



# News

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



## AFE-ADB Updates

### People, Places, and Passages



### Chapter News



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## Our Cover



Cover: Top left: John Kuiper's portrait of an Andean woman and infant; right: Kelpie statue near the Falkirk Wheel, Scotland; below: Australia chapter reunion; background: Inca stonework.

## AFE-ADB News

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# AFE–ADB Updates

## From the AFE President

Hans-Juergen Springer (ADB 1972–2002)



The Executive Committee of Jill, Julia, and myself has, since I wrote to you in the last AFE News of September 2015, spent considerable time on pension matters and health insurance. The Staff Retirement Plan (SRP) advisory task force has met twice—in December last year and January. I attend as the

primary representative for pensioners, Jill as the alternate. The Group Medical Insurance Plan (GMIP) advisory task force met in January. Jill is the primary member, I am the alternate. For further details see p. 4.

After a lot of birthing pains, the new AFE website is up ([www.afe-adb.org](http://www.afe-adb.org)). It has a “members-only” section that is password protected. Any comments you may have are welcome.

ADB’s 49th annual meeting will take place this year in Frankfurt—the heart of Europe—from 2 to 5 May. AFE’s 30th annual meeting will be on 2 May. Our cocktail reception will, unlike in previous years, be on 1 May, as the ADB President’s and host government’s receptions were both advanced by one day.

I hope to see you in Frankfurt. ■



## From the AFE Vice President

Jill Gale de Villa (ADB 1993–2005)



Medical insurance is on all our minds, as we engage with ADB on the future of our insurance. Please see p. 4. The two task forces—on medical insurance and the retirement plan—are taking up a good deal of the headquarters’ team’s time.

With Julia Holz, in October 2015, I attended the meeting of 7 comparator retirees’ associations in Washington DC and some of the 1818 Society’s meetings on pension, health insurance, and other matters. Notes of those meetings are on pp. 5–7. The information we gathered and contacts we made have proven extremely valuable. Among other things, Julia brought back good information on treasury work and on the experience our comparators have had with electronic elections. Recently, I polled the other participating organizations on their health insurance status and changes, and received responses that are being very helpful in the discussions of the Advisory Task Force on the medical insurance.

The AFE News continues to be well received, and we continue to happily receive good stories to publish. When we do not have space, the result is hard choices. The choices are made as much as possible to provide variety across issues and time. Our membership is truly amazing, with the wide range of activities including active employment (or self-employed) and earning, volunteering to share knowledge and capabilities, arts, travel, and much more. The evidence is that many of us remain actively involved in and contributing to our own communities and the global community at large. And sharing the stories brings great pleasure to the reading membership. Please keep them coming.

During the year-end holidays, I spent the better part of a couple of weeks working with our web techie to design and implement the look and basic outline of our “new” site, which has now gone live. I echo Hans’ sentiment that “comments are most welcome.” ■

# Pension Matters

Hans-Juergen Springer

Since President Nakao wrote last year in June to staff and retirees about the need to make the Staff Retirement Plan (SRP) sustainable, much has been done, together with the ADB Staff Council, to bring our views across to the ADB Board of Directors and Management. ADB has dropped the earlier proposal to remove the 3% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) floor. Instead, an “old hat”—so to speak—was proposed to be reintroduced: the “claw-back” mechanism. This claw-back, which had been applied to ADB pensions from 1983 onwards was withdrawn in 2006, as its implementation was considered too cumbersome by BPMSD.

To obtain clarity on what ADB can and cannot do from a legal standpoint, AFE and Staff Council engaged the London-based law firm Bretton Woods Law. In two legal opinions and their presentation to staff and retirees in Manila on 26 October last year, they held the view that ADB cannot take back a benefit once it has been granted.

So where are we now? President Nakao in his “Conversation with Staff” on 9 September 2015 proposed to take a “holistic” look at SRP changes. To this end, an SRP Advisory Task Force was established. Members are drawn from staff and retirees, the ADB Board, Controllers Department, Treasury, Office of the General Counsel, and BPMSD. AFE has two primary members: myself and Nicholas Llave, who was for many years on the Pension Investment Committee; Jill is the alternate. The Task Force is chaired by the Vice President, Administration and Corporate Affairs. It is supported by a Technical Group and an international consultant.

The first two meetings took place on 8 December 2015 and 14 January 2016. Background documents were circulated. Discussions have to date been on preliminaries. However, a direction has emerged for the 3rd meeting, scheduled for early March. A set of options such as increase in retirement age will be analyzed to find out what is likely to be a significant positive impact on the SRP’s financial condition as well as ADB’s attractiveness as a place to work. Most of these changes may very well affect, for legal reasons, only new hires. Sensitivity analyses will be carried out to assess the quantitative impact of these changes.

