaping brass sheets and wires into miniature figurative dioramas of Philippine life through cutting and welding, his subjects are inspired from the memories of his childhood and the everyday scenes of growing up in the town of Malabon. These scenes of simple enjoyment, family spirit, fruits of hardy labor, and dignity of work are but a few of the Filipino values and traditions that the artwork of Michael Cacnio has consistently upheld.

Fresh from his well-received eleventh and twelfth solo exhibitions in New York and Brussels last year, Michael has created a dynamic new set of works for Glass and Brass, the anchor show of the Philippine Art Trek 2 in Singapore in June 2008. In the series *Rich Man, Poor Man*, Michael takes a social realist turn and exploits the malleability of his material to explore the material needs and desires of

ride in *Bull Run*, while a labourer struggles under his *Heavy Load*. Individuals scramble for power or remain disengaged in *Ladder of Glory*, while the figure in *Balance* is involved in a delicate weighing between money and power on his unicycle. While there are some who are obsessed with riches in *My Precious*, the plight of the ordinary overseas foreign worker is highlighted in the poignant *For Export*.

His works have earned critical acclaim as well as commercial success in the Philippines, Singapore, Europe and USA. Testaments to his strong following in the art world are his successful exhibitions (more than fifty both locally and abroad) and the consistently positive reviews from critics and collectors alike. He has been collected by top corporations, private collectors and dignitaries, and has been awarded several large public commissions.



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DR. JOSE RIZAL MARKER TO BE UNVEILED ALONG SINGAPORE RIVER



The Philippines beloved and revered national hero Dr. Jose Rizal, will be immortalised in Singapore with the unveiling of a permanent marker and bust – relief along the Singapore River on 19 June 2008, the date which marks the hero's 147th birth anniversary.

Unbeknownst to many, Dr. Rizal had travelled to Singapore on many occasions en route to and from his trips to Europe. The book :“A Journey of Friendship – The Philippine – Singapore Relations” published in 2002 under the auspices of the Philippine Embassy in Singapore writes of the hero's many trips to Singapore thus – “He came and went to Singapore five times in a span of 14 years. His first were only for two days.

“The second, on July 27 and 29, 1887, was when he was on his way back to Manila. He returned to his country armed with a degree in Medicine and Philosophy. He was the author of Noli Me Tangere, a controversial novel he wrote in Spanish and disliked by Spain for its subversive tone – which led to his death warrant. “

The book continues to recount the third visit of Dr Rizal on 10 November 1891 for about 12 hours, and during which he had taken note of the changes that Singapore had undergone, notably the new invention of the self-propelled street cars. By his fourth stopover in Singapore on 8 September 1896, he was en route to Barcelona on board the steamship *Isla de Panay* after just having served his exile in Dapitan, as he was allowed to go to Cuba to serve as a military doctor.

“But that was not to be. After a month of voyage, he was again declared a prisoner by the Spanish colonial government. The Philippine Revolution had already begun. He was put on board another ship to return to Manila. He was searched and his journal was taken from him. In Singapore for a few hours, he was not allowed to leave the boat. Twice he was handcuffed.

“By the end of the year 1896 he was executed by a firing squad. And the long-running Revolution was on its way.”

Contact between the Philippines and Singapore existed long before the establishment of diplomatic relations 39 years ago. Today, those ties are further strengthened by many people-to-people exchanges, as well as relations at the government, business/private sector and non-government organisation levels. The National Heritage Board (NHB) of Singapore in cooperation with the Philippine Embassy in Singapore spearheaded this project of setting up a marker of Dr. Jose Rizal. The Filipino Ladies Group (FLAG) in Singapore contributed in the research done on Dr. Rizal's visits to Singapore. The setting up of the Rizal marker will only be the third in the “Friends to our Shores” program of the NHB which marks visits by significant historical personalities whose history and contributions have intertwined with Singapore.

His Excellency President SR Nathan has been invited to grace the unveiling ceremony, while Philippine Education Secretary Jesli Lapus will fly in for the occasion. Philippine National Historical Institute (NHI) Chairman Ambeth Ocampo will conduct a lecture on Dr. Rizal at the Asian Civilizations Museum (ACM) shortly after the unveiling ceremony, while renowned Philippine visual artist Manuel D. Baldemor gives homage to the rivers that connect people, and which continue to awe and beguile with their beauty, in an art exhibit entitled “River Scenes” at the Singapore Management University (SMU) Gallery on Stamford Road.

