



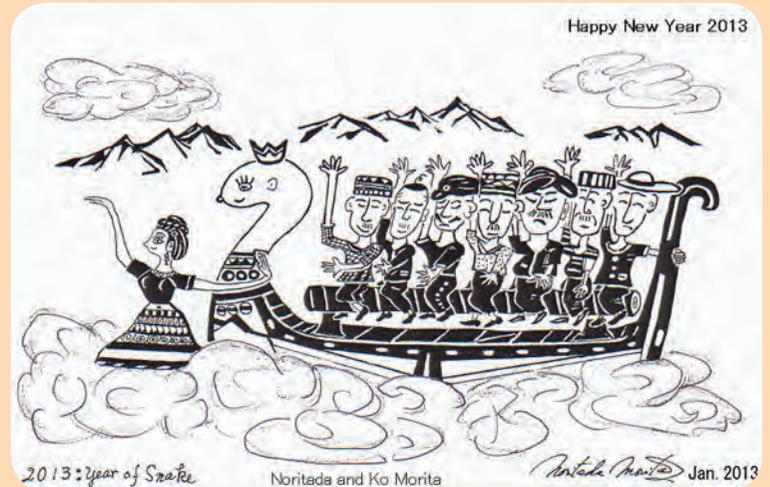
News

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The Newsletter of the
Association of Former
Employees of the Asian
Development Bank

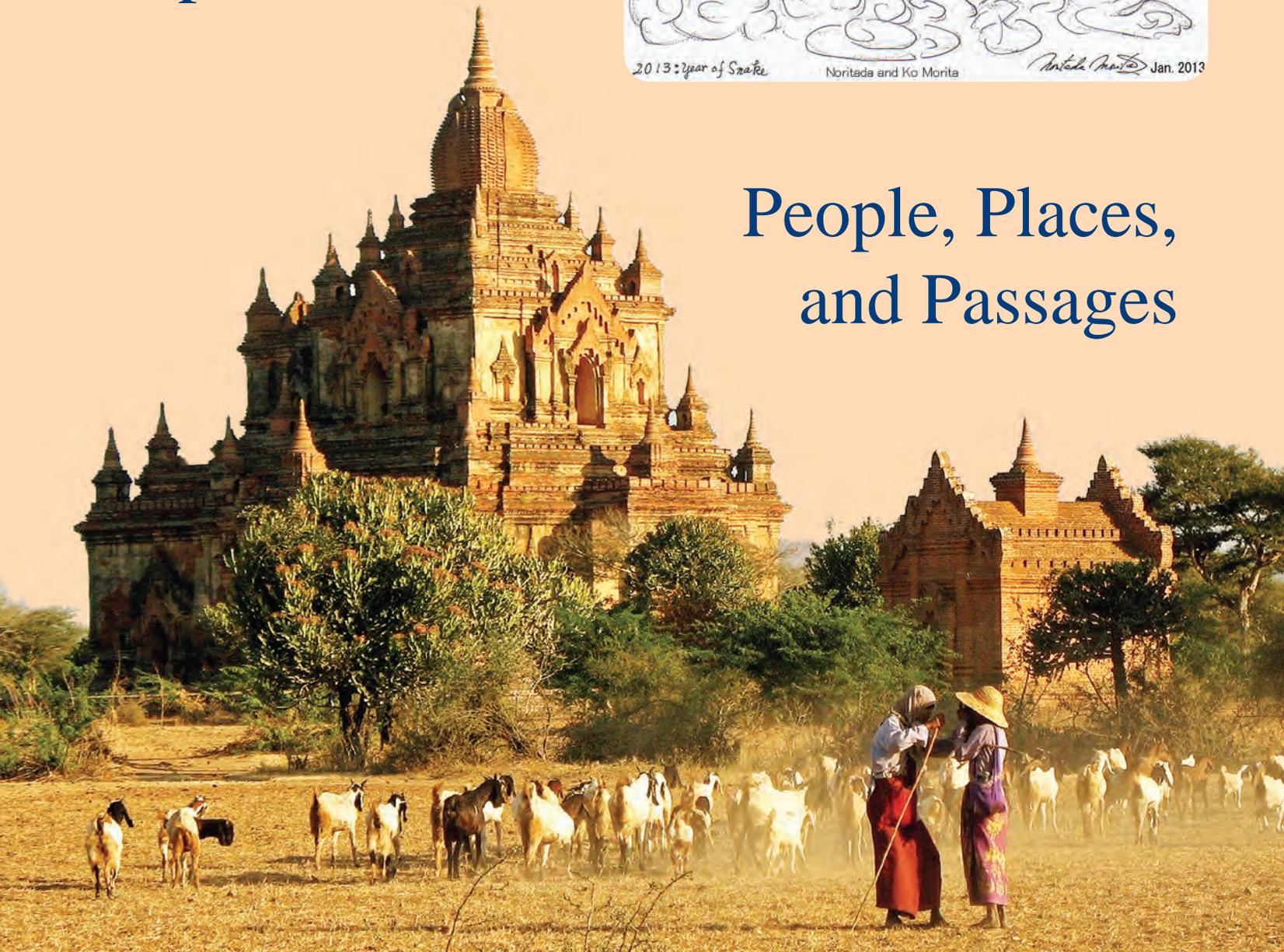


Updates



Chapter News

People, Places, and Passages



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Our Cover



Left: Washington, DC Chapter
Right: N. Morita's Artistic Welcome to the Year of the Snake
Bottom: Bagan, Myanmar

AFE-ADB News

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ADB President Kuroda Moves On



On 28 February 2013, President Kuroda announced in ADB Today that he would resign from ADB as of 18 March, because he had been nominated as governor of the Bank of Japan. President Kuroda's Farewell Message to ADB Staff is as follows:

Dear Colleagues,

I have been deeply honored and privileged to serve as ADB President and Chairperson of its Board of Directors for more than 8 years. As I prepare to depart ADB, I want to thank all the people that comprise the ADB community for providing me with the greatest working environment imaginable.

Our community draws from the talents of our 67 members around the world and unites us in a common and critical mission of sustainable economic development and poverty alleviation in Asia and the Pacific. Together, we have faced enormous challenges. But our successes are many and our progress has been remarkable. Yet the challenges of development in our region remain, and it will be incumbent upon you to continue our mission under a new leadership with the same vigorous energy, enthusiasm and skill that you have shown during my tenure.

I leave ADB with sadness to be separating from such great people, but also with great pride in our accomplishments. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to everyone at

ADB who worked so hard to build on ADB's decades of achievement.

The mission of ADB remains as important today as it was on the day of its founding, and I have every confidence in ADB's continuing and ultimate success.

*With gratitude and best wishes,
Haruhiko Kuroda*

On the afternoon of 12 March, we (Hans-Juergen Springer and Jill Gale de Villa), on behalf of AFE-ADB, paid a courtesy call to bid farewell to President Haruhiko Kuroda, who had resigned to assume the post of Governor of the Bank of Japan.

Hans-Juergen Springer thanked President Kuroda for his support during his tenure and for faithfully joining us at the annual cocktails at our Annual General Meeting.

President Kuroda briefly described the current global situation and his changing responsibilities with the new job. He noted he may be able to join us again in Delhi—this time as a member.

We presented President Kuroda a copy of Noritada Morita's *Asian Eye*, which he had donated for the occasion. President Kuroda received it with much appreciation. ■



Hans-Juergen Springer, Haruhiko Kuroda, and Jill Gale de Villa.

AFE–ADB Updates

From the Executive Secretary

Hans-Juergen Springer (ADB 1972–2002)



Another year has gone by, again a year in which AFE members gathered for their annual reunions in the latter part of the year. AFE Europe had its get-together in Alsace, France in September; Australia, Greater Washington D.C., and New York–New Jersey in October; Canada, the Philippines, and a joint Sri Lanka–

India reunion in Colombo in November; Southern California, Indonesia, and Korea in December. Reports and photos in this issue show that Association members much enjoyed each others' companionship and camaraderie. The business meetings also yielded suggestions and comments about how to improve the functions of the Association, to which the AFE Team is always receptive.

AFE President Bong-Suh Lee has been elected for another 4-year term starting 16 February 2013. Congratulations, Mr. Lee! The AFE Team of Jill de Villa, David Parker and I are looking forward to further fruitful cooperation with Mr. Lee.

As there are no developments on the pension front, this issue does not carry a separate topic on pension matters.

Jill and I again attended the annual one-day meeting of alumni associations of international organizations. Two work groups discussed pertinent topics: work group 1, co-chaired by Jill, discussed health matters, work group 2, which I convened, discussed associations' governance matters.

In August, we asked for nominations for the position of assistant treasurer, but—regrettably—none were received. The position was advertised for a member who has an accounting

background and would be required to live in the Greater Manila area. We will intensify our efforts to find someone who is willing and able to meet the requirements of the position as the workload of the team of David Parker and Malou Magalued has increased significantly over the years.

By the time this issue of the AFE News reaches you, the revised bylaws will have been approved. I would like to thank all AFE members, especially the bylaws review committee and the chapter coordinators, for their valuable comments.

The new membership directory should by now have reached members who requested a print copy. For all others, we will soon have the membership directory uploaded onto our website.

The 46th annual ADB meeting will be in Delhi on 2–5 May 2013. AFE's 27th annual meeting will be, as usual, on the first day of the 4-day event. The Government of India has organized an interesting Accompanying Persons Program. India provides many other exciting tourism possibilities to explore before or after the meeting. I am looking forward to seeing you in Delhi. ■

Advising the Islamic Development Bank

Hans-Juergen Springer

Upon the invitation of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), I visited Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on 16–17 September 2012. The purpose was to exchange views



Hans-Juergen Springer with IsDB staff members.



on matters of mutual interest. IsDB staff were interested to hear first-hand about the relationship between ADB and its retirees. They were particularly interested in benefits such as the pension plan and medical insurance scheme that ADB retirees receive. I made a presentation on these topics at a meeting of IsDB's Administration and Investment Committee (Pension Fund). The meetings were productive and conducted in a very congenial manner. I am thankful for IsDB's graceful hospitality, which also gave me the opportunity to taste wonderful Arab cuisine in an opulent meal in Jeddah's famous Al-Kazar restaurant as well as to visit the old parts of Jeddah for sightseeing and shopping for dates. ■

Insurance Matters

Jill Gale de Villa (ADB 1993–2005)



H **Health Insurance.** Hans notes that in a meeting with staff of Vanbreda and ADB's Staff Development & Benefits Division on 18 October 2012 he was informed that premium collections are projected for 2012 to exceed claims. This is a result of a smaller number of so-called peak files (claims above P2 million) in

2012 and the premium increase in 2011 that had become necessary to cope with rising claims and medical inflation.

To keep our collective and individual premiums down, it is important that retirees who have access to other insurance, such as national medical plans, use these as a first insurer and claim from Vanbreda based on the balance. For example, if one claims a \$1,000 medical bill through Vanbreda, one pays \$250 (before the stop loss is applicable). But if one first claims from a national or other insurance, which pays, say, 80%, then one claims the balance of \$200 through Vanbreda, and has to pay out of pocket only \$50. This generates savings for both the claimant and the plan.

Life Insurance. Randy Earman has been in contact with BPMSSD in an effort to have the Life Insurance scheme extended. Cristina Keppler and Alona Saludo are asking Vanbreda to estimate costs.

Long-Term Care Insurance. Members of this plan should evaluate yearly the costs and benefits depending on their individual ages and circumstances. ■

Health & Wellness Fair

Hans-Juergen Springer

H **Health & Wellness 2012** took place at the ADB Headquarters in the hallway outside the cafeteria on 17–19 October. ADB's Development and Benefits staff organized the Fair to enhance health consciousness by giving staff and retirees an opportunity to meet clinic, hospital, and emergency assistance provider representatives to learn more about their services. There were also lunchtime forums and presentations on topics such as first aid training, long-term illnesses, stress, and smoking cessation. The Fair proved again to be attractive and was well attended on all 3 days. ■



L-r: ADB's Dr Jean-Jacques Bernatas, Vanbreda's Bart Jordens and Céline Van Steene, and ADB's Cristina Keppler. *Note: the man between Bart Jordens and Celine Van Steene and the woman beside Cristina are models on the Vanbreda poster.*

**For information
on insurance contact
insurance@adb.org**

Alumni Associations Workshops

Jill Gale de Villa



Discussions at the Health Insurance Workshop.

On 24 October 2012, Hans and I attended the meetings of the former employees associations of ADB and the US-based Inter-American Development Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Organization of American States (AROAS), United Nations (AFICS), World Bank (1818 Society), and World Health Organization (PAHO). The two, 1-day workshops were held simultaneously at the IMF and were highly germane to our AFE organization and its members. The two topics were selected earlier in the year as those most important to our associations.

Workshop 1: Health Insurance. Convenors: Carol Collado, Pat King, and Jill de Villa

Representatives of each association noted significant changes and issues in our health plans since last year's workshop. I noted that Cigna has bought VanBreda and become the insurance administrator for US claims, which has helped get better service for our US-based members and good discounts and avoid upfront



At the plenary session.

payment requirements. ADB retirees still lack a voice in the contracting out of their insurance.

Participants noted that in general, due to changing workforces, retirees are rapidly becoming a major part of the population covered by health insurance. WHO expects that by 2040, 50% of its people covered by health insurance will be retirees. At the World Bank, the number of full-time staff is flat, with the number of consultants growing, and employees are on 2–5 year contracts. The Organization of American States now has very few “career” employees. Organizations are also sometimes hiring only for the duration of a specific project, with entire staffs disappearing at the completion of the project. Some organizations are considering extending retirement ages. All these factors have an impact on the funding of the insurance plans.

The Panel on Generic Drugs, comprising experts in various areas of the discussions, provided the following main points:

- Most money for basic drug research comes from federal/central governments, with the private sector then adopting discoveries and carrying them forward. About 10,000 potential candidates for production are screened for every one product that eventually comes to the market. Drug prices are high because they fund research and development.
- Companies must also conduct costly clinical trials to prove that a drug is safe and effective. Then they can get a registration for a particular use; the registration tells you what the drug has been tested for.
- A generic drug is a drug out of patent protection that is “bioequivalent” to the brand name drug. It must have the same active ingredient and have the same effect, although a small margin of difference



Plenary. L–r: Pat King, Jill Gale de Villa, and Carol Collado recap the Health Insurance Workshop; Jean-Yves Maillat, overall coordinator.

may be allowed. While substitution of a generic for a brand-name drug, or of a generic manufactured by one company for that manufactured by another, is generally all right, a few drugs should not be changed, including anti-seizure medications, thyroid replacement drugs, and a few others.

- Generic drugs allow lower prices for the consumer with still good therapeutic outcomes. National regulatory authorities ensure that generics produced in their countries are safe.
- An enormous number of branded drugs are within about 5 years of their patent expiration date. About 77% of drugs are now in generic form.
- Medicines include biologics, pharmacologics, and medical devices, all of which are used for treatment and control of diseases. Biologics are drugs produced using live organisms. There are no generic biologics, because every lot produced has to be approved by the national regulatory authority before it is released.
- National regulatory authorities provide independent evaluations to physicians and the public, and collect information, such as adverse reaction data, regarding medicines. Key elements to effective regulation include political will, public support, legislation, and perhaps political activism. A list of countries with strong regulatory authorities, as well as a list of the types of drugs that should not be substituted, is available through the PAHO panelists (pombomar@paho.org).
- An excellent resource for information on generics is the US FDA website. For drugs outside the US, one can look up the primary ingredient of the drug on the FDA website (www.fda.gov/Drugs/default.htm).