Will any changes affect retirees? It is too early to give a definite answer to this question. But, based on current information, the claw-back mechanism may be the only change that could affect retirees. Such a change, if implemented, would certainly result in AFE members bringing about an administrative review up to the Administrative Tribunal.

We will continue to inform you about the work of the SRP Advisory Task Force and the changes to the SRP it will consider. The present time frame envisages six task force meetings, with the last one in mid-2016. Changes to the SRP are to be implemented in 2017. Changes that require amendments of the SRP document would take effect from 1 October 2017. ■

# Health Matters

Jill Gale de Villa

**Advisory Task Force on Medical Insurance.** As you are aware, ADB has formed an Advisory Task Force on the medical insurance (GMIP ATF). Everybody is wondering (if not worrying) “What are they up to?” Certainly, cost containment is on ADB’s mind. But so is being reasonably similar to our comparators, so that ADB can attract and retain staff. The difference is that ADB, located in Metro Manila and with a majority of its insured people based outside the US, has a different medical situation than comparators based in the US and having a majority of their insured people there.

ADB is looking into options such as providing dental, eye, and preventive care. Obviously, these will cost. Can the beneficiaries afford to pay more? We have asked BPMSD for data on this, including how retirees, given their pensions, might be able to afford any increased premiums associated with such additions. Hopefully we will have been provided with this information before this message reaches you. There is also the issue of the high cost of medical care in the US, meaning that people getting treatment in the US consume a very large amount of our insurance. The effort to contain this has to be weighed against issues of equity—no small matter, this one.

**Benefiting from National Health Plans.** Some comparators require that participants in their health insurance sign up, if eligible, for their national health insurance. Some (e.g., World Bank) reimburse part or all of the cost for doing so. Others do not require such participation, as they have yet to figure out how to implement it. We do encourage our members who have national health insurance to use it, to save themselves and our plan costs.

**Go Generic.** We also encourage our members to always ask their doctors, when prescribing medicines, if generics will do. Generics are free, so save us money as individuals, and are sufficiently cheaper than non-generics so that they save the insurance plan money, even when covered 100%.

Currently we do not know what lies in store, and we will continue to share updates when new information is available. ■

## DC Meetings: ARAIO and World Bank

### ARAIO

Jill Gale de Villa

The Association of Retirees Associations of International Organizations (ARAIO) met at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, DC, on 26 October 2015. Julia Holz, Patricia Moser, Chantale Wong, and I attended on behalf of AFE. All the ARAIO member organizations were represented at the meeting except the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

During the morning session, each organization described something about its use of digital media for communication, networking, and/or voting. The afternoon comprised working groups on (1) benefits; (2) interagency participation, sharing, events, practices, and policy; and (3) overcoming obstacles to going digital. Patricia Moser represented AFE in the interagency group; Chantale Wong, in the digital group; and Julia and I, in the benefits group.

### Benefits

#### Health insurance

**Issues** discussed include the following: (1) The International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) now requires all liabilities to be funded within a 30-year time frame. For most international retiree health insurance programs, this impacts the balance sheets, which is alarming national

Julia Holz presenting to the ARAIO meeting information on AFE's use of digital media.



government stakeholders. (2) The US healthcare system remains a key unknown, given its complexity, uncertainty, and high and rising costs.

**Solutions** include the needs to (1) be well informed, develop stronger links with parent organizations, and take a more assertive stance in protecting retiree health care—in contrast to the case with most pension plans, parent organizations have considerable scope to raise health insurance premiums and revamp benefits; (2) strengthen ties with human resources (HR) and staff associations; if possible, have former HR staff on our boards and committees; and work with current staff associations to foster understanding of issues and negotiate with HR; (3) determine how our private insurance can best interface with national insurance plans; (4) have an informed and involved membership; and (5) be aware of the pressures on the parent organization to decrease costs, especially as the ratio of retirees to staff increases, and offset this with information regarding the uniquely unprotected situation of international civil servants.

#### Pensions

Only ADB retains a retirement age of 60; others have moved to 65–68.



ARAIO meeting at the Inter-American Development Bank. Front, left: Patricia Moser, Julia Holz, Jill de Villa.



Discussion group on issues pertaining to our use of digital media, with Chantale Wong (r) representing AFE.



Jill de Villa summarizing the discussion on benefits issues.

The IMF pension is sound because it learned the needed lesson after the 1990s and did not reduce its contributions to the plan when returns were high.

**Issues:** Pensions typically have legal protections that ensure continued pension payments to existing retirees under all circumstances. One area of potential concern is the payment of cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs), which may arguably be at the discretion of the parent organization and could be a concern. If COLAs do not keep pace with inflation, the real value of pensions could be eroded.

