



KONSULADO PANLAHAT NG PILIPINAS

CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE PHILIPPINES

**PRESS RELEASE**

Philippine Consulate General  
New York

556 Fifth Ave., NY, NY 10036

Tel. No. (212) 764-1330

www.pcgny.net

Press Release No.: 26-2007  
For Immediate Release

29 October 2007

### **Philippine Consulate-New York and CFO host 3<sup>rd</sup> leg of Bayanihan sa Amerika conferences**

New York – More than 100 Filipino associations and community service organizations serving the Filipino community in the East Coast attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> installment of the Bayanihan sa Amerika series of conferences. The Philippine Consulate General in New York and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas hosted the conference on 20 October 2007 at the Philippine Center.

Themed “Community Centers and Associations: Strengthening Ties with the Philippine homeland,” the conference sought to enhance linkages between Filipino associations in the United States, Philippine Posts in the US and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas. New York was the third cluster to host Bayanihan 2007, with the first two legs of the conferences held in Los Angeles and San Francisco on 7 and 13 October 2007, respectively.

Consul General Cecilia Rebong lauded the initiative and encouraged participants to learn from one another’s experiences in running their respective organizations. Various community leaders were also invited to speak about strategies pertaining to vision and goal setting, fund raising and financial management for non-profits, cultural learning and visibility heritage programs for second-generation Filipinos, tourism and business and investment opportunities for overseas Filipinos, as well as best practices in channeling development assistance of the Philippines.

Ambassador Willy Gaa said in a message read by Deputy Consul General Millie Thomeczek encouraged Fil-Ams to become essential assets to both their homeland and adoptive countries and by actively participating in development initiatives of the Philippine motherland.”

Speaking on behalf of CFO Chairman Dante Ang, CFO Acting Deputy Executive Director Golda Myra Roma intimated that part of the objectives of the conference WAS to identify ways by which the Philippine government could better reach out to its migrant communities in the United States and further harness their development potential. “Overseas Filipinos give out to communities in the Philippines apart from remittances. In 2006 alone, more than P150 million have been coursed through the CFO by Filipino associations in the form of educational scholarships, health supplies, equipment and services, soft loans for small investments or dole outs for the establishment of key infrastructure such as classrooms and artesian wells, among others,” Director Roma added.

Ms. Adolovni Acosta, an award-winning Filipina pianist capped the conference with a beautiful rendition of classical pieces at a moving concert that evening

The occasion also marked the launching of the CFO-SMART-Land Bank Bayanihan card, an automated bank card designed for Filipinos in the US who wish to maintain a Philippine savings account. The Bayanihan card is powered by the Philippines' leading mobile telecom network, SMART, which enables card users to conduct bank transactions through their mobile phones. Land Bank is issuing the cards free of charge and the top five associations who can generate the highest number of member sign-ups until December 2007, have the opportunity to award two (2) computer and high-speed internet connectivity packages to a public school or Gawad Kalinga villages of their own choosing.

Filipino community leaders welcomed the conduct of Bayanihan sa Amerika, citing the conference as a timely opportunity to learn what other organizations are doing to serve the community, and at the same time explore future partnerships. The last leg of Bayanihan 2007 was held in Chicago on 27 October.

The Bayanihan sa Amerika conference was organized jointly the by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas and the Department of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with SMART Communications, Land Bank of the Philippines, Asian Eye Institute and Book Exporters Association of the Philippines.

For a summary report of the conference, please visit [www.pcgny.net](http://www.pcgny.net)

###