Other Matters. The afternoon discussion dealt with a number of matters of concern to various participants. Working groups were established to confer and come up with suggestions for next year's workshop. Issues raised and

working groups formed to investigate them are

- best practices, including grievance procedures;
- medicare;
- governance and politics, including demographics and funding;
- long-term care; and
- communications.

A virtual meeting is to be convened in early 2013 to confer on the progress of the groups.

Workshop 2: Management and Organization of the Associations; Convenor, Hans-Juergen Springer

The retirees' associations (RAs) are of various sizes, have different governance structures, have varied relations with their parent organizations (POs), and offer various services.

Relations with the POs. Two approaches to involvement in decision-making on retiree issues are apparent: (1) negotiating with the PO; and (2) supporting individuals who bring grievance cases (e.g., the 1818 Society provided legal support to a retiree in a case that altered the way the World Bank reimburses Medicare B premiums).

Negotiations with the PO can be categorized in four basic areas: (1) pension; (2) health insurance; (3) grievance procedures; and (4) others—channels of communication, access to the PO building and parking; liaison officers, etc. In summary, (1) POs are reluctant to discuss with RAs; some POs bypass RAs; (2) RAs need to build relationships with their POs to ensure better consultation, especially regarding health insurance and pensions; and (3) RAs need full and formal recognition by POs.

Recommendations are to (1) pursue formal representation on committees discussing issues and policies that directly affect retirees, (2) maintain open channels



AFE-ADB Washington DC chapter coordinator Clay Wescott and other workshop participants.

of communication with relevant PO departments, and (3) strengthen partnerships with staff associations.

Financial and Other Support. Generally, RAs rely on in-kind support from POs; most feel they have adequate support. Recommendations are to (1) demonstrate continued efficiency to save costs; (2) put most information online; and (3) raise awareness in the PO that the RA provides effective services (e.g., reviewing documents affecting retirees, providing speakers, mentoring, and speaking at retirement seminars).

Volunteers and Participation. A small number of members actually participate. Recommendations are to (1) find ways to involve more members through shared interest groups, (2) demonstrate the RAs' convening power, (3) stress affinity among members and past colleagues, (4) participate in knowledge groups with current staff, (5) find a champion, and (6) assign specific tasks to volunteers.

Voice in PO Policies. Questions: How can RAs show value added to the policy-making process? How should they give advice?

Services Offered

- to members include
 - (1) forming local chapters,
 - (2) monitoring pension and health insurance issues,
 - (3) acting as collective and representative voices on behalf of members,
 - (4) providing accounting and tax advice at collective rates, and
 - (5) fostering social activities and knowledge groups; and

- to the PO include (1) volunteering, (2) keeping communications channels with retirees open, (3) mentoring staff, and (4) raising awareness in the POs that RAs provide effective services. ■

Memory Bank

Jill Gale de Villa

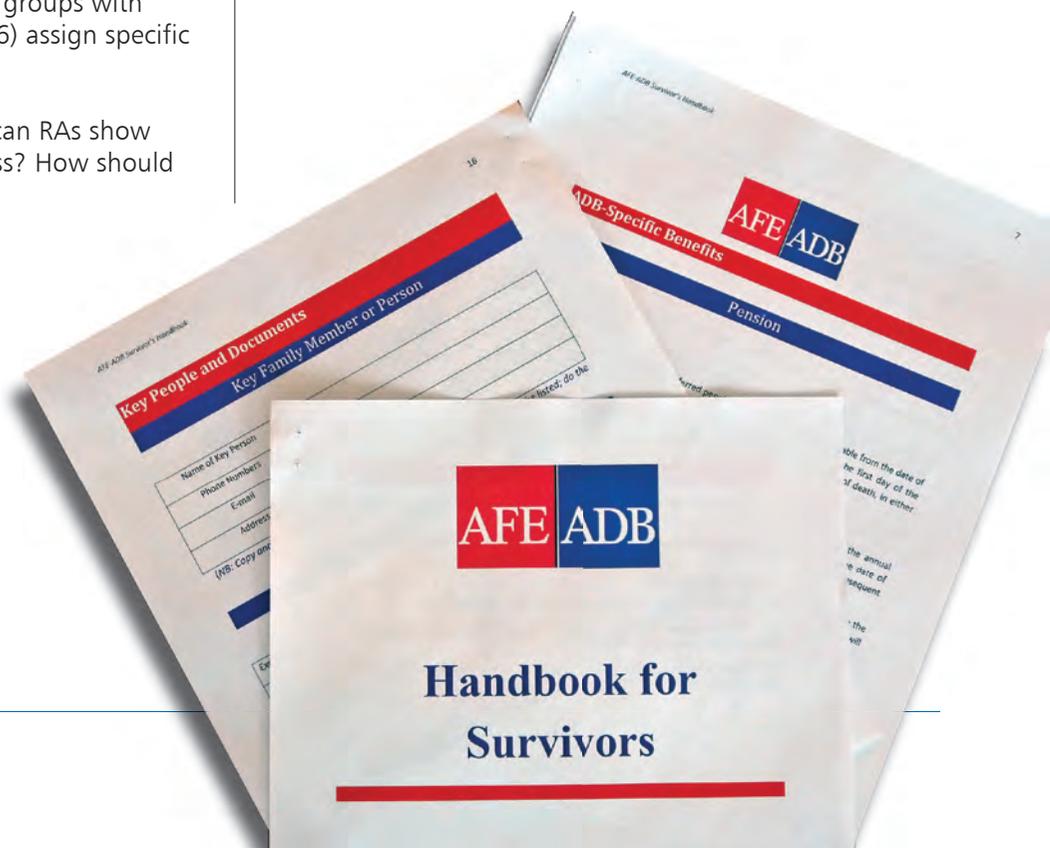
Did you ever wonder: Where did I put that important document? Where did I hide my safe deposit box keys? Where could others find important information if I couldn't provide it to them?

Well, AFE has a solution. It's the *Handbook for Survivors*, and the purpose is to make our lives a bit easier.

It's a catch-all place to keep information such as

- Whom to contact if you have queries about your medical insurance, pension, and the like;
- Who is your (current) lawyer, accountant, dentist, doctor;
- Where you have kept your safe deposit box keys, birth certificate, will, and the like; and
- Where is that other important paper?

Such a "place" is available in hard copy and soft—just e-mail afe-adb@adb.org and ask for a copy of the *Handbook for Survivors*. We recommend the soft copy, because it's in Word and you can change it to meet your specific needs. ■



Chapter Coordinators

Peter Carroll—Australia
 Bruce Murray—Canada
 John Rive—Ottawa
 Fraternidad Rodrigo—Toronto
 Günter Hecker—Europe
 Barindra Ganguli—India
 Dimiyati Nangju—Indonesia
 Tsuneaki Yoshida—Japan
 Yoong Soo Seo—Korea
 John Colin Pratt—New Zealand
 Shahid Mirza—Pakistan
 Gamaliel de Armas, Jr.—Philippines
 Cheng Huat Sim—Singapore
 Ranjith Wirasinha—Sri Lanka
 Ko-Hai Sheng—Taipei, China
 Clay Wescott—Washington DC, US
 Ruth Esmilio—New York–New Jersey, US
 Filonila Martin—Southern California, US

What's New at HQ?

The images show progress on the third atrium.



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 Hans-Juergen Springer
 Ricardo Tan
 Victor The
 Jan van Heeswijck
 Graham Walter



The underpass from the SM Megamall area to the West Core Lobby.

Chapter News

Sri Lanka—Beautiful Meeting and Island

Barin Ganguli (ADB 1979–1995), Ranjith Wirasinha (ADB 1979–1995), and Jill Gale de Villa



Sri Lanka and India Meeting (Barin Ganguli and Ranjith Wirasinha). The AFE–ADB India and Sri Lanka chapters held a joint meeting in Colombo on 27 November 2012. A lot of effort

and innumerable e-mails made it possible. Many visiting participants were billeted at the historic Grand Oriental Hotel in Fort Colombo, where José Rizal, the Philippine national hero, had stayed on his way to Spain. What a start!

Ranjith and Malkanthi Wirasinha had arranged the joint meeting in their tropical tree and spice-scented garden house in the heart of Colombo. Ranjith warmly welcomed all of us, Ramdass Keswani made a humorous and sincere response, and Barin showered profuse thanks on Ranjith and Malkanthi for hosting the joint meeting.

Richard Vokes, who had recently retired as the Country Director of the ADB Sri Lanka Resident Mission, spoke briefly about his tenure in Sri Lanka. Rita O’Sullivan, current ADB country director of the Sri Lanka Resident Mission, shared her experience and gave an account of ADB activities in Sri Lanka, with particular emphasis on gender issues and environment. Jill de Villa, AFE deputy executive secretary, updated those present on activities of AFE and (as requested) described the Handbook for Survivors, a useful tool for collecting important information on pension and many other matters.

The meeting ended by giving the India Chapter the responsibility to hold a similar joint meeting either in Bangladesh or Pakistan. One of the main recommendations of the meeting was that AFE–ADB Manila investigate how to strengthen the chapters by infusion of more funds and increased networking. For a full report, see www.afe-adb.org.



AFE members and spouses present were: **India Chapter:** Krishna and Rajani Bagal, Shyam and Rajni Bajpai, Lata Deshpande, Barin and Shipra Ganguli, Madhav and Sujata Godbole, Malti Kelkar, Ramdass Keswani, Jayanta Madhab, and R and Padma Swaminathan; **Sri Lanka Chapter:** Priya and Shirin Amerasinghe, Sreepali Amerasinghe, Chandhi Chanmugam, Mr and Mrs H.B. Disnayake, Lloyd Fernando, Preminda Fernando, Vatsala Ganeshan, Lakshmi Kumaratunga, Gwen Philips, Minoli de Soysa, Frank and Lilamani Weeraratne, Richard and Sue Vokes, and Ranjith and Malkanthi Wirasinha; **Pakistan Chapter:** Mehboob Alam and Paro Alam; **Headquarters:** Jill Gale de Villa.

Beautiful Island (Jill Gale de Villa). After attending the joint Sri Lanka and India chapter meeting on 27 November 2012, I benefitted tremendously from a tour designed by Barin and facilitated by Ranjith. On the 28th morning, a party (in all its meanings) departed by bus from Colombo, heading north—13 Indians (Krishna and Rajani Bagal, Rajnee and Shyam Bajpai, Lata Deshpande, Shipra and Barin Ganguli, Mahav and Sujatha Godbole, Malti Kelkar, Ramdass Keswani, and Padma and Ramamurthi Swaminathan), our 2 Sri Lankan hosts (Malkanathi and Ranjith Wirasinha), and me. We worked our way north through beautiful countryside, stopping for cashews to munch, although the Indian contingent had brought enough munchies to feed an army on a year's foray. Between that and the wonderful curry meals all along, the trip was a most expansive experience!



One of many delicious meals.

Fortress in the Sky. Our first stop was Lion Rock in Sigiriya. Due to a late arrival, we split into the climbers and the others. The rock has been used by Buddhist monks since about 5 centuries BC. The palaces were built by King Kasyapa (477–495). After his death, the complex reverted to being a Buddhist monastery until the 14th Century.

The more physical among us started the first of many lengthy ticket-purchasings on the tour, and were off with our knowledgeable guide across the partly excavated ancient ruins of moats (one no good for swimming due to presence of crocodiles); swimming pools (now empty); fountains (still functioning after 1,600 years, but at a low level due to the season); and palaces, with many stories of kings, concubines, and the like. Then we commenced the 200-meter ascent, with our guide and a couple of add-on “pushers” and “pullers” who were determined to assure that we achieved the top. On the way we saw and learned about meditation caves, beautiful frescoes, and fantastic views; and then it was up to the summit, where once an immense palace covered its 1.5 hectares. Meanwhile, the more sensible people were learning about the area in the museum.



Lion Rock in Sigiriya: L-r: Jill Gale de Villa, Barin Ganguli, Malkanathi and Ranjith Wirasinha, Shyam and Rajnee Bajpai.

Sacred City. The evening was passed in delightful cottages in a lovely bucolic setting where we could awake to birds at dawn. Then were off to Anuradhapura—the capital following Kasyapa's demise. Barin and Ramdass organized singing, jokes, and storytelling along the 2-hour way.

Anuradhapura is one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities. We toured the more accessible spots of this immense city, including stops at the Bodhi tree that was brought here in about 250 BC and is an offspring of the tree under which Buddha gained enlightenment, and the museum, for some of our own enlightenment. One surprise: a septic system 1,600 years old. We certainly did not have enough time to do this city justice before we had to return to the resort.



Anuradhapura Bodhi Tree.



Ranjini and Krishna's wedding anniversary.

The evening was passed in good fun as we all went to Ramdass' room for cake and refreshment to celebrate Rajani and Krishna's wedding anniversary, paying absolutely no heed to their protestations that they didn't want a party—because we did. I felt transported back to college days, when we held parties in the dorms.

Medieval Capital. On the 30th, we were off to Polonnaruwa, Sri Lanka's capital from the 11th to the early 13th century and the third World Heritage site we were treated to on this trip. We started our tour in its excellent museum, for an overview, and then walked around some of the ruins with a superb local guide. We saw sluice systems that brought water out of the reservoir to the canal in a method so good that modern engineers, on first seeing them, were amazed they could be devised without computers. And of course temples and the remains of palaces and other buildings.



With our guide in front of the Satmahal Prasada (seven-storeyed edifice), circa 12th Century, in Polonnaruwa.

Kandy. Again, not enough time, as we sprinted off to Kandy, stopping along the way at a herb garden for a brief education in herbal medicine and a shopping opportunity. In Kandy we started with a wonderful cultural show (capped by fire dancers), and then went on to the Temple of the Tooth, where we viewed the relic said to be one of Buddha's teeth. At well past 9:00 p.m., we were all grateful for bed.

December 1, our last day, started with a tour of Kandy's fabulous and extensive Botanical Garden, where all the trees are labeled and lovers come to stroll and swoon. The rest of the day was consumed with the long trip back to Colombo. En route, we were fortunate to spot an immense herd of elephants as we went through a national reserve area.

Postscript. The day after the tour, I visited the National Museum and gained a better understanding of the sites we had experienced. The following day I visited Gwen Philips' family's excellent shop and café—Barefoot. Beautiful native products are available, and support craftspeople and the continuation of their arts. Then a final delicious dinner at Priya and Sherine Amerasinghe's before I left for Manila. Sri Lanka beckons me to return. ■

Europe Chapter— Alsation Days

Elizabeth Reyes and Hans-Juergen Springer

Some of us visitors from far away did not know much about Alsace until we visited. We learned that it has been the "in-betweeners"—a mountain region pulled back and forth between Germany and France, the two powerful European neighbors—from the 8th century through the 20th.

We soon discovered that Alsace has developed a separate culture, with its own language, arts, and character. A volatile history has bred this individualistic "tribe" of vibrant, stubborn Alsatians. So, guided by the jolly native patriot, Alain Dick, 62 AFE participants began a 3-day discovery journey to know the Alsatians.

During the chapter's 2011 meeting, Alain, whose wife Sylvia is the former ADB employee, had volunteered to show our culturally oriented group (then partying in Vienna) a personal view of his unique, wine-famous homeland. With energetic help from peripatetic AFE Europe chapter head, Günter Hecker, Alain and his many Alsatian friends unrolled a unique welcome carpet after extensive preparations.



Alain Dick guiding AFE participants.

Mont Ste Odile. The successful 2012 reunion started with the unusual meeting venue—an ancient monastery near the French border. This is Mont Ste Odile, a legendary sanctuary a long hour's drive from Strasbourg. The 12th century monastery sits upon an isolated stone mountain, blessed with 360-degree views into the valley far below. Alain greeted newcomers at the reception and pointed us to the guest rooms overlooking the wide quadrangle or the surrounding valleys.