**Possible Solutions:** (1) Be thoroughly knowledgeable about the legal and financial status of your pension plan; ideally, the status provides for continued payments in any eventuality. (2) Ensure retiree interests are protected in pension committees.

**Summary**

Growing retiree numbers, concerns about underfunding of medical and perhaps pension programs, rising unease among stakeholders (the prospect of financial liabilities and the growing rarity of retiree medical benefits and defined benefit pension programs in their own countries) all suggest the need for increased vigilance on the part of international retiree organizations.

Knowledge is, if not power, a very useful tool in arguing our case and defending our interests. It underscores the importance of in-depth knowledge of medical benefit and pension plans, participation in governance structures (committees) in both areas, enhanced relationships with HR departments and staff associations, greater information-sharing among ARAIO members, and being informed about the

- impact and requirements of IPSAS,

- changes in the roles of parent institutions,
- long-term impact of changes in the types of contracts HR offers,
- impact of changing demographics, and
- share of parent institutions’ budget going to retiree benefits.

More research may be merited on the advantages and disadvantages of self-funding health insurance and on COLA developments.

Governance structures that provide insufficient voice for retirees are an issue. We need to increase our influence in the processes pertaining to our benefits (voice, representation, networking, connections).

**Participation**

The participation group noted the need for our associations to increase information exchanges, and to facilitate this, all participants should join our ARAIO LinkedIn group to share information.

- (1) Each retiree association should alert the other associations of changes in policies of common interest and talk about the changes at the beginning of the annual workshop.
- (2) The presidents of retiree associations should have more regular communication with each other, in addition to the Presidents Lunch.
- (3) Retiree associations should exchange newsletters and bulletins published by each association, as well as relevant policy papers prepared by each association.
- (4) Retiree associations should share the data base of retirees, with their expertise/skills.
- (5) The presidents of associations should get a list of other associations’ chapters and thematic groups.

- (6) Events organized by each association (e.g., courses, events with speakers, trips and outings) as well as volunteer opportunities available to each association (e.g., community service, mentoring, mediation) should be advertised.

Use of Linked-in and E-events was recommended for the above-mentioned sharing and advertising.

## Going Digital

The digital group identified barriers to our digital efforts (generational digital divide, privacy and security, funding, and user-friendliness) and solutions to the barriers (developing a communication strategy, identifying the right tools, educating the users, focusing on gradual introduction of changes).

## 1818 Society Meeting, World Bank, Washington, DC

Julia Holz and I attended the following on behalf of AFE:

- launch of the new 1818 Society website, which provided useful information for consideration for our own website and interface with ADB;
- panel discussion on “What Characteristics are Desirable in the next World Bank President,” which provided good amusement, as the discussions centered around leadership qualities as well as qualities that are undesirable, as exhibited in various World Bank presidents;
- pension;
- health insurance; and
- the 1818 Society Annual Meeting.

We also met separately with individuals, including representatives of insurance groups from PAHO and 1818 Society, and held discussions (i) on how ARAIO members can assist each other with knowledge and information; (ii) with treasurers and others on dues collection, audits, and separation of dues-paying members from the general population of former employees; and (iii) of taxation issues.

The full report is available on at <http://afe-adb.org>, in the Members Only section. ■

### For medical insurance information

<https://www.cignahealthbenefits.com/en/plan-members>

[insurance@adb.org](mailto:insurance@adb.org)

# ADB's Achievements in 2015

## Takehiko Nakao

*The ADB President's remarks at the ADB Appreciation Cocktail, December 2015*



ADB President Takehiko Nakao speaking at the appreciation cocktail for staff on 16 December 2015. He highlighted some of ADB's key achievements in 2015 and thanked staff for their work.

**W**e have indeed many reasons to celebrate and give thanks. Not only have we just awarded 47 service awards, but through your contributions we have made significant progress towards our mission this year. While I cannot mention all the achievements we have made within a couple of minutes, allow me to highlight a few:

First, the merger of ADF [Asian Development Fund] lending operations with the OCR [ordinary capital resources] balance sheet was unanimously endorsed by governors and donors. Our challenge now is to use our increased resources well. Today, the Board approved the 2016 budget with a 3.5% increase, which will support our first year of scaled-up operations as envisaged in the 2016–2018 work program. We are expecting a net increase of 130 staff in 2016–2018, and the budget incorporates an increase of 52 in 2016.

Second, the scaling up of operations has already successfully started. This year's loan and grant approvals amounted to a record \$16.6 billion, compared to \$13.5 billion last year. Out of this, PSOD [Private Sector Operations Department] approvals of \$2.6 billion is a big jump from \$1.9 billion last year. All regional departments met their targets. With more than \$10 billion in cofinancing, the total operations will reach \$27 billion. We are also expecting record disbursements this year.