June 19, 2008 will certainly be a memorable and proud day for Filipinos in Singapore.

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THE PHILIPPINES MAKES A SPLASH AT NATAS TRAVEL FAIR



With cultural dance performances, a colourful pavilion booth and a contingent of tourism ambassadors, the Philippines stood out at the recent National Association of Travel Agents Singapore (NATAS) fair, held from 29 February to 2 March this year.

The bi-annual fair, which is the largest consumer travel fair in Singapore, drew some 60,000 people at its first show this year, compared with the 57,000 record last year. The next show is expected to be in August.

Stepping up its promotion efforts from the previous year, the Philippine Department of Tourism (DOT) designed a quintessential Filipino pavilion that occupied six booths instead of two like last year, and flew in a contingent of dancers, models, food bearers and tourism personnel from Davao, the region showcased this year. These efforts paid off as this year's confirmed tour bookings from the fair came up to about 128 pax (persons).

The focus on Davao and Mindanao island, the second largest island in the country which Davao is part of, is in line with the DOT's 'Gateway Davao Goes Singapore Project', which aims to draw attention to Davao as a new tourist destination and a gateway to Mindanao and Southern Philippines.

The attraction of Davao

The name 'Davao' is a mixture of words from several native groups meaning 'over the hills yonder', a reference to the trading settlement at Davao River. Such is the cultural diversity and richness of this region which multi-ethnic and multi-lingual people from different indigenous tribes call home. But Davao caters not only to the culture vulture.

Showcasing the beautiful region of Davao, a team of Philippine tourism ambassadors made their presence felt at this year's installment of the largest consumer travel fair in Singapore.

Blessed with tropical weather all-year round and situated in a typhoon-free zone, Davao has much to offer adventure and nature lovers.

Trekkers and environmentalists will appreciate the majestic mountain ranges such as the country's tallest mountain, Mt. Apo, which stands at about 10,000 feet; Waling-waling, the 'Queen of Orchids'; and the Philippine Eagle, national bird and the world's largest. On the other hand, beach buffs and water sportsmen will enjoy Davao Gulf, where resorts, seaside restaurants and sports facilities dot the stretch of white sand beaches.

Named one of the 20 most livable cities in Asia according to Asiaweek magazine, Davao city offers both the modern comforts of a modern metropolis and the idyllic charm of a



Performing at the opening ceremony of the fair and around the Philippine booth, the Hinugyaw Cultural Dance Troupe (HCDDT) showed off their unique brand of choreography which fuses different cultures from the valleys of Koronadal in Southern Philippines through dances and tribal rituals.

small town. The cosmopolitan city boasts world class hotels and resorts, convention and business facilities, exciting shopping malls, sumptuous local cuisine, and a pulsating night scene. Many operations that cover the whole island of Mindanao have their bases in Davao. And with the new Davao International Airport servicing direct flights to countries such as Singapore, Davao is truly the gateway to Mindanao and Southeastern Philippines.

A PHILIPPINE SOJOURN

About a month before starting work on this publication, our editorial team packed their bags and headed to the bustling capital city of the Philippines, Manila. There they interviewed and photographed the beautiful country and its people, all while soaking in the vibes and energies of the place. Their itinerary consisted of meetings with industry and tourism officials, as well as tours to famed tourist spots such as Intramuros and Tagaytay. The team was enamored with the

friendly and genuine people and charmed by the unique sights and sounds of the vibrant city. They discovered many quirks such as beer advertising on the Philippine immigration card, quaint cafes that served aromatic coffee, and bars with live bands playing hot Spanish tunes. This first-hand experience helped our editorial team gain a deeper understanding of the country's culture. This collection of photo features shows their experience and tells stories of the Philippines through their lens.



EVERYDAY MANILA

To the foreign eye, a country's daily routines can be a source of fascination. Each aspect that has become an integral part of the way of life such as transport, leisure and religion, is a small thread in the country's rich cultural fabric, holding the key to a deeper understanding. No different, everyday Metro Manila is a treasure trove of charms and culture. With the aim of finding out just what makes this busy city tick, this photo feature delves into the ordinary lives of its people, seeking out the unusual in the usual. Every city has a different feel, this is Manila's.