Later, after we'd found our "old monastery legs," Alain-as-cultural-guide stood in the Porterie entry hall—before a giant medieval tapestry with its horse-riding knights—and relished telling us the story of Mont Ste Odile. The legend is a fascinating medieval tale of a blind daughter of the local king, who had wanted a son. The unwanted Odile was banished from

the kingdom, to live far apart in a forgotten sanctuary. When she was baptized there, Odile miraculously regained her sight, and won the hearts and loyalty of her community. Years later, Odile's younger brother brought her back, which so enraged the king that he killed his son. He then pursued Odile, "but the mountain itself opened up and saved the beloved Odile!" In remorse, he gifted Odile with the stone monastery, where she could build a nunnery and continue charity work for the poor. Later, we visited Odile's stone chapel and silent tomb, and tripped down the mountain to collect some holy water from the natural spring.

We had a varied cultural and culinary tour of Alsace. Every time we piled into the big tour bus, Alain enlightened us with history notes and his consummate pride of country. (As a youth he had acted as a tour-guide to support his studies) "I am so proud to be Alsatian... I could not resist the chance to tell you of Alsace... I wish to show you how history has formed us. We were invaded so much, so we decided to close ourselves off and create our own selves as a separate nation—with our own land, tongue, customs. So now we are very different, with a strong individualist character, and very stubborn!"

Route de Vins d' Alsace. Our first day tour was focused on Alsatian wine awareness. ("Spicy Alsatian wine goes well with spicy Asian food!") First was the village of Riquevir, an impossibly picturesque medieval hamlet with colorful and charming architecture and cobblestones everywhere. Our



local guides were wine maker father and son André and Étienne Hugel, both with an effusive love of tradition and Alsatian individualism. After a village walk laced with many languages, we settled down for lunch in the giant hall of the Klipfel Winery. Our grand luncheon comprised four wines—from Rieslings to Pinot Gris to Gewürztraminer—atop the hefty traditional Alsatian choucroute garnie—a meal of ham, sausages, and sauerkraut. Reeling with Klipfel wine, we toured the nearby Wine Museum with an ancient cellar of giant oak barrels and old bottles.

High mass. The second morning, Sunday, provided purifying time for a high mass in the spacious chapel of Mont Ste Odile. Who can forget the community’s wonderful sung service; the exalting sermon in French; and the several bible readings by two blind parishioners, reminding us of the original blind saint, Odile?



Mosaic inside the chapel of Mont Ste Odile.

Business Meeting. The business meeting of the AFE Europe Chapter, chaired by Günther Schulz, took place immediately after the mass. Naomi Chawkin, resident director general of the European Representative Office



Günter Hecker, Günther Schulz, Hans-Juergen Springer, Europe Regional Office Representative Naomi Chawkin, and Bruce Murray at the business meeting.



Weaponry in Haut Koenigsbourg.

in Frankfurt gave a briefing on recent events at ADB. Hans-Juergen Springer then reported on developments at AFE and on pension matters. Jill Gale de Villa briefed the meeting on ADB’s health plan issues. Günter Hecker touched on ADB’s long-term care insurance, which is very welcome for German retirees, as this kind of insurance is now mandatory in Germany. He also raised the complex issue of taxes on ADB pensions, which differs from country to country. The meeting gladly accepted the invitation from Uwe and Erika Henrich to hold the 2013 AFE Europe reunion in Goslar, a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site in Lower Saxony, Germany, on 13–15 September 2013.

Haut Koenigsbourg. Construction of the Chateau de Haut Koenigsbourg, the medieval Kings’ Castle, started in the 12th century. The castle was to watch over the wine and wheat routes of ancient history. The red sandstone castle was passed down among three great families—the Hofenstaufens, Habsburgs, and Hohenzollerns. The fortress was destroyed during the 30 Years’ War (1633) and abandoned for over 2 centuries. In 1899, Emperor Wilhelm II of Germany decided to rebuild it as a museum to symbolize Alsace’s return to Germany. Restoration started during 1907–1914, but was finished only in the 1990s. Our impassioned guide took us among restored rooms decorated with murals, Renaissance furniture, and fearsome weaponry of the Middle Ages.

Earthy Paradis. In the evening, we dined like kings with ultra-contemporary entertainment in the dazzling Paradis des Sources music hall. While ebullient dancers high-kicked the French Can-Can, accompanied by Alsatian squeals, David Fraser was targeted to dance with the gorgeous blond impersonator.

Strasbourg. Day 3 was for discovering Strasbourg, the capital of Alsace; the official seat of the European Parliament, European Court of Human Rights, and the Council of Europe; and center of modern art life and academic and literary history. An hour's bus ride landed us by a smart white gallery showing the life works of Alsatian graphic artist Tomi Ungerer, in a public museum supported by the state. Ungerer had spent 20 years in the US; came under the influence of Maurice Sendak, the American illustrator of *Where the Wild Things Are*; and produced a satirical "zoo-ful" of human caricatures and animal characters. Alain's friend and museum curator Thérèse Willer explained that the museum "intends to elevate his illustrations into a graphic art—capturing the rebellious Alsatian."

We had a taste of the international civic life during a visit to the Council of Europe (Conseil d' Europe), in the Palais de l'Europe. The Council is the first and most widely based European political organization, established in 1949, now including 47 member states, all tasked to enforce respect for the fundamental values of democracy, human rights and the rule of law. The Council is a forum for voicing the concerns, hopes, and aspirations of 800 million Europeans.



Along Strasbourg's Ill river.

Then came a boat trip on Strasbourg's Ill river.

We found ourselves sitting low on the water, gazing up at the Rococo and Baroque architecture of the elegant old-world town. After the boat ride, a brief walk brought us to a picturesque coffee shop decorated with



Picturesque coffee shop in Strasbourg.

13 stork figures in the window, pinwheels in the plant-boxes, and fine dark coffee, and to the impressive Strasbourg cathedral.

Sélestat. Finally we were guided to La Bibliothèque Humaniste, an ancient gem of a library first built in 1452 in Sélestat. The town has been called the birthplace of books, and its rare collection is considered "the memory bank of the world." In long horizontal glass cabinets, right up close, we saw the earliest handwritten European books from the 7th century, as well as early moveable lead-type books printed by the first movable type press in the 15th century. Alain called Sélestat "the birthplace of humanism" as she produced Alsace's two foremost cultural heroes: Johannes Gutenberg—who built the first movable printing press, based on the design of the Alsace wine-press—and Albert Schweitzer—who spread humanism to the deepest Africa.

In the evening, back at our familiar dining hall in Ste Odile's red sandstone monastery, our farewell get-together concluded a thoroughly satisfying reunion in Alsace, France. ■



The Australia Chapter Reunion 2012

Peter Carroll (ADB 1982–1999)



The Australia Chapter migrated south to Point Lonsdale, on a rocky outcrop at the southeastern end of the Bellarine Peninsula in Victoria, for its 2012 reunion. Historic Point Lonsdale, a popular tourist area, is on the cliffs at the stormy entrance to Port Phillip Bay—an area that has

claimed many lives in its treacherous waters from countless shipwrecks over the years and still requires special pilot boats to carefully guide the many ships that come in and out of the Bay across “the Rip.”

Some 32 happy chapter members and their spouses arrived on Sunday 28 October to stay in the quaint and historic Point Lonsdale Guesthouse, originally built in 1884 to accommodate the nearby lighthouse keeper and his large family.

We had our traditional welcome cocktails, followed by a BBQ dinner of many dishes and salads at picnic tables on the lawn at the back of the guesthouse. I made everyone welcome and then handed the proceedings over to our hosts, John and Beth Thorp. A tired and happy group wended its way back to the rooms after an evening of catching up and renewing old friendships.

Ocean Views. Everyone was up bright and early the next morning for a full hot breakfast before a memorable trip down the very scenic Great Ocean Road as far as Apollo Bay. Here we stopped for a seafood lunch and a stroll along the waterfront before returning along the inland road, skirting the edge of the famous Otway National Park. We stopped at a lookout on the way to have our group photo taken. Some had found the twisting, turning, winding route along the Great Ocean Road not so great for their stability or stomachs and were more than pleased with the much straighter inland way!

In the evening, we went to the historic Queenscliff Inn (in nearby Queenscliff, of course) for a delightful dinner and well lubricated discourse.

Annual General Meeting. Our well-attended Annual General Meeting (AGM) commenced at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday (30 October) morning with the following in attendance: Bob Byrnes, Peter Carroll, Neil Collier, John



The historic Point Lonsdale Lighthouse.

Willy Lim, David Parker, Arnie Parker, Abbas Talib, Paul Turner, Colleen Turner, Pat Talib, Armita Perera, Andrew Proctor, Monique Vochteloo, Beth Hilton-Thorp, Wouter Vochteloo, Chān Carroll, John Thorp, Kerry Long, Joe Rajaratnam, Nolleen Lim, Margaret Rajaratnam, Con Pappas, Sin Yan Tay, Louine Tay, Ann Proctor, Sophie Pappas, Helen Pappas, Peter Carroll, Neil Collier, Indrani Dolswala, Kim Long, and John Ling.





L-r: Peter Carroll, John Ling, Robert Byrnes, John Thorp, John Fyfe, Sin Yan Tay, Abbas Talib, Andrew Proctor, David Parker, Wouter Vochteloo, Kim Long, Willy Lim, Paul Turner, Joe Rajaratnam, Neil Collier, and Con Pappas.

Fyfe, Willy Lim, John Ling, Kim Long, Con Pappas, David Parker, Andrew Proctor, Joe Rajaratnam, Abbas Talib, Sin Yan Tay, John Thorp, Paul Turner, and Wouter Vochtelou.

I (as coordinator) welcomed all to our 7th AGM and especially David Parker (treasurer, AFE-ADB), who had travelled with Arnie all the way from Manila. I noted 32 apologies, then we all stood for a minute's silence in remembrance of those lost in the last year. I then gave a formal report covering many ADB-related issues such as pensions, medical insurance, the review of the Association's Bylaws, membership, etc. in addition to a summary of last year's reunion at Wisemans Ferry and the chapter's activities. I noted that I was unable, at the last minute, to attend ADB's Annual Meeting in Manila, and Bob Byrnes, who kindly represented me there, summarized the outcomes of the Chapter Coordinator's Meeting and subsequent AGM of the Association. There followed a brief report of the chapter's financial situation.

In my final remarks, I thanked all those who had contributed to another successful year of the Australian Chapter, especially John and Beth Thorp for organizing the reunion. John Ling then assumed the chair and conducted the election of the following office-bearers for 2013: Australian Chapter Coordinator—Peter Carroll; Secretary/Treasurer—Con Pappas; Australian Capital Territory—John Ling; New South Wales—Con. Pappas and Alex Gordevich; Queensland—Neil Collier and Phillips Young; South Australia—Sin Yan Tay; and Victoria and rest of Australia—John Thorp.

I then conducted the rest of the meeting, including the business session in which, with the assistance of David Parker, I gave updates on important AFE-ADB issues, answered questions, and dealt with issues raised by the members. It was decided that the 2013 reunion will be held in the warmer north of Australia at Noosa in Queensland, to be hosted by Neil Collier, Indrani Doloswala, and Phil and Sue Young in late September 2013.

Accompanying Persons Tour. While members were busy at our AGM, our partners enjoyed an interesting trip to the old seaside town of Queenscliffe, where they visited historic buildings, browsed in shops, and generally had a relaxing time.

Linking. Immediately following the AGM, a keen group of nine would-be golfers proceeded to the nearby Point Lonsdale Golf Course, the treasurer of which is no other than our old colleague, John Fyfe! We had an enjoyable lunch in the Club House before making our way to the first tee to commence the 7th tournament for the Peter Pattison Memorial Trophy. Playing "Ambrose" in 3 teams of 3, it was a hot and steamy competition, except for the balls that took a dip in the cool waters of the lake beside the 5th. The course is very pretty, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed playing it, with some excellent shots, even from some of the more amateurish members! The final result gave the honors, after a very close finish, to Nolleen Lim, John Fyfe, and Neil Collier (you will, of course, notice the "local knowledge" on that team, but we, all being good sports, did not make an issue of it!).



Peter Carroll with Nolleen Lim, John Fyfe, and Neil Collier.

That evening, we met in the dining room of the Guesthouse at 6.30 p.m. for predinner drinks and canapés leading to our Chapter Annual Dinner in a lovely atmosphere of old charm, warm timber, and a nautical theme. The food was excellent, the bar overflowing, and the company jovial and exuberant. I announced the outcomes of the AGM; summarized our reunion, with gratitude to our hosts, John and Beth Thorp; and awarded certificates to our golfing champions. I then handed the podium over to John and Beth to conduct our first "ADB Trivia" night. This was a most entertaining event, with much banter and laughter, and it was a great way to complete the formalities of our reunion.

With the usual sadness, after breakfast the next morning, we said our farewells and headed off on our individual paths into the future until our next reunion in Queensland in September 2013. ■

Canada: West and Toronto

Bruce Murray (ADB 1980–2007)



The Toronto group, led by the energetic Nida Rodrigo, celebrated 2012 with two breakfast meetings (from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.), fine dining at a sit-down dinner at Il Mulino, a pizza night, and all other excuses to meet—coffee, breakfast, lunch on birthdays—to chat and eat. These get-togethers included cheering on Manny Pacquiao

and Crispin Duenas, the son of Helen Duenas (formerly of Operations Department) when he represented Canada in archery at the London Olympics. At some of these gatherings friends met for the first time in 20 or so years.

AFE Canada West had two reunions in 2012. Dick and Leslie Gold graciously opened their home to host a brunch that lasted until late afternoon on 11 November. It was attended by nearly all AFEers living on Vancouver Island, except those who had left for warmer climates to avoid the Canadian winter.

Ex-ADB staff living in Vancouver enjoyed renewing acquaintances and catching up on the news while dining at the buffet at the River Rock Casino on 17 November. The event was well attended and judged to be a success by all.

Unfortunately, the Canada chapter lost three members in 2012—John Cole, who was the heart and soul of AFE Canada as the chapter coordinator for

many years; Joe Landriault, former deputy director in BPMSD; and Jim Sparrow, ADB’s first Canadian young professional. The Vancouver dinner included two quizzes in memory of John.

During the year, material was circulated to AFE Canada members on the legal basis of the tax-free status of the ADB pension in Canada; information on donating to Kaibigan in memory of John Cole; and updates on the status of the ADB pension, health insurance issues including the need to get the CIGNA card to replace the old Vanbreda card, particularly for those planning on travelling to the United States; information on the successful ADB meeting in Manila; and the appointment of ADB’s new vice-president. ■



Vancouver Island AFE Brunch. Back, l–r: Bruce Murray, Leslie Gold, Richard Marshall, Dick Gold, Ian Robertson and Alex Jorgenson. Front: Karol Charleson, Ann Porter, Sharon Marshall, Emma Murray, Laura Jorgenson, and Paddy Shuster.



Vancouver AFE Dinner. Back, l–r: Christina and Bill Fraser, Fremma Esquejo, Angelita Celestino, Lenn Castro, Bruce Murray, Carmen Lanzador, Marites Sumagui with her children Nerian and Jeremiah Sumagui, Lew Hayashi, Jenny Majarreis, Vir Majarreis, Jacinto Dimailig, Nemy Esquejo (back) and Loi Dimailig; Front: Emma Murray and Rey Castro. Not shown: Ed Lanzador, Barbara Palacios, and Nelson Sumagui (photographer).

Indonesia: Chapter Report for 2012

Dimiyati Nangju (ADB 1978–2001)

Ed: The following is excerpted from the full report. Dimiyati Nangju remains chapter coordinator, as his replacement has not been found.