Third, ADB was the first MDB [multilateral development bank] to commit to a sizable climate finance target. In late September, we announced that we will double our annual climate financing to \$6 billion by 2020, up from the current \$3 billion. It is also notable that we got an accreditation and an approval of cofinancing with the Green Climate Fund, both first among MDBs. We are fully committed to play an important role in financing the SDGs [Sustainable Development Goals] adopted last September by world leaders.

**ADB's Achievements in 2015 continued.**

Fourth, our progress this year is not just about quantity. ADB has carried out a lot of proactive and innovative works in our operations. They include (1) quick responses to natural disasters, especially the Nepal earthquake and the Vanuatu cyclone; (2) support to countries suffering from lower commodity prices and volatility in financial markets, such as Kazakhstan and Mongolia; (3) our first policy-based lending and results-based lending to [the People's Republic of] China; (4) issuance of our first green bond; (5) the allocation of 40% of PSOD operations to frontier economies and adoption of a faster approach to small nonsovereign transactions; (6) active use of local currency lending backed by bond issuances in local currencies; and (7) active transaction advisory services by OPPP [Office of Public–Private Partnership].

Fifth, there was progress in our knowledge work. We had 15 sector and thematic groups fully operationalized. I personally had very exciting and encouraging discussions with each one of them. Our Asian Development Outlook and Asian Economic Integration Report drew a lot of attention. We started the important knowledge work of ADB's 50th anniversary history book. And the ADB Institute was ranked the second best government-affiliated think tank in the world in the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index Report published by the University of Pennsylvania.

Sixth, with the help of DER [Department of External Relations], we wrote and placed 51 op-eds. We now use social media more effectively, including ADB's Asian Development Blog.

Seventh, regarding streamlining our procedures, we have made further progress in implementing the Midterm Review Action Plan and the 10-point Procurement Action Plan. We have introduced tailor-made procurement procedures specifically for small economies in the Pacific. I also want to report to you that we have just launched efficiency reforms with 22 actions, including greater use of summary procedures.

Eighth, we had a successful Annual Meeting in Baku, and the preparation for next year's Annual Meeting in Frankfurt is already well set in force.

Ninth, I would like to recognize the work of OAS [Office of Administrative Services], OIST [Office of Information Systems and Technology], and other relevant departments in supporting ADB's ongoing operations during APEC week when we had to close our offices for 3 days.

Finally, I acknowledge all of those who have worked behind the scenes to overcome many challenging issues, including in the accountability mechanism, accounting, risk management, legal issues, and independent evaluation.

I am very proud of our accomplishments this year, which were made possible by your devotion and teamwork as One ADB. I would like to express my most sincere gratitude to you all. Let's continue our efforts in pursuit of our mission to achieve poverty reduction and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

Please join me in a toast to celebrate the past and welcome another successful year in 2016. ■

## Chapter Coordinators

- Australia—Paul Turner
- Canada—Bruce Murray
  - Ottawa Area Subchapter—John Rive
  - Toronto Area Subchapter—Nida Rodrigo
- Europe—Gunter Hecker
- India—Barin Ganguli
- Indonesia—Putu Kamayana
- Japan—Tsuneaki Yoshida
- Korea, Republic of—Yoong Soo Seo
- New Zealand—E. Gordon Fox
- Pakistan—Shahid Mirza
- Philippines—Gamaliel de Armas, Jr.
- Singapore—Cheng Huat Sim
- Sri Lanka—Ranjith Wirasinha
- Taipei, China—(vacant)
- United States: Washington, DC—Clay Wescott
- United States: NJ-NY Area—Nannette Amorado until 30 June 2016; Lorna del Rosario from 1 July
- United States: California—Letty Gomez

## AFE–ADB Committees

### Publications Committee

- |                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Jill Gale de Villa—Head | Anna Juico            |
| Gamaliel de Armas, Jr.  | Wickie Mercado        |
| Stephen Banta           | David Parker          |
| Julia Holz              | Hans-Juergen Springer |

### Pension Council

- |                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Evelyn Fischer | <i>Ex officio</i>     |
| Nick Llave     | Hans-Juergen Springer |
| Brahm Prakash  | Jill Gale de Villa    |
| Graham Walter  | Julia Holz            |

### Insurance Committee

- |                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Jill Gale de Villa—Chair | Ferdinand Mesch |
| Edward Breckner          | Axel Weber      |
| Evelyn Go                | Clay Wescott    |
| Dang Fook Lee            |                 |



# Chapter News

## Indonesia: Annual Meetings and More

Putu M. Kamayana (ADB 1995–2014)



This is the first Annual Report by the new Indonesia Chapter Committee elected by acclamation at the AFE–ADB Indonesia Chapter Annual General Meeting on 26 October 2014, and comprising Chapter Coordinator Putu M. Kamayana, Secretary Dian Priyomustiko, and Treasurer Kinan Bhinekawati.