Captions for Page 26

1. Breakfast for these city dwellers comes on wheels, and typically consists of rice and *kilawin*, a pork meat and organ dish, with accompanying garnishes and sauces.
2. A player strikes to hole a white carom seed into the far-left pocket with his cue. This innovative cross between carom and snooker and other street games such as basketball and *patintero*, where two groups try to cross each other's court line, are a common sight along the alleys and side paths of Manila.
3. Candles at an altar in a Catholic church each represent a fervent prayer and an act of faith. Catholicism is the predominant religion in the Philippines, with a following of about 82 per cent of the population.
4. A ride on a horse carriage at Tiendesitas. A showcase of Philippine's best products from art, antiques, furniture, handicrafts to native food, fashion, pets, plants and novelty items.

5. The Mall of Asia in Pasay city is the third largest in the world according to Forbes magazine. With 800 outlets, seven cinemas, a tram service, a music hall and an Olympic-size ice skating ring, it has revolutionised what shopping means in Manila.

6. A typical Filipino fishing boat is easily distinguishable by thin and long horns growing out at the ends and bamboo poles attached parallel on each side to act as stabilizers.

7. A piece of Philippines' war-torn history, the jeepney is now an indispensable part of daily life and a cultural symbol. Capable of accommodating up to 15 passengers, it is a typical mode of transport all over the country. With inspiration and engines drawn from the military jeeps the Americans brought into the country in 1940s during WWII, these unique vehicles of art are a truly show of the Filipinos' creativity and resourcefulness.



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7

DELICIOUS STREETS

As an inevitable lifestyle product of urbanisation, street foods have become part of Philippine culture. With their diverse flavours and colours, they reflect the vibrant mix of cultures in the nation. For the vendors, although the business brings in minimal income, it means a lifeline, especially for women. There are an estimated 150,000 hawkers in Metro Manila. This pictorial of the delicious street foods offer a glimpse into street life in the bustling capital and the rich soul of the country.

1. Halo-Halo, which means 'a mix of many things', is the national dessert of Philippines. With shaved ice, milk and sugar as its base, there is no limit to what sweet toppings can adorn it. Caramelized bananas, young coconut, rice crispies, jelly, tapioca balls, beans, pureed yam and crème brulee are some of the more commonly found.

2. Also known as 'dirty ice-cream', sorbetes was invented in the early 1920s when sellers of this dairy treat bred their own cows and milked them with their own hands to ensure freshness and cleanliness. Today the process of ice-cream making and selling it in brightly painted carts remain the same. Popular flavors include purple yam, mango, avocado, cheese, chocolate, jackfruit, coconut and strawberry.

3. More than anything, street food is convenient. Here the ubiquitous burger is given a twist of simplicity. Sandwich a fried egg and tomato sauce in a bun and its good to eat.

4. Manggang hilaw – green mango served with bagoong (shrimp paste).

5. A street hawker chops coconut to make a refreshing drink.

6. For many Filipinos, the sweet, smoky aroma of bibingkas baking on the charcoal grill is mouthwatering as much as it brings back fond childhood memories. Such is the nationally-felt affection for this tradition cake made from ground rice flour, eggs and coconut milk. Today the dish is cooked and sold on the streets, especially during the Christmas season where vendors set up around church gates.

7. Nilupak – mashed kamoteng kahoy (cassava) or kamote (sweet potato) with brown sugar and served with butter or margarine.

PICTURE PERFECT

Besides its natural wonders and colourful culture, the Philippines has another draw – its people. Making visitors feel right at home, Filipinos are always game to provide help, carry out a conversation, offer a smile or pose for a photo. This collection of portraits is testament to their warmth and friendliness.





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PHILIPPINE ART TREK 2 IN SINGAPORE June 2008



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**LEE FOUNDATION
DR. DAVID ZUELLIG**

PHILIPPINE ART TREK 2 IN SINGAPORE June 2008



25 MAY - 8 JUNE

LADIES FIRST

ART SPACE at Royal Plaza on Scotts
25 Scotts Road,
Email: artsentralasia@yahoo.com
Tel: 9734 4839
10am - 9pm
Contact Person:
Melannie Syquia-Hizon

"Ladies First" showcases the Philippines' leading contemporary women artists in one art exhibit in Singapore. Presenting the works of Joy Mallari, Pamlea Yan, Marika Constantino, Sandra Fabie-Gfeller, Tina Fernandez, Anna Verona and Icar Castro.