2012 Activities Social and Business Meetings.

To discuss business matters and promote closer relationships among members, the Indonesian Chapter organized three social/business meetings during 2012. The first was featured in issue #41 of the AFE–ADB News. The second was held on 16 September at the Java Restaurant,

Intercontinental Hotel, Jakarta, hosted by Amal A. Sidarto. The participants enjoyed a wide variety of delicious food served at the restaurant. The main issue discussed was the report I presented on the results of the Chapter Coordinators' Meeting and the Annual General Meeting in May 2012 in Manila. In addition, the meeting discussed the preparations for the Annual General Meeting of the Indonesian Chapter in December. The third meeting was the Annual General Meeting, on 2 December at the Paregu Restaurant in Pondok Indah, Jakarta. The meeting discussed the Annual Report for 2012, and the election of the chapter coordinator and secretary–treasurer. Hans Springer, AFE's executive secretary, came from Manila to attend.

2012 Annual General Meeting 2012. My wife and I attended the ADB Annual Meeting and the AFE–ADB Chapter Coordinators' Meeting and Annual General Meeting in Manila on 2–4 May 2012. Meeting highlights were reported in AFE–ADB News No. 41.

Membership. The Indonesian Chapter gained one new member in 2012, Edy Brotoisworo, and lost one member, Roslaini Rasuman, who returned to Manila with her husband. The number of members thus remains at 45.

Support to Poor Students in Bandung. The meeting on 8 April decided that the chapter would contribute Rp3 million to 60 poor and/or orphaned students in Bandung through Keluarga Pensiunan Arcamani Endah (Retired Family of Arcamanik Endah or KPAA), headed by Anna Soerakoesoemah. This was the third tranche of support provided by the chapter to the KPAA.

Financial Performance. Total income in 2012 amounted to Rp6,339,000, comprising dues of Rp3 million and the rupiah equivalent of the \$371 ADB subsidy. During the same period, total expenditure was Rp6,902,695, comprising the costs of fruit baskets to members in hospital, the KPAA contribution, and the cost of the Annual General Meeting in December 2011. The balance as of 2 December 2012 was Rp4,239,695: a decline of Rp653,371 from December 2011.

Major Issues

Future of the Chapter While we have been successful in developing and maintaining an active and growing chapter for the last 30 years, the future looks gloomy. Since I took over the leadership of the chapter in May 2001, the membership



Front, l-r: Ida de Ponteves, Liedya Kosinda, Nora Nangju, Anna Soerakoesoemah, Tuti Kaswadi, Sonya Rahardjo, Tutty Cagayat, and Laksmningsih Munandar. Back, l-r: Benny Kosinda, Edi Kaswadi, Michel de Ponteves, M.M. Soerakoesoemah, Hans-Juergen Springer, Dimiyati Nangju, Pamoedjo Rahardjo, and Tardi Wardono.

increased from 10–12 to more than 45, and the chapter’s activities increased from one meeting a year to more than three, with meetings held in various cities, including Jakarta, Bogor, Sentul City, and Bandung. During the last 11 years, I have represented the chapter at most Coordinators’ Meetings and Annual General Meetings organized by AFE Manila at my cost and have played an active role solving major issues and problems affecting AFE–ADB.

Now I have decided to resign for three reasons: (1) my long service to AFE–ADB as chapter coordinator, (2) the need to promote the sustainability of the Indonesia Chapter, and (3) my disappointment with decisions by AFE–ADB Manila on major issues.

In recent years, the chapter members’ interest to participate in AFE activities has declined significantly as many active older retirees have passed away, many newly retired Indonesian professional staff members have not returned to Indonesia, and only about 20 of our current members are actively involved in chapter activities.

I believe that for our chapter to be sustainable, we must change our leadership from time to time.

In addition, I disagree with fellow chapter coordinators and the executive secretary on major issues affecting our association, including the roles of the chapter coordinators and the executive secretary; and the use of AFE’s reserve funds, which I believe should be partly available to the chapters, whereas other coordinators prefer to retain the current arrangements.

Future Plan. The Indonesia Chapter will need to consider whether it should continue to implement the same program in 2013 as in the past years or adopt a more modest program of activities. ■

Korea Chapter

Yoong Soo Seo (ADB 1983–2002)



The AFE–ADB Korea Chapter had another memorable gathering and annual meeting on the evening of 6 December 2012 at the Grand Hyatt Seoul on the hill looking down on the Gangnam area across the Han River—the venue of the currently world-famous song “Gangnam style.”

All 28 members and spouses attended.

After the welcome cocktails and snacks, an official business meeting followed. The president reported on activities during 2012, together with the results of the AFE–ADB Annual Meeting held in Manila on 2–3 May 2012. Participation in the next Annual Meeting, to be held in New Delhi, India, was strongly encouraged.

Since the 2-year term of the presidency of the Korea Chapter had expired, the election of a new president was necessitated. The meeting unanimously reelected Yoong Soo Seo as the president-cum-country coordinator, and Kyun Tai Seol and Moon Soo Chung as vice presidents for a 2-year term.

While participants were enjoying food and wine, the latest news of ADB, especially concerning the Korean community in ADB, was exchanged. As a special event, a Filipino band and singing group was invited to sing famous Filipino songs to make the gathering more special and memorable for all participants. ■



Korea Chapter. Front, l-r: Mr Dong Ho Park, Mrs Young-Ja Lee Seol, Mrs Suk-Ok Chung, Mrs Wonja-Song Lee, Mrs Sang Hee Kim, Mrs Homoon Youn, Mrs Heja Lee Chung, Mrs Suk Hee Kim, Mrs Kyung-Ae Kim, Mrs Jeong Yeon Lee; Back, l-r: Mr Woo-Suk Kim, Mr Hwa-Jin Youn, Mr Yoong Soo Seo, Mr Jeung-Hyun Yoon, Mr Hyung-Sup Shim, Mr Dong-Kyu Shin, Mr Bong-Suh Lee, Mr Woo Chull Chung, Mr Myoung Ho Shin, Mr Moon-Soo Chung, Mr Kyun-Tai Seol, Mr Chong Serp Chung, Mr Cheol-Kyu Park, Mr Dal Hyun Kim, Mr Yun-Hwan Kim, Mr Jeong Yeon Lee.

Dragon Night in New York and New Jersey

Anisa Y. Jameson (ADB 1968–1978)



Anisa Jameson and Oscar Colmenar.

In keeping with the spirit of 2012, which, in the Chinese calendar, is the year of the dragon, the annual reunion of the New York–New Jersey chapter had the mythical creature as the theme of the evening. The party was held on October 27th at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Secaucus, New Jersey.

At 6 o'clock, the reception table was set up for the "greeters" and "welcomers" of attendees. Pretty soon guests started arriving, some in groups, others with their spouses/partners, all looking forward to another fun-filled enjoyable night. Delighted screams and laughter punctuated the occasion as old friends boisterously greeted each other and reconnected the bond they had forged

within the halls of ADB so many years ago. Memories were rekindled and ignited as the years fell away as if everything happened only yesterday. This is what a reunion of old friends and former ADB colleagues is all about.

Oscar Colmenar, the designated chair of this year's get-together, was busy going around, seeing to it that things were moving along according to plan, and that everyone was having a great time. He was ably assisted by Emma Dimalag, Chat Cortes, and Meditte Ulnagan. The food was sumptuous, the music infectious and irresistible for dancing (thanks to DJ Ging and Ben), and one couldn't find better company for the evening.

An up-and-coming Filipina soprano, Katrina Saporsantos, wowed the audience with her rendition of "Prayer" and a popular Tagalog song "Walang Hanggan." The organizing committee had also invited the Philippine Deputy Consul General Tess de Vega, and her husband Ed, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations, to the occasion. Tess praised the group for their remembering their ties with the motherland and renewing the spirit of ADB every year.

A contest for the best flower centerpiece arrangement was won by Nena Villena-Tañedo. Jill Gale de Villa, the AFE deputy executive secretary, updated us on AFE matters and invited us to next year's ADB annual meeting to be held in Delhi, India.

The dance contest between the young ones (Aaron Ulnagan) and the once young (Diane Venegas and Nena Villena-Tañedo) blew the night away.

The usual Washington, D.C. group drove the miles to reunite with their old friends in the NY–NJ area. I was happy to see my dear friends Tita Acupanda, who had



retired in North Carolina, and Jo Yabes-Smith, who took time off from babysitting her grandkids. Precy Lizarondo, Meditte Ulnagan, Cel Argayaso, Gilda Ordoñez-Baric, Lisa Lacerona, and Diane Venegas, who are working in the World Bank Group, danced the night away. Among the ex-ADDBers that I spotted were Cholly Mauricio, Mila Simolde, Lou Almazora, Nannette Amorado, Margie Baccay, Tina Aquino, Dads and Beth Cardenio, Zeny Castro, Lorna del Rosario, Sophie Marquez, Elenita

Mignini, Ditas Miranda, Vivian Villanueva, Eunice Tusalem, Lazaro de la Cruz, Frank Berena, and Toti Torrelino. Precy Mallari-Andrews brought along with her the official photographer of the event.

Next year Margie Baccay and Nannette Amorado will head the main committee for organizing the reunion party. It is hoped that other AFE members from several places in the US and Canada will travel the distance to join in the annual fun and festivities of NY–NJ Chapter. ■

Philippine Chapter 2012 Get-Together

Gam de Armas (ADB 1981–2000)



Philippine Chapter members started to register as early as 4 p.m., eager to exchange notes with former colleagues and to ensure they get their souvenir photos taken at the photo booth. November 22 marked the chapter’s annual get-together held at ADB Headquarters’ EDR, which also marked Thanksgiving Day in the US.

As Philippine Chapter coordinator, I called the business meeting to order at 5:20 p.m. After the welcome of new

members and a minute of silent prayer for the 7 members who passed away in 2012, Hans-Juergen Springer gave the AFE–ADB executive secretary’s address and report. He mentioned the new chapters and the ongoing work on the draft of the proposed amendments to AFE’s bylaws. Jill Gale de Villa, AFE–deputy executive secretary came next and apprised the body of matters taken up during the recent workshops of the associations and alumni of international organizations and important developments on health insurance. I gave an update focusing on the 45th ADB Annual Meeting and AFE–ADB’s 26th Annual General Meeting held in Manila.

And then came the singing of “Top of the World” by the 149 members and guests with some lyrics of the hit song changed to show the retirees’ ADB experience, followed by picture taking by participants’ geographical areas of residence.

With good food and a lively program arranged by this year’s host, the West Group headed by Julie Guevara, Rory



Seated, L-r: Nestor Diasanta, Larry dela Cruz, Jo Javier, Gam de Armas, Baby Bolano, Jill Gale de Villa. Standing, L-r: Lina Garduque, Katie Blanco, Susie Sabarre, Bebsy Gamboa, Nora Nocon, Carmen Bontia, Lou de Belen, Liza Vitangcol, Lita Gamboa, Ched Raña, Lilia Malaqui, Marynella Cruz, Rosie Luistro, Raquel de Leon, and Yoly Asuncion.



Seated, l-r: Carmen Dimayuga, Nilda Ocampo, Andrea Carlos. Standing, l-r: Leony Francisco, Oskee Nuñez, Tess Redito, Rosa Misa, Daisy de Chavez, Cynthia Diaz, Sonia Ganal, Vangie Mendoza, Peter Aguilar, and Nenita Nuñez.



Emelita Taylor, Rory Aragon, Letty Legisma, Eva Barcelona, Julie Guevarra, Tessie Rivera, and Mirla Limpo.

Aragon, and Eva Barcelona, the Philippine Chapter Annual Get-together was another fun-filled night. Other members of the host group were Letty Legisma, Mirla Limpo, Layda Llamanzares, Tessie Rivera, and Emy Taylor. A beautiful backdrop was designed by Jose Lorenzo Taylor, Emy Taylor's son.

True to the theme "Dress Up Your Jeans and Win a Prize," Raquel de Leon, Cynthia Diaz, and BJ Elizaga emerged as the winners with their dressed-up jeans and matching tops. Members danced the night away with music provided by a one-man band amid the awarding of raffle prizes to spice up the night. With no group dance competition this year, each of the four groups presented a song number. The needle threading contest was won by the South Group with the most number of needles threaded in 3 minutes. Lucky lady of the night was Emy Taylor, who won a 3-day 2-night stay for two at Residencia de Boracay courtesy of Vicky Lou Labios. ■

Visit <http://afe-adb.org>

Philippines: Bonding in the East (Group)

Marissa del Castillo (ADB 1979–2004)



Planning. This East Group bonding, a brainchild of Raquel Cabiles, AFE–ADB Philippine Chapter East Group's lead coordinator, started with an e-mail she sent to area coordinators about the quarterly activities planned for 2013. The first activity was a day of bonding in January, since we didn't have an event last Christmas. The event was a potluck merienda cena, 1–5 p.m. on Saturday 12 January, open to spouses and children. The Angono–Antipolo–Binangonan–Montalban–San Mateo (AABMS) group spearheaded the activity. I, Ben Hombre, and Tony Riego, the coordinators for AABMS, happily accepted the challenge.

The AABMS coordinators and Annette, Tony's daughter, surveyed venues in Antipolo and decided on the Crestview Clubhouse, which is very near Ben's residence in Crestview Village. The AABMS coordinators then contacted other East Group area coordinators for attendees, food, and other arrangements.

Gathering. By 1 p.m., Ben was at the clubhouse greeting each participant. The early birds—Lina Ledesma, Aida Mortell, Fe Sebastian, and I—helped set up, while Raquel took charge of registration and giving raffle numbers.

We munched on cashew nuts while waiting for the arrival of other attendees. Then we had mangga't bagoong (mango and fermented fish paste) as our appetizer. For



Yoly Leones, Marissa Espiritu, Marie Tordecillas, and Margie Enriquez enjoying the sumptuous meal.

merienda, we had pancit sotanghon and pancit Malabon, siomai, lumpiang Shanghai, pork barbecue, dinuguan, and Shepherd's pie. For dessert there were assorted fruits, bibingka, suman, maja blanca, cassava cake, puto, and buco salad. There were also bottles of happiness (Coke, of course, Royal Tru-Orange, Sprite, and root beer); red wine; and cans of San Mig Light. It was a real feast.

The day was drizzly, but the gloomy weather could not compete with the sunny disposition of the 51 attendees: "Hi," "hello," "glad to see you," never-ending chitchat, catching up, laughter, sumptuous food shared and enjoyed together. Words are not enough to describe the camaraderie, the joy of being together, and the fun experienced by everyone that afternoon. Jo Arana, Midi Kawashima, and Ed Santos captured these happy moments with their cameras—stolen shots, pretend stolen shots, posed shots, and shots choreographed by Logee Tiamson on his videocamera.

Living it Up. Caught on camera were fun games in which most of us participated, and the clubhouse came alive with the group's singing and dancing. Merry songs were If We Could Hold on Together, Build Me Up Buttercup, Paper Roses, Sad Movies, Dancing Queen, and Top of the World. Edith Okada wowed us with her singing. Other songbirds were Jo Arana, Esther de la Cruz, Ophie Iriberry, Mina

Jacinto, Lina Ledesma, Yoly Leones, and Luz Sanchez.

The "young enough" danced to the tune of the famous K-pop



The dancing queens and kings.

Gangnam Style. Later, we saw on Facebook pictures of the dancing queens—Susan Francisco, Yoly, Ophie, Aida Mortell, Marissa Espiritu, Eva Perez, Vagie Leon, Eufie Vicalal, and Tina Asilom; and the dancing kings—Ben Hombre, Arnold Jalandoni, and Noel Diaz.