To discuss business matters and promote camaraderie among members, the Indonesian Chapter organized three gatherings during 2015, and held its first meeting for 2016 in January.

### Café 33 Kemang

For 2015, the first was held on 28 March at the Cafe Thirty Three Kemang; 22 members joined the event, at

which Anthony Gill, Senior Country Programs Specialist, Indonesia Resident Mission, attended as a special guest.

After welcoming the attendees and outlining the agenda, Putu Kamayana requested that the group observe a moment of silence in memory of Sri Pamoedjo Rahardjo, who had passed away recently. Putu then invited Anthony Gill to present a brief overview of ADB's new medium-term strategy and assistance program in Indonesia, for which he was leading the preparation. Key points on the forward strategy presented are as follows: (1) The Indonesian government has a \$514 billion public infrastructure program 2015–2019 and can afford to deliver it. (2) The major risks to its delivery are access to land and issues with improving the efficiency of the infrastructure preparation and implementation. (3) The government has changed its borrowing strategy to seek greater funding from international finance institutions, and the ADB program is expected to increase to \$2 billion per year. (4) The major foci of the new ADB Country Program and Strategy 2015–2019 will be energy security, food security, urban development and connectivity, and the investment climate. In response to questions, Anthony Gill outlined his thoughts on the status of the public–private partnership environment, ADB's views on the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and the future of education and health spending in the ADB strategy.



Seated, l-r: Steve Tabor, Hans-Juergen-Springer, Liz Reyes, Putu Kamayana; standing, 2nd row, l-r: Benny and Lydia Kosinda, Sonya Rajardjo, Chaya Soeksmono, Lestari Pakpahan, Roslaini Rasuman, Tutty Cagayat, Nora Nangju, Ningti Asra, Gia Kuek, Patrisia Panggabean, Wati Kamayana, Lucy Pandjaitan, Adiwarman Idris, Padmo Mangoendipoero; 3rd row, l-r: Abdullah Rasuman, Kinan Bhinekawati, Nadia Idris, Ida de Ponteves, Dimiyati Nangju, Normin Pakpahan, Anthony Kuek, John Situmeang; 4th row, l-r: Thierry de Ponteves, Lan Wu, Michel de Ponteves (partly hidden), Anastassiya Marina, Adrian Panggabean, Abuzar Asra (partly hidden).



At the Rasuman's in Sentul: Seated, l-r: Tutty Cagayat, Ningti Asra, Roslaini Rasuman, Nora Nangju, Tuty Kaswadi, Nana Soerakoesoemah, Ida de Ponteves, Nadia Idris, Kinan Bhinekawati; standing, l-r: Abdullah Rasuman, Putu Kamayana, Rita Brotoisworo, Adiwarmen Idris, Wati Kamayana, Dimiyati Nangju, Edy Brotoisworo, M. M. Soerakoesoemah, Michel de Ponteves, Zsizi Rachman, Philip Daltrop, Abuzar Asra.

In subsequent discussions, other items raised included (1) potential community and social organizations that the Indonesia Chapter could support, and (2) options for social media communications with the members. Ibu Dian Prijomustiko presented an overview of a charity called Sahabat Pulau that is seeking volunteers and donations of books to establish libraries in remote island communities of Indonesia. Ibu Soerakoesoemah explained about the cultural social organization she is supporting for the elderly in Bandung. Putu Kamayana invited the group to suggest additional charities and organizations that could be worthy of the Chapter's support, to be decided in a future meeting. The meeting decided to establish an Indonesia Chapter group on the chat application WhatsApp to facilitate communications among members. Finally, Putu informed the group that he and his wife, Wati, were preparing to attend the forthcoming Annual Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan in May 2015, and would report back on the events at the next meeting.

## Sentul

The second meeting was hosted by Abdullah and Roslaini Rasuman in their residence in the suburb of Sentul, south of Jakarta, attended by 22 members and spouses. At the start of the meeting, a minute of silence was observed in honor of Jusuf Anwar and Eddie Gunadi, who had passed away recently. The topics discussed in the business session included (1) a briefing on highlights of the Annual Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan; (2) the proposal by ADB Management to reduce staff and pensioners' benefits, including the 3% floor of the

cost-of-living allowance (COLA); and (3) a briefing about the new ADB Indonesia Resident Mission Country Director, who was unable to join the meeting due to a prior commitment, but who promised to attend a subsequent occasion. Putu Kamayana explained that the ADB President had held a town hall meeting for active staff, which was also attended by the AFE–ADB headquarters executive committee. At the meeting, the ADB President presented the key elements of the proposed changes. ADB then had invited staff and pensioners to provide comments on the proposals within a certain time frame.