3 - 15 JUNE

TROPICAL, BAROQUE

UTTERLY ART
229A South Bridge Road (2nd Level)
Tel: 6226 2605 / Email: utterlyart@pacific.net.sg
Mon-Sat 12noon - 8 pm ; Sun 12 noon - 5.30pm
Contact Persons:
Dr. Pwee Keng Hock (94872006)
Kenneth Tan (91098509)

The collection covers diverse subjects from genre to the allegorical, unified by the interest of the notions of illusion and actuality in the pictorial form. In these works, the artist dramatizes the diversity and uniqueness of the Filipino sensibility by juxtaposing images associated with the ideas around what is Asian and tropical with that of the baroque and Catholic in order to tell a story or create an imagined scenario.

Leo Abaya employs different approaches in paintings, both traditional and contemporary, and unifies them in a delicate balance through a narrative. In his works, one can be submerged in the illusion of texture and space only to be awakened back to reality when interest is drawn towards the canvas, the medium and the process of the work. For example, fabric is convincingly painted to evoke a mood, and yet in the same work the actual fabric (canvas) on which the image rests is physically manipulated or draped at the same time. Or a salient part of a work is left unpainted, the raw canvas exposed.



11 - 22 JUNE

LIBRE

FORTH GALLERY
69A Pagoda Street (Level 2),
Tel: 62227809 / Email: justin@forth.sg, sales@forth.sg
Website: www.forth.sg
Tues-Sun 11.30am - 7 pm
Mon and public holidays by appt only
Contact Person: Justin Ng
or Keng Hock (94872006 / utterlyart@pacific.net.sg)

Libre is a word that can be found in romance languages such as French and Spanish. It originated from the Latin liber which denotes the state of "being free" or having "freedom." From the Spanish, who had colonized the Philippines for more than 300 years, Filipinos have understood libre in the vernacular to mean something that you get for free.

In this series, the artist Reynold Dela Cruz was inspired by the projects of the local government of his birthplace. Constantly observing the social and economic events of his surroundings, Dela Cruz was fascinated by this "phenomenon" recently taking place as well in many cities and towns all over the country.



13 - 30 JUNE

KASARINLAN

MOMENTOUS ARTS
20 Lor Telok (Boat Quay) #02-01
Tel: 65353961 / Email: mmtous@singnet.com.sg
Website: www.momentousarts.com
Mon-Fri: 11am - 7pm
Sat: 12noon - 6pm Sun: by appt only
Contact Person: Allan Teo (9641 3235)

Edwin Wilwayco, Rene Robles, Pandy Aviado, Raul Isidro, Benjie Cabangis, Paul Rocero, Rico Lascano, Cobie Cruz, Marcial Pontillas, Jose Ibay, Raymond Legaspi, Cid Reyes

This group exhibition of 12 leading and emerging artists from the Philippines offers viewers a tantalizing glimpse of the enormous outpouring of creativity in contemporary Filipino art today. It examines the diverse approaches artists take to a subject in figurative & abstract style. The Philippines with its wealth of artistic traditions is itself a source of inspiration for these artists.



17 - 30 JUNE

INTO THE FOREST

UTTERLY ART
229A South Bridge Road (2nd Level)
Tel: 6226 2605 / Email: utterlyart@pacific.net.sg
Mon-Sat 12noon - 8 pm ; Sun 12 noon - 5.30pm
Contact Persons:
Dr. Pwee Keng Hock (94872006)
Kenneth Tan (91098509)

Rodel Tapaya's new series of paintings explores the landscape of the forest, a vast field for shelter, adventure and mystery. Tapaya's characters/personages; real, fictional or mythical, are depicted in this setting. Their situations are different but there is a feeling of tension in every piece. Whether literal or symbolic, this exhibit allows one to see the rudiments and complexities of living or being in the jungle; where beauty and peculiarity, abundance and scarcity, safety and caution, should all be considered for survival.

Tapaya is a young Philippine artist who has recently been enjoying very keen attention in several SE Asian auctions.



4 - 15 JUNE

THROUGH THE AGES

LUKISAN GALLERY

26 Smith Street
www.lukisan-art.com
Tel: 6410-9663
Tues-Sun: 2-9pm Mon: closed.
Contact: Joyce Tan

Textured. Vivid. Minimalist. Emotive.

These are a few words that describe the work of abstract artist Carlo Magno. And yet, simple descriptions hardly do justice to Magno's exquisitely evocative creations. His pieces are at once expansive, while being rooted; bold yet meditative; spiritual yet earthly. One could say, Magno is a master of harmonious contrasts.