Mon Reyes, Tony Riego, Raquel Cabiles, and Annie Butial, a balikbayan guest, donated prizes and gifts for the games and raffle. Cash gifts were from Aida Mortell and Chato Ledoñio O'Buckley, another balikbayan who came all the way from Las Piñas with Medy Hain and Mon Reyes. We were 51 in all—and who won the grand cash prize of \$20? The 51st attendee, Danny Santos.

Time swiftly passed and before we knew it, it was almost 5 in the afternoon, time to part with a promise to have another get-together soon. ■

Front row, l-r: Cris Lardizabal, Eva Perez, Lina Ledesma, Marissa Espiritu, Larry dela Cruz, Arnold Jalandoni. Second row, seated, l-r: Luz Sanchez, Esther dela Cruz, Tina Asilom, Midi Kawashima, Mina Jacinto, Margie Enriquez, Annie Butial, Raquel Cabiles, Marissa del Castillo. Third row, standing, l-r: Edith Okada, Josie Hombre, Chato O'Buckley, Mayette Domingo, Vagie Collanto-Leon, Susan Francisco, Eufie Vicalal, Ophie Iriberry, Ester Vergel de Dios with grandson Jacob, Fe Sebastian, Ada Santos, Robert Monroy, Logee Tiamson. Fourth row, standing, l-r: Tony Riego, Aida Mortell, Yoly Leones, Randie Marquez, Penny Laquindanum, Florinda Santos, and Noel Diaz.



Washington, DC Area

Clay Wescott (ADB 1998–2006)

The second 2012 get-together of the Washington, DC AFE-ADB Chapter convened at Clay and Alison Wescott's home on Friday, 28 October, just 2 days before Hurricane Sandy struck the area. Along with the usual snacks, drinks, and conversation, there were brief talks by Hans Springer, AFE-ADB executive secretary; Jill de Villa, deputy executive secretary; and Alessandro Pio, NARO resident director general.

The next get together of the DC group is tentatively scheduled for June 2013. More information will be provided through the DC Chapter's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/109347562465940/> and list serve. ■



L-r: Per Bastoe, Graham and Yvonne Colin-Jones, and Clay Wescott.

L-r: Richard and Mrs. Burcroff, Thelma Diaz, Yoko Enomura, and Kenneth King.

Canada: Ottawa–Montreal Area

John Rive (ADB 1978–2002)



The Ottawa–Montreal area Almost Annual Dinner was held at the Ogilvie Mandarin

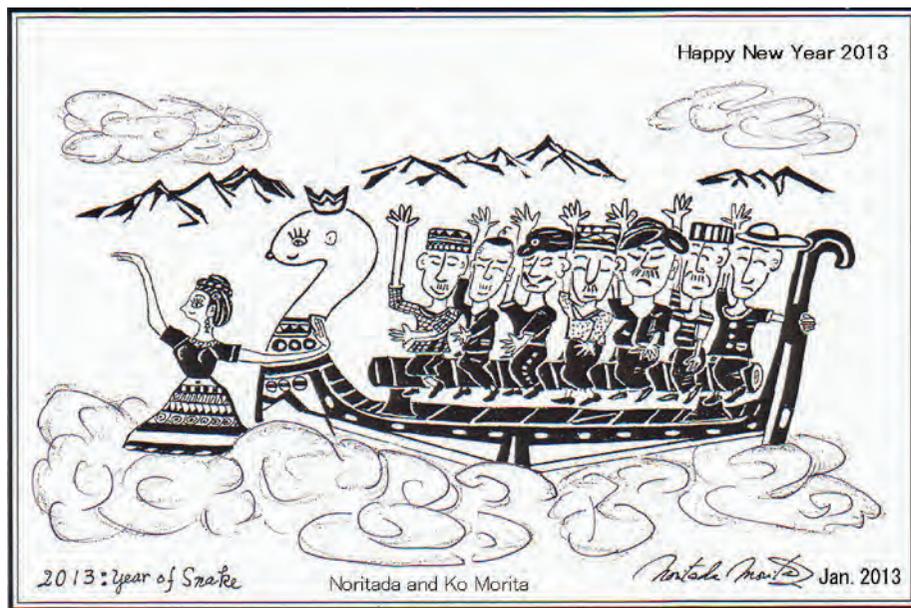
Restaurant in Ottawa on 26 October 2012 and included Mariam Pal from Montreal, first time guest Leonel Molina-Irias and his wife (not in the photograph), and Annie Bugial, visiting from Washington. ■



Canada Ottawa. Back, l-r: John Rive, Leonel Molina-Irias, Alan Gill, Ken McNeely, Tony Burger, Emile Gauvreau, Ian Wright, Robert Collette, Marilyn Collette, Nihal Kappagoda, Mariam Pal, Farrokh Kapadia; Front, l-r: Pam Deacon, Helen McNeely, Jeanette Rive, Sevilla Gill, Rita Kapadia, Subadra Kappagoda, and Annie Bugial

People, Places, and Passages

Drawing in the New Year



Welcoming the Year of the Snake.

A Memorable Trip to Europe

Bruce Murray (ADB 1980–2007) and Emma Murray (1991–2001)



Bruce and Emma with Jose Rizal in Heidelberg.

In September 2012, we had a memorable trip to France and Germany that was planned to coincide with (and bracket) the AFE European Chapter meeting in Alsace.

Luxembourg. After flying to Frankfurt, we took a train through the picturesque Rhine and Moselle river valleys to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, one of Europe's smallest countries.

A hop-on-hop-off bus tour revealed Luxembourg as a banking center and the headquarters of European institutions like the European Court of Justice, the European Investment Bank, and the European Parliament. However, most of our time was spent exploring the old city, a UNESCO Cultural World Heritage site.

The old city is dominated by one of the most important fortresses in Europe between the 16th century and 1867. The emperors of the Holy Roman Empire, the House of Burgundy, the Habsburgs, kings of Spain and France, and the Prussians occupied it. Wandering through the old city we saw the palace of the Head of State, His Royal Highness Grand Duke Henri; the Chamber of Deputies (Luxembourg's Parliament); the Cathedrale Notre-Dame de Luxembourg; the Place de la Constitution; and the Gëlle Fra (Golden Lady), the memorial to those who perished in Luxembourg's wars.

The wonderful Musee Nationale d'Histoire et d'Art includes artifacts from the pre-Roman area, an enormous mosaic and other relics from Roman times, and more modern displays and art.

Heidelberg. After the AFE reunion we had a delightful drive along secondary roads with Günter and Enrie Hecker to Heidelberg, Günter’s hometown. In one of the villages, we stopped for a typical palatinate lunch of “Pfälzer Saumagen,” the dish all visitors to the region of former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl have to endure, including Mikhail Gorbachev and his late wife Raisa and George Bush Sr.

Heidelberg is one of the most popular tourist destinations in Germany. Heidelberg Castle, one of Germany’s most famous ruins, is more than 5 centuries old, dating from the Renaissance. The breathtaking view from it includes the city, the Neckar River and its bridges, and the wooded scenery on the other side of the river. The castle has the world’s largest wine vat, built in 1751; its capacity is equivalent to about 279,000 bottles. In days gone by, wine growers paid their taxes by delivering wine to the castle.



Emma, Enrie, Günter, and Bruce inside the Heidelberg Castle standing in front of Perkeo, the custodian of the world’s biggest wine barrel. Legend has it that he died after they tricked him into drinking plain water from a wine glass.



Heidelberg Castle.



Charming old town Heidelberg.

Our next stop was the charming old town. Among the high points were coffee and cakes at an outdoor café, Bismarckplatz, churches, and Germany’s oldest university (established in 1386). We also saw some of Günter’s haunts from his youth—his high school and university. Of particular interest was a place where Günter led a student protest in the 1960s. His father was the chief of the police detachment sent out to clear the University president’s office, which was occupied by an unruly group of protesting students. Finding his son there in the front row, he told his men that Günter would be the first student to be removed!

Günter and Enrie took us to see the statue of Friedrich Hecker (1811–1881) and the castle where Friedrich’s father was an administrator for the reigning prince. Friedrich was elected to the Second Chamber of Baden in 1842, started the fight against the feudal government for democracy and abolishment of the privileges of the noble class, and led an unsuccessful armed revolt in 1848/49 in southern Germany. Friedrich Hecker had a hat named after him, the “Heckerhut,” which became a famous symbol of middle classes in revolt. He was forced to emigrate to the United States, where he settled as a farmer in Illinois. He then led a military contingent of German settlers on the side of the Union troops during the American Civil War. Friedrich



Bruce and Günter at a statue of the Heckerhut – note Günter’s hat!

Hecker is possibly a distant ancestor of Günter, so at least we know that Günter came by his youthful rebellious activities legitimately, being passed down through the generations!

Heidelberg has a strong connection with Dr. José

Rizal, the Philippines' national hero. Rizal lived in and around Heidelberg in 1886 and completed his ophthalmological studies at the University Eye Clinic. On the Philosopher's Walk, across the Neckar River from the Castle, Rizal met Karl Ullmer, the Protestant pastor of the neighboring village of Wilhelmsfeld, who was surprised that this "Malay," while not speaking German, could converse fluently in both Greek and Latin. Pastor Ullmer invited Rizal to his home, and a strong friendship developed. At Pastor Ullmer's house, Rizal wrote his famous poem "A las Flores de Heidelberg" (to the flowers of Heidelberg) and completed the last few chapters of *Noli Me Tangere*, which became a spark of the Philippine Revolution by exposing the oppressive rule of the Spanish and the monastic orders. Rizal's house and a park dedicated to him are well-preserved memorials in Heidelberg. Günter knows one of the descendants of Pastor Karl Ullmer, who is a member of the Wilhelmsfeld-Heidelberg Knights of Rizal and was on the committee that oversaw the renovation of the Rizal Park.

Stuttgart. We said goodbye to Günter and Enrie at the train station in Mannheim and, after a short train ride, we were in Stuttgart to visit friends we had met in Beijing. Stuttgart houses the corporate headquarters of Mercedes Benz. In addition to exploring Stuttgart's city center, we spent several hours at the very interesting Mercedes Benz

museum, which traces its development from the invention of the first one stroke engine in the late 1890s through to today. We learned two particularly interesting tidbits of



On Jose Rizal Street outside the house where he lived in Heidelberg.



A very early Mercedes Benz.

information: First, the company Daimler Benz resulted from a bank-forced merger of two pioneers in the early German car industry—the Daimler and Benz motor vehicle companies—in 1926. Second, Mercedes was the daughter of Emil Jellinek, an Austrian businessman who became one of the first large automobile dealers for Benz. He liked to race cars at an annual completion in Nice in the very early 1900s and was constantly asking the Benz Company to make a faster car. He finally won the race and named the car after his daughter, Mercedes, who never learned to drive. Our friends dropped us off at the Stuttgart train station to start our train and plane journey back to Vancouver. ■

Annie Ties the Knot

Ed: I heard rumors that our Annie Yacub Romero had married, and checked. Her reply is below. I had the great pleasure of seeing the happy couple at the NY–NJ Chapter reunion on 26 October 2012.

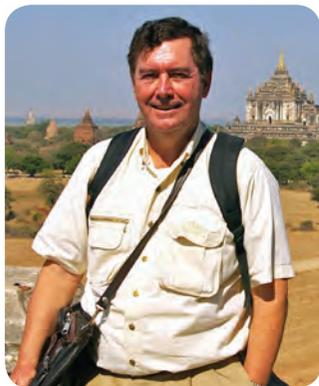


I did get married, to a Canadian, Ron Jameson, a long-time on-and-off boyfriend for more than 30 years. The wedding was a quiet and simple ceremony, which makes me Mrs. Jameson now. Foremost of course is the love we have for each other, which only grows stronger as we grow older. We consider ourselves truly blessed and lucky to have each other at this stage of our lives, and are determined to make the most of it in our twilight years. Also, we are both retirees and it makes sense to pool our resources and live more comfortably together. After all, two can live as cheaply as one, right?

We decided to live in Canada, because Ron's kids and grandkids are here, and hopefully they can occasionally look out for us as we approach old age. Ron can also work part-time as a consultant to keep busy and productive. Ron and I are looking forward to enjoying our marriage and life together for as long it takes in this ephemeral and unpredictable world. ■

Adventure in Myanmar

John Kuiper (ADB 1991–2004)



After my early retirement from ADB in March 2004, I spent several months in Europe and 3 months traveling around Southeast Asia the following winter and then settled in Vancouver, Canada in April 2005. But I still like to travel and have made regular trips back to the Philippines and other parts of Asia every year

in the winter months, when the weather there is much better than in Vancouver. The list of places and countries I have visited since retirement is long and has included many interesting adventures. This note focuses on a trip in January 2010 to Myanmar, a country that not many people have seen yet. It is an interesting and fascinating country with a rich cultural history, many attractions, and friendly people, and it is receiving much more attention now with the recent political reforms.

This was my fifth trip to Myanmar. I joined a small

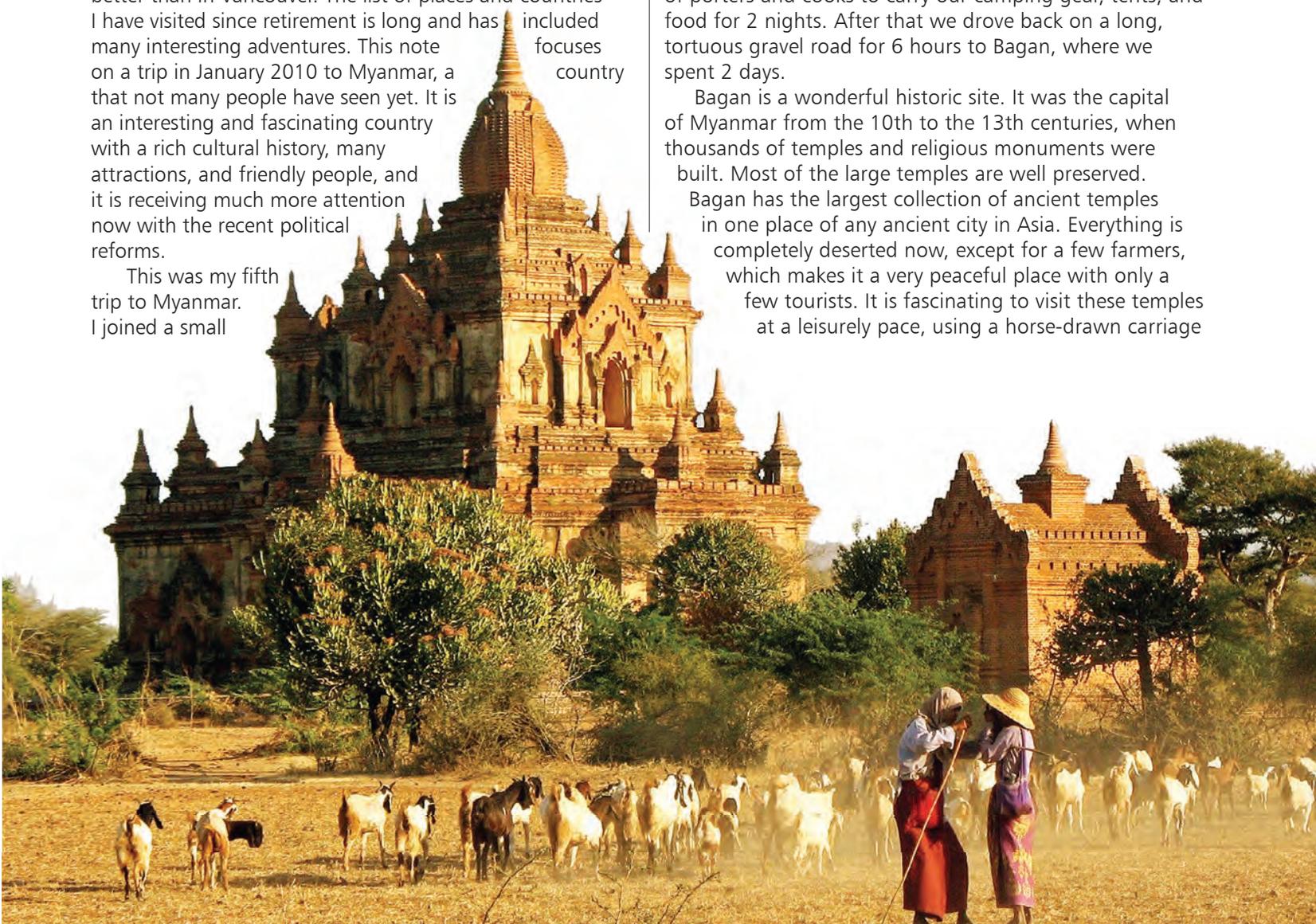
organized adventure tour group for the first 12 days, that was billed as a Burmese Hill Tribe Trek. The group included 10 seasoned world travelers, all expats who had spent many years in Asia. We started in Yangon, where the main sight is the famous Shwedagon stupa, the largest and most revered in the country. The entire surface is covered in gold foil.