Putu Kamayana strongly urged the retirees (including surviving spouses) to review the changes affecting retirees (mainly elimination of the 3% floor of the COLA) and submit their comments or objections to the ADB consultants (Towers Watson) consolidating the feedback, copied to ADB focal persons in the personnel and benefits divisions, within the deadline. He emphasized that the quantity of feedback from individual retirees will make a difference. He clarified that a key issue is to avoid establishing a precedent to allow ADB Management to make unilateral changes to the SRP without the express consent of affected pensioners. In closing, Putu encouraged members to propose articles or subjects for articles for the forthcoming *AFE–ADB News*.

## Annual Meeting in South Jakarta

The third meeting for 2015 was the Annual General Meeting, on 13 December at a restaurant in south Jakarta, attended by 33 members and spouses including special



Everyone joins the performance.

January, 15 members and spouses took a chartered bus from Jakarta early that morning for the 3-hour journey. We were joined by another 19 Indonesians who had previously lived in Manila either working in the embassy or studying in one of the universities. This group regularly meets in Jakarta to keep their friendships going, and the Soerakoesoemahs continue to be active members.

When we arrived at their home, we were greeted by festive music, decorations, and singing by dozens of enthusiastic members of the pensioners' group established in their community (the KPAE or Keluarga Pensiunan Arcamanik Endah).

guests Hans-Juergen Springer, president of AFE-ADB, his spouse Liz Reyes; and Steve Tabor, country director, ADB Indonesia Resident Mission.

Hans briefed the group on recent developments in ADB headquarters, and the activities of the AFE-ADB Executive Committee. He particularly elaborated on the rationale and status of ADB Management's proposed changes in compensation and benefits, including eliminating the 3% COLA floor. Finally, he invited members to participate in the Annual Meeting to be held in early May 2016 in Frankfurt, Germany.

Steve Tabor then briefed the gathering on ADB's new assistance strategy and program in Indonesia, including the record loan approvals and disbursements in 2015, and the new modalities of lending that will help ADB to increase the volume of its assistance significantly, such as results-based lending, in order to meet the increased demand from the Indonesian Government. There is a particular focus on infrastructure investment and improving the quality of education.

Putu Kamayana then invited the group to consider which community organizations and social assistance initiatives the chapter should support, for discussion at the next meeting, at the Soerakoesoemahs' home in Bandung on 19 January 2016.

The Soerakoesoemahs were previously KPAE officers and continue to serve as advisory committee members and sponsors. The KPAE comprises hundreds of families in the community. Beside motivating pensioners to keep physically active through daily exercise, singing, dancing, and other activities, the KPAE also provides social support to less fortunate members of their community, including providing scholarships for primary school students from the poorest families.

Our group was very impressed by the festive song-and-dance culture show we were treated to, including one session in which the entire audience was taught how to play the "angklung," a traditional bamboo instrument, and then played a couple of songs together.

Next we were treated to a bountiful lunch of traditional West Javanese dishes before heading back to Jakarta, with a brief stop to pick up some of the famous culinary specialties from Bandung. The return journey took nearly 5 hours due to torrential rains and the resulting traffic congestion on Jakarta's highways, but the festive songs and enthusiasm of the Soerakoesoemah's community lingering in our heads helped to make the bus ride seem shorter. ■

## Bandung 2016

The first Chapter gathering in 2016 was hosted by the Soerakoesoemahs at their beautiful home in Bandung, West Java. On 19



Singing with the KPAE Choir.



Putu Kamayana thanking the Soerakoesoemahs for hosting the January 2016 meeting.

# Australia

## Barossa—Fine Wine, Food, and Good Cheer

Paul V. Turner (ADB 1991–2007)



The AFE–ADB Australia Chapter celebrated its 10th Reunion (20–22 October) in the beautiful Adelaide Hills' historic town of Hahndorf. Hosted by the South Australian Chapter members, the reunion had one of the highest levels of participation in the Chapter's history and was also one of the most

enjoyable. How could it be otherwise in such a beautiful environmental setting and in one of Australia's premium wine-growing regions. It was wonderful to have the Burrells, Parkers, and Rockets join us from Manila for 3 days of fun in the Barossa Valley. They all said they would definitely be back for future reunions.

The carefully crafted program for the 3 days included visits to wineries and historical sites, and sampling of the culinary delights of the region famous for its very strong German influence. Participants who had space in their luggage couldn't resist the delicious temptations on offer, and some were even planning to make return visits. It is also a tradition in our reunions to remember a much loved colleague by playing for the Peter Pattison Memorial Golf Trophy. Modesty prevents me from saying which team won, but it must be said that the winners did indeed leave the others in their wake.