5 - 13 JUNE

GLASS AND BRASS

SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY (SMU)

Art Gallery
School of Economics Building, Level 1
90 Stamford Road

GALERIE JOAQUIN (for Ramon Orlina)

Aarti Hemnani
Tel 6725 3113
aartihemnani@galeriejoaquin.com

UTTERLY ART (for Michael Cacnio)

Kenneth or Keng Hock
Tel: 6226 2605
utterlyart@pacific.net.sg

The anchor show of this year's second Philippine Art Trek in the month of June, GLASS AND BRASS celebrates the mastery of two beloved Philippine sculptors, working a generation apart in their chosen uncommon media. Ramon Orlina has been cutting, grinding and polishing glass into art for the last three decades, carving out largely abstract forms out of blocks of glass using the cold method, while Michael Cacnio uses his nearly twenty years of skilled experience to shape brass sheets and wire into miniature figurative dioramas of Philippine life through cutting and welding.



7- 30 JUNE

OLD ASIA / IDYLIC SUMMER

GALERIE JOAQUIN - SINGAPORE

The Regent Hotel
1 Cuscaden Road, Ground Floor, Unit 3T
Tel: 6725-3113 / Email: aarti@galeriejoaquin.com.sg
Website: www.galeriejoaquin.com.sg
Mon-Sat: 11am-7pm Sun: 11am-5pm
Contact Persons:
Mia Marchadesch or Aarti Hemnani

This joint show pairs Lydia Velasco's exotic beauties with Dominic Rubio's nostalgic look at times passed. Velasco's women lounge in casual elegance, surrounded by lush flora, strong yet feminine. Rubio's elongated figures with their signature craning necks gather amidst intricate backdrops of colonial architecture and country roads.



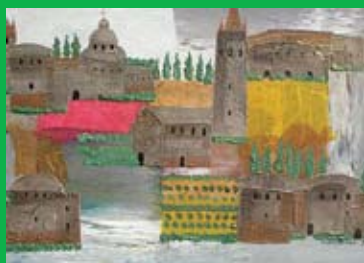
19 - 24 JUNE

RIVER SCENES

SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY (SMU)

Art Gallery
Administration Building
90 Stamford Road
Tel: 68280173
Website: www.smu.edu.sg
Contact Person:
Jillian Ang

Manuel D. Baldemor, like Dr. Rizal, the greatest of Filipino heroes, had a certain affinity with rivers and equally mesmerized by its allure and flowing history. The difference is the artist only expresses his thoughts through paintings while Dr. Rizal produced excellent literary works based on Rivers. While still a young student in Manila, Dr. Rizal wrote a one act play called "Junto al Pasig" (along the Pasig) and it saddens the artist whenever he recalls how polluted Philippines' beloved Pasig River has become. Baldemor hopes through his art, he can inspire the action needed to bring back the glory of the Pasig.



20 JUNE - 3 JULY

BENCAB : NUDE DRAWINGS

THE SUBSTATION

45 Armenian Street
Tel: 63377535 / Email: admin@substation.org
Website: www.substation.sg
11am - 9pm
Contact : Rico Hizon
Email: artsentralasia@yahoo.com
Tel no. 9734 4839

Since time immemorial, artists from all over the world have held a deep fascination for the human figure. Philippine National Artist for Visual Arts Benedicto "Bencab" Cabrera is no exception.

From June 20 to July 3, 2008, Singapore will have the opportunity to view a select sampling of these renderings through an exhibition entitled "Bencab: Nude Drawings." The exhibition organized by Art Sentral Asia will feature about 25 new nude drawings on paper.

To be held at Substation, Home for the Arts, a book of the same title will also be launched during the exhibition's opening reception. The book is written by Alfred Yuson and published by Manila-based publishing house Anvil.



26 JUNE - 17 JULY

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ARTESAN

793 Bukit Timah Road #02-01
Tel: 98427817 / 64697818
Email: roberta@theartesan.com
Website: www.theartesan.com
Mon-Sat: 11am-6pm
Closed Sun and Public Holidays except by appointment.
Contact Person:
Roberta Dans Thomas

In line with Artesan's aim to promote young emerging artists from around Asia, we are proud to present twelve top, young and talented artists from The Philippines:

All extremely talented Filipino fledglings who enjoy rave reviews back home - are now poised, to showcase their works for the first time in Singapore.

Poklong Anading, Bembol de la Cruz, Pardo de Leon, Ranelle Dial, Carlo Gabuco, Waling Waling Gorospe, Robert Langenegger, Romeo Lee, Keiye Miranda, Ian Quirante, Wire Tuazon and Paulo Vinluan





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