From Yangon we flew to Bagan, and the same day crossed the Irrawady River in a small boat and made a 6-hour road trip west in jeeps to Mindat, a hill station town near Mount Victoria. We spent 4 days trekking around there, and visited several small hill tribe villages where the Chin people still live a very simple traditional lifestyle. Travel here requires a special permit, and very few tourists pass through. The Chin villages reminded me of some Ifugao villages in the mountains of Luzon. The Chin women love to smoke their pipes, and many have tattoos covering their faces. Who needs fancy expensive cosmetics that have to be washed off every evening and reapplied again in the morning!?

Our trek continued with a long hike to the top of Mt. Victoria (over 3,000 meters), accompanied by a small army of porters and cooks to carry our camping gear, tents, and food for 2 nights. After that we drove back on a long, tortuous gravel road for 6 hours to Bagan, where we spent 2 days.

Bagan is a wonderful historic site. It was the capital of Myanmar from the 10th to the 13th centuries, when thousands of temples and religious monuments were built. Most of the large temples are well preserved.

Bagan has the largest collection of ancient temples in one place of any ancient city in Asia. Everything is completely deserted now, except for a few farmers, which makes it a very peaceful place with only a few tourists. It is fascinating to visit these temples at a leisurely pace, using a horse-drawn carriage





Tattooed Chin woman.



Monastery at Inle Lake.

as I did, and to wander among them and wonder about the ancient empire that built them and then vanished.

Many of the temples are awe inspiring and colossal. The Gawdaw Palin Temple shown here is 60 meters high, as much as a 20-storey building, and is 800 years old. How many 20-storey buildings in Manila or New York will still be standing in 800 years? And some of the statues within are equally impressive. The standing Buddha statue in the famous Ananda Temple, carved from teakwood and covered with lacquer and pure gold foil, is more than 900 years old, is 9.5 meters tall, and towers over visitors and worshippers. The dedication of this ancient civilization to Buddhist worship and to the construction of so many huge and long-surviving temples and monuments is amazing, especially considering the relatively simple technology they had available then.

From Bagan we flew to Kalaw in Shan State to start a 3-day trek to Inle Lake, accompanied again by porters, cooks, and camping gear. Several ethnic groups live in that area, each with its own distinct dress. The main groups are the Shan, the Karen, and the Pa O. Life is simple and living standards low, but people appear to be content nevertheless.

We arrived at Inle Lake on foot, and after a rest boarded some boats for a ride to our lodge, which was built on posts over the lake. We spent 3 days at Inle Lake, where all traffic moves by boat and there is not a car in sight. The pace of life there is slow: no TV with worrisome news of problems and disturbances, or internet, or even telephone service to distract and bother you. It's a wonderful place to relax and visit some interesting old Buddhist monasteries and stupas, as well as the local weekly market filled with lots of local color and some handicrafts. When you get hungry or thirsty, there are a few laid-back

restaurants along the waterfront to provide meals or refreshments with a view.

From Inle Lake we flew back to Yangon, where the group tour ended. After a few days there, I flew to Thandwe to spend 3 days at Sandoway beach (aka Ngapali beach), the most famous beach in Myanmar. This is a magnificent 3 kilometer long beach with clean white sand, lined with palm trees, but only a few resorts and very few tourists. It will become more developed as tourism increases. The water was cool in January, but walks on the beach were enjoyable, as well as watching the activities at a local fishing village.

I have posted the best photos of my travels and holidays on my website at www.johnkuiper.ca Those who are interested can take a look. It is password protected with ID: john and password: jksphotos. ■



Fishermen at Inle Lake with basket fish traps.

Freddie Lees: *The First Lady*

Stephen J. Banta (ADB 1991–2003)



Freddie Lees (ADB 1981–1985) had a fascinating career: He served with the Royal Air Force in World War II, studied in Liverpool and London, and then entered the British foreign service. He worked in the Federation of Malaya, Sudan, Ethiopia, and Papua New Guinea, among other places, before joining ADB's Office of the Secretary, from which he retired in 1985. For several years he returned to ADB each bunching season to edit Board reports. Not content to vegetate in older age, he took to promoting the theater in Rye, UK, and writing novels. His latest work, *The First Lady*, was his sixth.



Freddie Lees

The book chronicles the waning months of the first family of a hypothetical Southeast Asian island nation, the Carolines, that will be explicitly familiar to our readership. The brilliant, charismatic, but deeply flawed dictator, Antonio Floresco, and his flamboyant, extravagant wife, Griselda, are living high in the face of a Communist insurgency, opposition from the Roman

Catholic Church, and the ambitions of the aristocracy and several Cabinet ministers. Their daughter, Conchita, falls in love with the nephew of a key critic of the regime, provoking the ire of her mother. To discourage the relationship of her daughter with the boyfriend, the First Lady hires thugs to kidnap him. A subplot involves two priests, one Carolino and one Australian, in a town near the Communist-controlled hills. The foreign priest has a "friend"—an ex-altar boy who is also an insurgent; the Carolino is a liberation priest, allied with the Communists. All this plays out during preparations for a state visit to Europe by the first couple and the crafty minister of defense.

The First Lady is not even thinly disguised; it is as if the sheerest of veils has been thrown over what we all know so well. In fact, one of the attractions in reading it is to see how closely the author can approach reality without actually removing the veil, naming names, and citing chapter and verse. The other, opposite attraction is to find out if and how he will move away from history to make the story line unique. In the latter realm there are



major divergences from what we all think will happen. Those who knew Freddie will imagine the twinkle in his eye as he concluded the back-cover blurb with "...particularly recommended reading for the world's remaining dictators."

Sadly, Freddie will not see this review. He died at the age of 88 on 13 August 2012 of complications after surgery. The book is available from Orchid Press in Thailand: www.orchidbooks.com. ■

Reenergizing after the Tsunami

Eiji Kobayashi (ADB 1968–1994)



FE-ADB News No. 40 included my experience during a visit to the areas of Miyagi Prefecture that had been devastated by the 11 March 2011 tsunami. In October 2012, I visited Fukushima Prefecture, where the aftermath of severe accidents at the Fukushima No. 1 nuclear power plant afflicts the people in a large part of the

prefecture. More than 80,000 people, most of whom lived within a 30-kilometer radius, are still forced to evacuate and live in temporary housing complexes in the prefecture and elsewhere. In the public parks, school grounds, and residential areas where radiation doses remain high, serious efforts to clean them up are ongoing. This difficult task, through tedious human labor, still has a long way to go before the affected people may be allowed to return to their homes.

No More Nuke Plants. Following the bitter experience, in November 2011 Fukushima Prefecture declared that all the nuclear reactors in the prefecture would be closed to make it a nuke-free society. Further, in December 2011, the prefecture decided to promote renewable energy sources as one of the most important activities of its reconstruction scheme.

On my visit to Fukushima Prefectural Office, Mr. Kazutaka Fujii of the Energy Section explained the outline of the renewable energy promotion vision, exploring

solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass energy sources to the extent possible. Luckily, the prefecture is endowed with rich energy natural resources. The table sets out Fukushima Prefecture’s plans for renewable energy development.

The prefecture places a high priority on developing wind and geothermal power generation, because of the high potential based on resource endowments. With regard to wind power, Fukushima’s central plateau provides a most suitable location, where several wind farms are already operating. Nunobiki Plateau Wind Farm, built in 2007 with 33 wind turbines of 2,000-kilowatt (kW) capacity, is one of the largest in the area. The land between the turbines is used for cultivating white radish (*daikon*) and enterprising farmers have expanded the area cultivated, so people come to see the project and buy the produce. The prefecture also plans to build floating wind turbines along its 160-kilometer (km) coastline, offshore in the Pacific Ocean.

Geothermal energy, another important source, is superior to solar and wind power, as it is more stable, not affected by weather conditions. Luckily Japan, being a volcanic country, has rich geothermal resources, and ranks third globally in geothermal potential, after the United States and Indonesia. Several large geothermal stations are operating in Japan, including Yanaizu Station in Fukushima Prefecture with a 65,000-kilowatt capacity.

Another plant, of similar capacity, is planned to be built in about 10 years. It will be near Mt Bandai, a landmark of the prefecture. A joint venture of several major companies is currently engaged in an initial survey. One of the hurdles the project faces is negotiations with the local hot spring resort owners, who are afraid of adverse effects on their spring sources. New technology is expected to be developed



to avoid adversely affecting the spring sources and to be consonant with the overall views of Bandai National Park.

Tsuchiyu Town. Tsuchiyu is a small town of 490 residents huddled in a valley surrounded by mountains. The town has a long history as a popular hot spring resort, but incurred heavy damage from the March 2011 earthquake, resulting in 9 of its 20 hotels closing. Although the town is safe, as it is about 90 km from Fukushima No.1 Plant, previous customers are afraid to come back to the area.

A 40-minute bus ride from the heart of Fukushima City brought me to this quiet town. The town is now in the limelight, as it plans to build a small binary cycle geothermal plant, using the hot spring’s steam and low temperature water. Mr. Kazuya Ikeda, project manager, explained the venture. The small 250-kW plant is now in the detailed engineering stage and will be completed in about 2.5 years. He said that the hot spring sources owned by the town will not be exhausted by the project. The generated power can be sold to the power company at the government regulated price of Y42 (\$0.55) per kilowatt-hour.

All the townsfolk now anxiously await the completion of this unique project, since it will reactivate the old hot spring resort. Mr. Ikeda was determined, saying: “We have to do it by ourselves, not relying on others. Fukushima’s people became rather passive after the tsunami.... Upon completion of the project, we can promote our unique venture by organizing seminars on renewable energy,” he continued energetically.

Wishing him good luck, I left his office, hurriedly catching a local bus. It was a clear autumn day and the surrounding hills were shining with colored leaves. ■

Source	Power Generation (million kWh)	
	2009/10 Actual	2020 Target
Solar	41	1,051
Wind	122	4,380
Small-scale hydro	88	132
Geothermal	342	354
Biomass	331	1,798
Total	924	7,715

kWh = kilowatt-hour.
Source: Fukushima Prefecture, Renewable Energy Vision, March 2012.

“Roming” and Roaming

Bernard Donge (ADB 1973–1995)

Ed: In mid-December, Bernard Donge provided the following update.



I am at the moment sitting in an apartment we have rented 5 minutes from Vatican City. I am on a 3-week mission on governance for the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) in Rome, followed by a 2-week assignment in Montpellier (France) for the same organization. The CGIAR

is an international organization that specializes in cutting-edge agricultural research. One of its 15 research centers is in Rome. Another is the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Los Baños, Philippines.

The CGIAR is supported by grants from 64 countries and organizations, the largest donors being the United States, Japan, the World Bank, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. ADB is also one of the contributors. The CGIAR’s 2013 budget is \$1 billion (up from \$400 million 4 years ago), and hence good governance and sound risk management are critical factors for its success.

Among its objectives is the discovery of genetic-based plant species, including wheat that can be grown in arid and sub-Saharan climates as well as new rice plants that can endure flooding. For instance, we now have the “scuba rice” that can survive underwater for up to 17 days, thanks to CGIAR–IRRI’s research efforts! These discoveries aim at producing sufficient food to feed the 3 billion people that will populate the earth by 2050, in addition to the present 7 billion.



Gallery in the Vatican Museum.

After retiring from ADB, I went back to university and got my degree and other qualifications, then worked for the World Bank for 10 years. I am 78 this year and still “alive and kicking,” working most days from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m.

One of the main reasons why international organizations still employ me is the excellent experience I gained at ADB. I am most grateful for the formation that ADB provided over my 22-year career at this premier institution. ■

A Reunion of Old ADB Friends

Günter Hecker (ADB 1979–2002)



Horst Kaminsky, who left ADB in 1995 as senior evaluation officer, suffered a stroke during his last visit to Manila after the long trip from his home in Hemer, Westfalia. Since then, he has been gradually improving and is resuming his annual visits to his beloved Hawaii and his annual trip to Sweden for

long-distance skiing and other worldwide travels. This year, my wife and I decided to visit him during one of his rehabilitation activities, which he undergoes annually at Franzensbad in the Czech Republic.

Franzensbad, named after the Emperor Franz II of Austria, became famous as a spa town owing to the discovery of its many cool mineral springs for drinking and bathing and a mud bath (the Glauber’s salt-water tastes terrible, but I tried anyhow, mindful of the old rule that all bad tasting things are supposed to be healthy and vice versa). After the end of the communist regime, the many

spa hotels were handed over to the private sector and given a remarkable facelift. The picturesque spa town is again an impressive ensemble of 19th century buildings in the Renaissance, Empire, and Belle-Epoque



Mila and Horst Kaminsky, December 2012.

styles, all in the “Schönbrunn” yellow color. Mozart, Beethoven, Goethe, and Empress Sissi often stayed here, and while walking through the beautifully attended park one almost expects to meet one of them.

Two weeks before Christmas we drove from Heidelberg through the snow-covered forests of the Fichtelgebirge to the snowed-in Franzensbad. Horst and Mila appeared to be very happy with our visit, as it gave them an excuse not to attend religiously to all the prescribed medical applications and exercises. Naturally we talked about the good old days at ADB and in Manila and all the plans we still have.

For several years I have been trying hard to persuade him to attend our annual AFE reunions. Let us see whether I managed this time! ■

Fulfilling a Dream

Nanette Medina (ADB 1971–1995)



Nanette Medina at the door of Caritas Banco ng Masa, Calatagan, with the accreditation sign of the Philippine Credit and Finance Corporation (PCFC), where Nanette’s husband had worked.

They say behind every successful man is a woman. Who, then, is behind a successful woman?

I left my husband Joey’s office broken into bits and pieces as I gathered his documents, plaques, awards, trophies, files, and pictures just the way he had left them before his medical leave for heart surgery in the US. His calendar showed scheduled meetings and official activities lined up from when he would get back from the leave. His filed sick leave form was in his inbox, and there was a note to his secretary that read, “Please order 3 more boxes of my calling cards, as I shall need them on my return.” I was crushed.

Then his VP came up to me and with a so typical “vice presidential” air said, “So Nanette, what are you going to do now?” I quietly replied, “I really do not know.” “Okay,” he continued, “please sign your husband’s final clearance from the office.” Then the tears rolled as I sat there feeling so alone, quivering in fear because I knew that the moment I stood up from this office I would be facing the world alone, fighting my own battles for the rest of

my life. Then, as if giving me a last chance, he turned to me and asked, “Why don’t you run a rural bank? Joey always had that in his mind. He once mentioned it to me. He said he would like to do that after his stint here at PCFC [People’s Credit and Finance Corporation]; that way, he would be a hands-on conduit and practitioner of the microfinance work he had pioneered in the Philippines.” In my heart I too had that secret desire, as it meant returning part of me to a sector of society I always had a soft spot for. So I said, “Okay, maybe I could look into rural banking. Thank you.”