The Reunion was a great success when assessed against the criteria of fun, fellowship, and friendship. It was also a fitting tribute to Peter and Chan Carroll, who have been



Peter Pattison Memorial Golf Trophy winners: Paul Turner, Noleen Lim, Alan Hartley.

instrumental in establishing and nurturing the Chapter for the last decade. Peter decided that the time was right for him to step down as coordinator and to pass the baton on. I accepted the challenge and hope that I can keep up Peter's very high standards. Thanks, Peter, for your magnificent contribution, and we look forward to seeing you and Chan at next year's Chapter Reunion (that they have graciously offered to host) in Leura, New South Wales in the glorious Blue Mountains just west of Sydney. Book your tickets, as we would all love to see you in Leura in the second half of October 2016. ■



# Canada

## Bruce Murray (ADB 1980–2007)



**D**uring 2015, Canadian AFE chapter members met to renew friendships and catch up on the news. On behalf of Canadian AFE members, in mid-2015 we sent to BPMSD and the Canadian executive director a note opposing the ADB President's proposal to abolish the minimum 3% cost-of-living (COLA)

pension adjustment. A report to all Canadian AFE members on key 2015 events covered (1) AFE members who passed away, (2) ADB operational highlights, (3) ADB's merger of ordinary capital resources (OCR) and the Asian Development Fund (ADF), (4) the ADF replenishment, (5) pension issues, (6) health insurance issues, (7) the court ruling that Filipino staff do not have to pay income tax, and (8) the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

## Toronto

### Nida Rodrigo, Toronto area coordinator (ADB 1976–1996)



The AFE Toronto group was very active in 2015, organizing potlucks and other get-togethers throughout the year. In April, Guia Estabillo welcomed Toronto AFEers and spouses to her home for a potluck brunch on Easter Monday. The food was delicious, although the weather

did not cooperate. In May we gathered for a Mayflower potluck dinner at Paz and Ed Ravadilla's residence to cheer on Manny Pacquiao. The night was filled with laughter, food, stories, and fellowship although the result of the fight was disappointing. Jennie and Boy Amigleio hosted the June potluck, and Lindy and Mike Trabulsi opened their house for the August get-together—again, great food, fellowship, and shared memories. Dressed in western outfits, 13 Toronto AFEers attended the November end-of-year party at the Woodbine Racetrack and watched the Queen's Plate, the most famous horse race in Canada. We enjoyed

a unique night of dining and entertainment. For a minimum bet of \$1 to win, place, or show, we were licensed to scream our lungs out for our horses—seniors were like kids again! True to the chef's word, the food pleased even the most discerning palate, and the desserts were scrumptious but bad for the diet. The night did not end after 12 races—some went to the casino to try their luck! To improve communications between former ADB staff, Nida moderates or comoderates three groupsites: (1) AFE Toronto (over 50 active/inactive members); (2) the former Agriculture East 2 group (14 Filipino members); and (3) ex-ADB Filipino Staff (over 350 members). These groupsites use Facebook and Yahoo Groups for discussion forums, a shared calendar, member profiles, a photo gallery, and file sharing/storage.

## Ottawa–Montreal

### John Rive, Ottawa area coordinator (ADB 1978–2002)



#### Friends Sharing Memories and Delicious Asian Food.

On 6 November 2015, 13 AFEers and spouses living in the Ottawa–Montreal area met at the Mandarin Ogilvie Restaurant in Ottawa to reminisce and enjoy Chinese cuisine. Rita and Farrokh Kapadia selected the restaurant and

Summer get together at Lindy and Mike Trabulsi's home. Standing, l-r: Guia Estabillo, Jenny and Boy Amigleio, Rey and Ellen Ballares, Paz Ravadilla, Helen Dueñas, Carmen Perez, Malou and Jun Trasporto; seated, l-r: Dodo Ledesma, Prec Lizarondo, Annie and Ron Jameson, Linda Trabulsi, Tito Jugo, Ed Ravadilla, Mike Trabulsi, Ching Ledesma, Nida Rodrigo Jugo.





Ottawa dinner: l-r: Allan Barry, Farrokh Kapadia, Donald Kidd, Anna Barry, Audrey Jorssen, Judy Banning, Judy Kidd, Vernon Jorssen, Sevilla Gill, Rita Kapadia, Jeanette Rive, Alan Gill. Not shown: Ian Wright.

menu. The gathering was smaller than in recent years, but all found it an intimate and pleasant evening with lively conversations and fond memories of ADB days. Everyone appreciated John Rive’s efforts to organize the get-together, although he was travelling to Asia and the Philippines and could not personally attend.