Ten years after that meeting I find myself at the helm of a microfinance-oriented rural bank in Calatagan, Batangas—the chairperson of the otherwise all-male board of Banco ng Masa. This brings me to Calatagan every Tuesday through Thursday—a commitment I made for myself. The bank was previously owned by Don Enrique Zobel and was envisioned to provide financial assistance to small farmers, sugar planters, fisherfolk, seaweed growers, and other small businesses that were thriving in Calatagan. It was granted its license by the Banco Sentral ng Pilipinas in 2002, the year that Joey died; and the sale of the bank was finalized on Joey’s birthday in April 2007. These dates were coincidental but clearly pointed out to me that my husband’s presence was there in whatever I was doing.

Being a microfinance-oriented rural bank, 50% of our loan portfolio comprises loans to marginalized groups of society in the first district of Batangas. We have set up two OBOs (other banking offices) there—one in Malvar and the other in Bauan. We are looking forward to opening our main branch in Lipa City, Batangas, my very own home province, where I hope to retire at the age of 90. Another OBO in Dasmariñas, Cavite to kick off our operations in



D3M Food Mates restaurant, a mid-level microfinance client that has significantly increased its business: shown are the cook, Ellen Ternida (left); wait staff (center); and owner’s daughter, Meann Tapere (right).

that province is on the drawing board, and a branch in Lucena, Quezon Province, will follow soon after.

The bank initially used the Grameen model of microfinance, lending to groups following a methodology that originated in Bangladesh. However the experience of our bank is that such a method does not work well in the Philippines, as, instead of getting support from the group, our borrowers would rather rely on family, especially relatives of overseas foreign workers, as the co-makers or co-borrowers of their loans. Also, with the proliferation of microfinance practitioners, borrowers may resort to kiting—borrowing from one to pay the other in paying off their loans. This practice leaves them with more loans and worse off financially.

With this experience, we shifted to the ASA (Association for Social Advancement) methodology of lending. This is lending to individual borrowers instead of a group, and focuses on those with small businesses or with skills—we refer to them as the enterprising poor or the E-Poor. Over the next years, we plan to shift to bigger micros and small businesses as our clients. The bank, young as it is, is in an aggressive growth mode, and I always think that this is where I derive my energy, drive, enthusiasm, and youthfulness. The challenges are huge, sometimes insurmountable, but with the recollection of that moment in my husband's office, the very thought that what I am doing is what Joey would have wanted to do—the continuation of his microfinance legacy—then no challenge is too big for me.

Continuing what my husband did in my own way, living his dream, and working on his legacy is what



Small-scale microfinance client, Calatagan market.



Nanette with some of the Caritas Banco Ng Masa, Calatagan, staff members

keeps him alive in my heart and in my mind; and what better way to spend the rest of my life. For as long as there are marginalized people in our midst I shall never be alone or meaningless. This experience, so very sad as it was, made me realize that my loss has become my gain, and the emptiness of being alone has made me full.

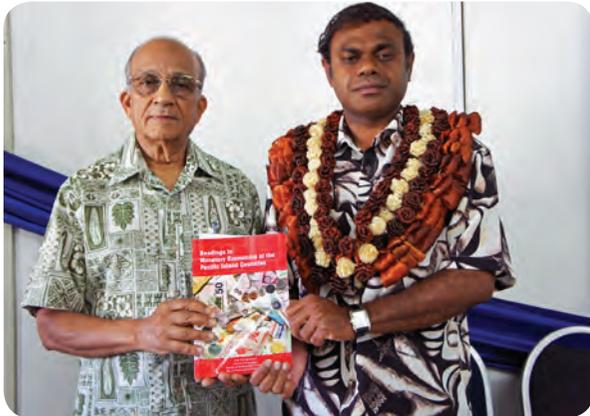
Who then is behind a successful woman? It is the continuation of the success of the successful man whom you inspired, supported, loved, and cared for. In the end, it redounded to my own success, and his dream was what has made me become the successful woman that I am. ■

IDEAS

Susan Tamondong (ADB 2000–2006) has recently been elected as vice-president of IDEAS—a global association of development professionals, evaluators, policymakers, academics, and practitioners. The over 700 members come from more than 90 countries. IDEAS aims to promote and advance evaluation as a key tool for development effectiveness, transparency, and accountability in policy making. It also advances and extends the practice of development evaluation by refining methods, strengthening capacity, and expanding ownership to developing and transition economies. For more information, see www.ideas-int.org. ■

Monetary Economics of the Pacific Islands

T.K. Jayaraman (ADB 1982–1997)



T.K. Jayaraman with Vanuatu Central Bank Governor Odo Tevi.

After retiring from ADB in 1997 as a senior economist in the South Pacific Regional Office in Port Vila, I went back to academics as a postdoctoral fellow at Macmillan Brown Centre of Pacific Studies, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand. In mid-1998, I joined the University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji, to teach economics in the School of Economics, where I am continuing to teach.

My latest book, *Readings in Monetary Economics of the Pacific Island Countries*, was launched in March 2012 by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu. My previous publications since 1998 are

- *Issues in Monetary and Fiscal Policies in Small Developing States: A Case Study of the Pacific*, London: Commonwealth Secretariat, 2011;
- *Issues in Monetary Economics of the South Pacific Island Countries*, Suva: University of the South Pacific (USP), 2003; and
- *Financial Sector Development and Private Investment in Vanuatu*, Christchurch: Macmillan Brown Centre for Pacific Studies, University of Canterbury, 2001.

Ed: The following is excerpted from two news releases—on 22 March 2012, Publication sheds light on monetary economics in the Pacific, and on 3 December 2011, University honours staff for outstanding research—both by the University of the South Pacific’s Marketing and Communications Office.

On 20 March 2012, Governor Odo Tevi of the Reserve Bank of Vanuatu launched *Readings in Monetary Economics of the Pacific Island Countries*, by T.K. Jayaraman. The book, which looks at monetary economics of Pacific Island Countries (PICs), was launched at the University of the South Pacific (USP).

The book is a collection of contributions on various aspects of monetary economics of the six PICs with independent currencies: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

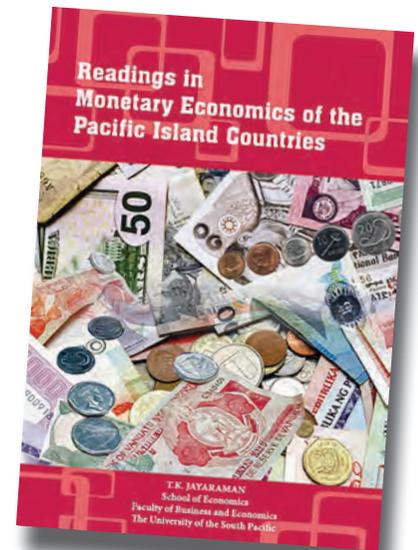
T.K. Jayaraman is associate professor at USP’s School of Economics. He has written extensively on monetary issues since 1998. The first volume of his work, *Issues in Monetary Economics of the South Pacific Island Countries*, was published in 2003. The new publication includes his writings on various aspects of monetary economics in the Pacific during 2004–2011.

Speaking at the launch, Governor Tevi described the book as a welcome development. He noted that, while Pacific Island economies face many economic challenges, a key issue concerning growth of Pacific Island economies is sustainability.

“The key to improve and sustain growth in PICs is to continue to adopt sound policy reforms in macroeconomic and structural fronts. Continuous reforms and understanding paradigm shifts in economic development is the key. Currently we need to also think of how to make use of opportunities offered by emerging economies,” he said. The governor said that the book is useful in addressing these issues, as it is based on findings from sound empirical research.

Governor Tevi added “Most of the books written on monetary economics are focused mostly on advanced economies, and this book is unique in a sense that it is focused on PICs and will be of particular interest especially to those countries that have central banks and also to those who love monetary economics in general.”

On the topic of adopting a single currency for PICs, which is further discussed in the book, Governor Tevi stated that for PICs to adopt a single currency is still not suitable.... This was also confirmed in the meeting of Central Bank governors recently. The publication argues that in the longer term adopting a single currency can only work if there is significant progress towards closer economic



cooperation between PICs as spelled out in the Pacific Island Countries Trade Agreement and Pacific Closer Economic Relations.

Governor Tevi commended USP and Dr. Jayaraman for the book and encouraged the university to publish more books on other areas of economics with special focus on the Pacific island economies.

In his address, the Acting Head of the School of Economics, Dr. Sunil Kumar, said

“This publication will be a good supplementary text for macroeconomic and monetary economics courses, both for undergraduate and postgraduate students, not just at USP but also at other universities in the region.” ■

Promoting Trade and Enjoying Life

Heh-Song Wang (ADB 1971–1995)



Taipei, China’s Ministry of Economic Affairs has made it a top priority to promote trade with developing Asian countries. Consequently, the External Trade Promotion Council engaged me to prepare a booklet entitled “*ADB Business Opportunities*.” It

is hoped that this publication will be useful to Taipei, China’s manufacturers and consultant firms as they pursue ADB contracts, and ultimately help to promote trade relations and technology transfer with neighboring Asian countries.

Selma and I were very pleased to have Jean (daughter), Ken (son-in-law), and our grandchildren Kelly and Kenny spend their summer vacation with us. We visited Sun Moon Lake in central Taipei, China, an ideal place to escape from the city’s hustle and bustle. From our room at the Fleur de Chine Hotel, we were treated to a panoramic vista of blue sky and white clouds, small boats gliding on an emerald lake, and the surrounding lush mountain range with birds flying overhead. It was like living in a Chinese classical painting. During our visit, we enjoyed a round-the-lake boat tour and



Sun Moon Lake.

aboriginal performances, and delighted in the fireflies during our evening walks.

In July, we visited the Taipei Confucius Temple. While there, we watched an ancient Chinese ceremony—the Ya Yue Dance. This elegant dance is normally performed on important secular occasions, such as during nature- and ancestor-worship rituals, military victories, and imperial court ceremonies. Visitors who watched this performance with great interest included people from Hong Kong, China; the Republic of Korea; Japan; Singapore; and the United States. A visit to the Confucius Temple is a wonderful educational experience. ■



Heh-Song, Kenny, Ms. Shi, Kelly, Selma Wang at the Confucius Temple.

L-Club Mini Reunion

Cora Musngi (ADB 1969–1986) and Oskee Nuñez (ADB 1972–2003)



Oskee's Narration. The L-Club, composed of Thelma Altiveros, Sol Santos Aumentado, Florie Flores, Dora Gazo, Lysa Manguiat, Rora Marino, Cora Musngi, Rudy Mirasol, Oskee Nuñez, and Gali Yaoto, used to have lunch together in the ADB Headquarters (HQ) on Roxas Boulevard, and still get together from

time to time. So, the balikbayan members' visit to the Philippines was planned for a year and everyone agreed to have a mini-reunion and tour of Cavite and Batangas from 31 January to 2 February 2012.

I arranged the transport, Cora worked on our stay at Island Cove in Kawit, while John Gazo arranged accommodation in Hacienda Darasa in Tanauan City. Lysa brought t-shirts for the L-Club members, which we used as a uniform. Florie was treasurer for the group, and she efficiently disbursed the funds we pooled, resulting in us having a refund.

Thelma and husband Lino, Aurora, Sol, and Gali were unable to come.

Raquel Cabiles, who also joined the trip, organized the Get-Together Lunch at ADB on 3 Feb. Except for Cora, Rudy, and Rey Manguiat, the rest of the L-Club made it to ADB and were welcomed by 18 ex-ADB friends.

After lunch, some did a brief tour of the ADB HQ. They called on AFE Executive Secretary Hans Springer, who was advised by Florie that an AFE chapter in North Carolina may be formed as there is a good number of ex-ADB staff there.

Cora's story. On 31 January, we assembled near the Mall of Asia at 7:30 a.m., and after exchanging pleasantries with our L-Club balikbayan friends—Rudy; Lyza and hubby Rey; Florie and hubby Jun; Lilia and hubby Roger; and Paz Clee,



Florie's friend from the United Kingdom; we proceeded to Bacoor, Cavite, where we were

welcomed by L-Club balikbayan couple, Dora and John, who served us a sumptuous Filipino breakfast. Afterward, we went sightseeing in Cavite, including to the famous Imus Cathedral and the Aguinaldo Shrine, a century-old, well-preserved heritage house where visitors can learn about the province's history, including from a book featuring renowned Caviteños such as former presidents Emilio Aguinaldo and Joseph Estrada and senators Helena Benitez, Panfilo Lacson, and Bong Revilla.

Back at Dora's for lunch, we dined on delectable seafood while enjoying camaraderie, nonstop stories, bantering, and of course picture taking. Later, we checked in at Island Cove Hotel and Resort in Binakayan and had a fun-filled dinner at Fishing Village, the resort's floating restaurant.

At breakfast on 1 February we heard Raquel's drama/action/comedy tale of how she survived the ordeal of being shot by a crazed gunman. Then we moved on to Tagaytay Highlands to enjoy the cool climate, breathtaking views, and clubhouse, where we had lunch including Tagaytay's specialty, bulalo (beef and marrow stew). We moved on to Hacienda Darasa in Tanauan City for dinner and later converged by the poolside, where a videoke machine was set up for our "singing concert." We had fun with almost everyone demonstrating singing prowess and ballroom dancing expertise, until the antique videoke machine gave up and we decided to retire.



ADB Lunch: Front: Oskee Nunez; second row, L-r: Romy Tomelden, John Gazo, Jun Flores, Bing Grande, Ophie Sta. Ana and Roger Ramos; third row: Raquel Cabiles, Leony Francisco, Dora Gazo, Lilia Ramos, Lysa Manguiat, Florie Flores, Edna Cabrera, and Paz Clee; fourth row: Zeny Tomelden, Fe Sebastian, Meng Dimayuga, Tessie Rivera, Carmen Bontia, Aida Lizarondo, Nilds Ocampo, France Arceo, Ellen Batistil, and Katie Blanco; fifth row: Pilar Afuang.

At breakfast on the final day we shared what Oskee termed mga larawang kupas—photos of ourselves when we were young, slim, and good-looking, wow! The best photo was of Oskee as the muse of an ADB Basketball Tournament, circa 1979. The group finally headed back to Manila after a brief stopover for lunch at another resort, La Traviesa in Gen. Trias, and at Digman in Bacoor for their famous halo-halo.

Thus ended the L-Club ultimate bonding experience—a truly memorable get-together—and we hope the sequel to this reunion will be much bigger, with complete attendance by all the members and newfound friends. ■

Migrating and Marrying

Florie Flores (ADB 1972–1985)



Moving South. Another migration of AFE–ADB members is in progress, this time to start new beginnings after retirement. First we moved from Manila to the United Nations offices in New York. After 20 some years of service and upon retirement, we are now transplanting ourselves again, this time to the greater Charlotte area of North Carolina (NC). First to move was Carmelita and Oscar Banting, followed by Lilia and Roger Ramos. Then in 2010, Florie and Jun Flores and Ruth and Ver Esmilio bought their homes in Waxhaw, NC. Libby Gutierrez followed in early 2012. We are hoping that in the near future we will be big enough to host an ex-ADBBers year-end party. There are also other ex-ADBBers in other parts of NC, e.g., Tita Acupanda in Wilmington, NC.

The Charlotte area is a metropolis not as crowded as New York with access to lakes, mountains, and modern amenities such as big malls, arenas, and theaters. The climate is quite mild and the cost of living is lower than in the northeastern United States—a big draw to retirees. There is also a large Filipino presence, a community that keeps us busy and entertained.

A Wedding on Kauai. For one week in Kauai, Hawaii, AFE members and other ex-ADB friends and spouses enjoyed a special bonding time to celebrate Florita Flores' wedding to Warren Purnell on 21 November 2012. Florita, a marine biologist from Townsville, Queensland is the youngest



At a recent gala party of the Fil-Am community of the Carolinas, l-r: Lilia Ramos, Myra Kare, Thelma Altiveros, Florie Flores, Carmelita Banting, and Libby Gutierrez.

daughter of Jun and Florie Flores. Warren Purnell is from Bristol, England. AFE members and ex-ADBBers who came were John and Dora Gazo from Sydney, Australia; Roger and Lilia Ramos and Lino and Thelma Altiveros from North Carolina; Isaiah and Gigi Trinidad from Illinois; and Larry and Carmencita Clay and their son, Larry Jr from Virginia. There were also guests from London, England and Queensland, Australia. The ceremony opened with the blowing of the conch shell in four directions. Filipino traditions such as lighting of the unity candle and the veil and cord ceremony were incorporated into the wedding rites.

Thanksgiving dinner was celebrated with a Hawaiian luau feast and cultural presentation of traditional dances in the Pacific. Together we walked the sandy beaches of Poipu, Brennecke, and Hanalei and climbed the mountains to view Waimea Canyon. We partied and talked for hours, reminiscing about our youth working in ADB. It is a real blessing to have celebrated this wedding with family and friends who travelled from afar to join this special occasion. ■

Mini Reunion in Sydney

Gigi Arce Riley (ADB 1969–1977)

On 11 February 2012, a handful of resilient, hopeful and industrious AFE members and former ADB girls, now residents of Sydney, met and bonded together. The idea of an informal ADB ladies get-together had come up while we were having a nostalgic lunch in



Au Aaron, Ciony Gonzaga, Espie Dionisio, Cynthia Alipalo, Lita Berlanga, Baby Rodriguez, Leny Hutton, Gigi Riley, Marylou Villanueva, Elsie Howard, Lulu Sherwin, Nerissa Choong, Elvie Geronimo, and Bernie Mijares.

the spring of 2011 in Sydney. The seed was planted for a reunion lunch with the other ADB ladies. Suggestions were received about the type of reunion, and finally we were lucky to have Espie Dionisio and Elsie Glorioso Howard on board to also give their time, effort, and suggestions for this initiative. To put the idea into motion was not an easy task. As the organizers had overseas travel commitments prior to Christmas, this idea was bedded down. After the holidays, we four came back together to make this reunion happen at all costs. Enthusiastic replies from our former colleagues were received and this encouraged us to move forward.

The 1st ADB Girls Down Under mini-reunion was realized on 11 February! Our first function was well attended and we all had a fabulous time! The venue for the meeting was the Garden Seafood Buffet Restaurant of the Star Complex in February 2012. This was attended by several former ADB Sydneysiders, including Au Meliton Aaron, Cynthia Padilla Alipalo, Lita Berlanga, Nerissa Choong, Elvie Geronimo, Ciony Visconde Gonzaga, Leny de Leon Hutton, Bernie Mijares, Baby Rodriguez, and Lulu Gumabao Sherwin. Everybody had a good time and relived old times and stories in ADB and by the looks of the happy faces in the photos, everyone enjoyed themselves!

By April, we welcomed Marilou Tabangay, a former ADBian based in Manila, who was visiting her daughter in Sydney. This time, the venue was at the Four Points by Sheraton

at Darling Harbour. Along with us, It was Lita Berlanga, Nerissa Choong, Espie Dionisio, and Ciony Gonzaga attended. ■

Finland

On 27 July 2012, former and current ADB employees from Finland held their traditional summer lunch in Helsinki. A good time was had by all reminiscing about life and times in Manila and at ADB. ■



L-r, front: Annika Floman von Bonsdorff, Sirkku Mäkitalo, Robert Wihtol, and Anita Kelles-Viitanen. Back row: Max von Bonsdorff, Heikki Noro, Pasi Hellman, Jyrki Wartiovaara, Aulis Mäkitalo, Kari Saari, Antero Vähäpassi, and Aimo Juhola.

New Members

AFE–ADB extends a warm welcome to the following new members of the Association (country of residence is indicated in parentheses):

June 2012

Roy, Rupasree (India)

August

Bondoc, Ernesto A. (Philippines)
Lam, Yin Yin (Singapore)
Masood, Hasan (Pakistan)
Roimans, Jacob Arie (Netherlands)
Tu, Shih-Liang (Taipei, China)

September

Estrella, Achilles A. (Philippines)
Monzon, Teresita Socorro (Philippines)
Narciso, Victoria M. (Philippines)
Robertson, Peter Mark (Philippines)
Vergel De Dios, Ester A. (Philippines)
Zhai, Fan (People's Republic of China)

October

Abbas, Samia M. (Pakistan)
Bieling, Thomas Andreas (Germany)
Cherukuzhiyil, Abraham Thomas (India)
Loi, Riccardo (Italy)
Pitney, Henry C. (United States)
Protacio, Lorna B. (Philippines)
Sumo, Marilyn (Philippines)

November

Ahmed, Shamsuddin (Bangladesh)
Droesse, Gerd (Philippines)
Garcia, Gregg R. (Philippines)
Hitchcock, Barry J. (Australia)
Majarreis, Jenny Lind Palmiano (Canada)
Marquez, Mirandie (Philippines)
Moktan, Ananta (Nepal)
Murshed, Rahman (Bangladesh)
Ono, Yuji (Japan)
Perez, Danilo G. (Philippines)
Pillon, Patrick G. (Poland)
Rosales, Evelyn S. (Philippines)
Shah, Jitendra J. (United States)
Sumagui, Marites Zamora (Canada)
Zahid, Shahid N. (Philippines)

December

Atay Newton, Gulen (Switzerland)
Bhatia, Ramesh C. (Philippines)
Mariano, Karen A. (Philippines)

January 2013

Belen, Rosario Regondola (Philippines)
Huang, Yinguo (People's Republic of China)
Jung, Tae Yong (Republic of Korea)
Lee, Benjamin (Malaysia)
Marasigan, Maria Luisa (Philippines)
Nangia, Rita (India)
Regis, Rebecca (Philippines)
Yao, Alma (Philippines)

February 2013

Angeles, Anita Ponce (Philippines)
Bhattacharyay, Biswanath (India)
Kuek, Gia C. (New Zealand)
Lee, Allan (Australia)
Mistades, Amelia V. (Philippines)
Pedersen, Sally (New Zealand)
Tiwana, Omar (United States)

March 2013

Cunanan, Renato R. (Philippines)
Ellingson, Dennis D. (United States)
Ho, Gabriel (Hong Kong, China)
Ho, Sophia S.Y. (Hong Kong, China)
Kuroda, Haruhiko (Japan)
Lindfield, Michael (Australia)
McCauley, David Scott (United States)

Useful ADB Contacts

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Fax number	00 63 2 636 2444	
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Insurance Unit		insurance@adb.org
Cristina S. Keppler	00 63 2 632 4115 00 63 2 632 4047	ckeppler@adb.org
Alona Saludo	00 63 2 632 4480	asaludo@adb.org

Senior Appointments in ADB

AFE-ADB congratulates the following staff members on their new appointments.

Valerie Reppelin-Hill—Advisor, Independent Evaluation Department, effective 10/8/2012.

Hans G. Carlsson—Advisor and Head, Portfolio, Results and Quality Control Unit, South Asia Department, effective 7/9/2012.

Gopal Sharathchandra—Advisor, Office of the Treasurer and Head, Treasury Client Solutions Unit, Treasury Department, effective 7/9/2012.

Simon Bradbury—Controller, Controller's Department, effective 24/9/2012.

Eric Sidgwick—Country Director, Cambodia Resident Mission, Southeast Asia Department, effective 25/9/2012.

Maria Lomotan—Assistant Treasurer, Funding Division, Treasury Department, effective 5/10/2012.

Hong Wang—Deputy Director General, Central and West Asia Department, effective 8/10/2012, and Officer-in-Charge, Transport and Communications Division until further notice.

Manmohan Parkash—Advisor, Central Operations Services Office and Head, Portfolio Management Unit, effective 26/10/2012.

Kathleen M. Moktan—Senior Advisor (Financial Management), Financial Management Unit, Central Operations Services Office, effective 31/10/2012.

Ramit Nagpal—Assistant General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, effective 31/10/2012.

Susheela Venkataraman—Principal Director, Office of Information Systems and Technology, effective 19/11/2012.

Chang Ching Yu—Country Director, Tajikistan Resident Mission, Central and West Asia Department, effective 29/11/2012.

Clare C. L. Wee—Head, Office of Anticorruption and Integrity, effective 15/12/2012.

Christopher Stephens—General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, effective 27/12/2012.

Sean O'Sullivan—Director General, Operations Services and Financial Management Department, effective 2/1/2013.

Sujata Gupta—Director, Office of Cofinancing Operations, effective 10/1/2013.

Xavier Humbert—Director, Procurement Division 2, Operations Services and Financial Management Department, effective 14/1/2013.

Alain Duminy—Advisor, Office of Information Systems and Technology and Head, IT Governance and Portfolio Management Unit, effective 20/1/2013.

Robert Y. Siy, Jr.—Senior Advisor, Budget, Personnel and Management Systems Department concurrently Senior Director, Human Resources Division, effective 21/1/2013.

Hyong-Jong Yu—Principal Director, Office of Administrative Services, effective 21/1/2013.

Xiaohong Yang—Director, Transport and Communications Division, Central and West Asia Department, effective 22/02/2013.

Tomomi Tamaki—Representative, Japanese Representative Office, effective 27/2/2013.

Anthony Jude—Senior Advisor, Office of the Director General, Regional and Sustainable Development Department, concurrently Practice Leader (Energy), effective upon assumption of office.

Shane Rosenthal—Resident Representative, Special Office in Timor-Leste, Pacific Department, effective upon assumption of office.

Betty Wilkinson—Director, Public Management, Financial Sector & Trade Division, Central and West Asia Department, effective upon assumption of office.

Obituaries

With deep regret and sorrow we announce the death of the following AFE staff members. Our heartfelt and sincere condolences to their families.

Nilo Sandoval, former Publications Assistant, Economics Research Department, passed away in Manila on 13 August 2012 at the age of 67. Condolences may be sent to his sister Flor Sandoval at tel +63 2 647-4054 and +63 919 921 6183.

Frederick Lees, former Economics Editor in the former Economics Office passed away on 13 August 2012 at the age of 88. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Marie Yvonne Lees, at 8 Watchbell Street, Rye, East Sussex, England.

Rosario Soriano-Aguinaldo, former Senior Operations Assistant in the Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture Division of the East Asia Department (EARD) passed away on 27 August 2012 at the age of 44. Condolences may be sent to her spouse, Cris Aguinaldo, at magdalo1221@yahoo.com.

Lydia Reyes, former Executive Secretary in the Energy and Industry Division, passed away on 27 August 2012 at the age of 72. Condolences may be sent to her sister, Cecille Reyes Tubera, at 42 Rand Street, St. Michael Homes, Pandayan, Meycauayan, Bulacan, Philippines

Decoroso Conde, former Senior Technical Assistant in the former Building Maintenance Section, passed away on Wednesday, 19 September 2012 at the age of 77. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Elizabeth C. Liberato at ec_liberato@yahoo.com.

Stephen Whitmer, former Economics Editor, Economics Office, passed away on 28 November 2012 at the age of 72. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Cecilia Gaston-Whitmer, at 9040 Gavelwood Ct., Springfield, VA 22153, United States.

Wisnusari Soegito (spouse of the late Sastromidjojo Soegito), passed away on 17 December 2012. Condolences may be sent to her eldest son Widi Wijaya Gitaputra at widi.gitaputra@yahoo.co.id.

Barry Metzger, former General Counsel passed away on 23 December 2012 at the age of 67. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Jacqueline Metzger, at 15 Longwoods Lane, East Hampton, NY 11937, United States.

Ariakuthy Ganesan, former Senior Project Engineer, passed away on 1 February 2013 at the age of 83. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Padmaa Ganesan, at 9-1900 Indian River Crescent, North Vancouver, BC, V7G 2R1, Canada.

Gregory Alan London, former Principal Procurement Specialist, passed away on 19 February 2013 at the age of 63. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Sonia London, at luzonia_london@yahoo.com.ph.

Hilario dela Cruz, former Procurement Administrator, OAS passed away on 2 March 2013 at the age of 70. Condolences may be sent to his wife, Esther dela Cruz, at 27 Scorpio Street, Bancom Life Homes Subdivision, Gulod Malaya, Ampid, San Mateo 1850, Rizal, Philippines.

Visit ADB's alumni portal
www.adbalumni.org
 e-mail: alumniadmin@adb.org

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- (1) Articles and images may be accepted for inclusion if, in the opinion of the AFE-ADB Editorial Board, they are germane to AFE-ADB activities and membership; are of interest to a significant portion of the membership; and do not contain material that promotes a political or religious stance or is potentially inflammatory or offensive to the readership.
- (2) Articles that are accepted will be edited for language, content, and length that the Editorial Board deems appropriate for the readership. Images must be of print quality (at least 280kb or 600dpi is preferred).
- (3) Any photograph that was not taken by the sender should be sent with the photographer's permission for AFE-ADB to publish it. Please identify all people shown in photographs so we can include adequate captions.
- (4) Authors and photographers will be acknowledged and retain ownership of any material submitted for publication.

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Articles for publication may be sent in MS Word as e-mail attachments to afe-adb@adb.org. Articles will preferably be 250–750 words. Please send images in a separate file. Comments that will help improve *AFE-ADB News* are most welcome.

Acknowledgements

Josephine Jacinto-Aquino, AFE-ADB's able former assistant, provided invaluable help, including typesetting and layout. Steve Banta, Wickie Mercado, and Jill Gale de Villa copy edited; Geraldine de Asis and Malou Magalued proofread; and Cesar Juan prepared the magazine for mailing. AFE-ADB sincerely appreciates ADB's assistance with publishing the magazine, especially Wyn Lauzon, and Judy Yniguez of the printing unit.

Announcements

2013 Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors

The Forty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank will be held on 2–5 May 2013 in New Delhi, India.

Chapter Events

The reunion of the **AFE–ADB Europe Chapter** 2013 will take place in Goslar on Thursday 12–Sunday 15 September 2013. Goslar is in the Harz Mountains and has 3 separate UNESCO Cultural Heritage places. Hosts of this Reunion are Uwe and Erika Henrich. The program will include a tour of the imperial city of Goslar; a visit of the “Neuschwanstein”-like Castle of Werningerode; a trip with the historical narrow-gauge steam-powered Harzbahn to the top of the “Brocken” (1.141m), the highest mountain of northern part of Germany and a former soviet radio listening post in the German Democratic Republic; and a guided underground tour of the UNESCO World Heritage 1,000 year-old Rammelsberger Ore Mines. All AFE members are invited.

The **Australia Chapter** will hold its annual reunion in the second half of October 2013 in Queensland.

The **Philippine Chapter** will hold its annual get-together in the second half of November.

AFE–ADB News No. 43 (September 2013)

Please send, by July, articles, photos, and updates for publication in our next newsletter.

Annual Association Dues

Members who have not yet settled their annual Association dues are requested to do so.

Keep Your Address Updated with AFE–ADB

Please keep us informed about any change in your address, telephone/fax numbers, and e-mail address. We don't want to lose touch with you. Also, if you know any member whose address and other contact details are not listed, or are incomplete or wrong, please let us know.

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