**Vancouver Island Brunch.** Nine AFEers attended a brunch on Vancouver Island in Bev Bauche’s lovely home on Friday, 7 November. We reminisced about our ADB days over delicious food prepared by Bev while gazing out over a beautiful view of the water. The Vancouver Island AFE spouses also got together several times during the year. Bruce Murray brought the members up to date on developments at ADB and pension and health insurance issues.



Brunch on Vancouver Island, standing, l-r: Bev Bauche, Alex and Laura Jorgenson, Lynne Cole, Dick Gold, Bruce Murray and Anne Porter; seated, l-r: Leslie Gold and Karol Charleson; not shown: Emma Murray.

**Fine Food and John Cole Quizzes.** Twenty-nine AFEers, spouses, and guests living in the Vancouver and Seattle areas gathered at the River Rock Casino on 12 December to renew friendships, recall our ADB days, and enjoy a scrumptious buffet including unlimited amounts of crab. Two John Cole Memorial Quizzes tested the knowledge of the attendees. Bruce Murray brought the group up to date on news from ADB and pension and health insurance issues. During the year, Yang Weimin organized two Vancouver lunches with excellent Chinese food for some former ADB staff members. ■

Front kneeling, l-r: Rey Castro, Jay Dimailig, Jun Esquejo; middle row, l-r: Emma Murray, Loi Dimailig, Lenn Castro, Tina Carlos Simpson, Angelita Celestino, Malu Dizon, Utaiwan Samuel, Virginia Cayetano-Ignacio, Jenny Palmiano Majarreis, Fremma Esquejo, Marites Zamora; back row, l-r: K. L. Lim, Monti Samuel, Virgio Majarreis, Bruce Murray, Nelson Sumagui, Christine and Bill Fraser. Not in the picture: Sean Dimailig, Danny Cayetano-Ignacio, Mrs. K. L. Lim (Phaik Cheng), Xiaoning Xia, Ping Luo and their children Lawrence and Victoria and Weimin Yang.



# Europe

## Reunion in Scotland

Günter Hecker (1979–2002)



In the past, our UK Chapter members have been a quite elusive lot regarding Chapter get-togethers. So we all thankfully grabbed the offer from Barbara and Rodney Addison to host our 18th Chapter Reunion in Edinburgh. By bringing the Reunion to their doorsteps, we hoped for a strong UK participation.

This wish came true to some extent, as a respectable crowd of 12 of the overall 33 participants ventured into their northern territory. When we set out to plan the Reunion, we had to speculate whether it would still take place in the UK, pending the referendum on Scottish independence. But British Union remained intact, and our Reunion could take place in an ADB member country.



Scottish afternoon tea at the George Hotel.



Rodney and Barbara Addison and AFE participants in the gondola of the Falkirk Wheel.



There goes the technology again.

Our base, the renowned George Hotel, was conveniently located in walking distance from the main train station, Princess Street, the Royal Mile, and Edinburgh Castle. The Reunion commenced with a Scottish afternoon tea in the George, immediately followed by the indispensable Business Meeting so as to get the work part of the Reunion quickly out of the way.

**The Wheel and the Kelpies.** Day 1 started with a bus tour to Falkirk Wheel in the forenoon. Until 1933, the Forth and Clyde Canals that linked Glasgow to Edinburgh were joined by a series of 13 locks over a stretch of 1.5 kilometers to master the 35-meter difference in height. These locks have long since been dismantled, and economic progress seemed to demand a renewed inland waterway connection across Scotland; this was to be done with a visionary approach through the world's first and only rotating boat lift.

Boats entering the Falkirk Wheel's upper gondola from the Clyde Canal are lowered along with the water they float in, while the boat from the Forth is being lifted in the other gondola. Boats plus water are about equal weights in each gondola, fulfilling Archimedes' principle



Gondolas in the Wheel.



The happy crowd of the Edinburgh Reunion: L-r: Barbara Addison, Elizabeth and David Craxton, Günther Schulz, Patrick Pillon, Helga Schulz, Doreen Fernandez, Uwe Henrich, Peter von Brevern, Richard Vokes, Friederike Kantner, Ranjith Wirasinha, Susan Vokes, Erika Henrich, Marilies von Brevern, Enrie Hecker, Marianne and Jan Wijenberg; front: Jill de Villa, Meriaty Subroto, Malkanthi Wirasinha, Naomi Chakwin; missing: Arun Adarkar, Ray and Brenda Cahoon, Ulf and Monique Freiwald, Andrew and Jackie Norman, Gunter Hecker.



Botanical garden.

Just before we reaching the Wheel we found a fitting background for our first group photo—in front of the Kelpies in miniature.

**Hopetoun House.** After a light lunch we were heading for Hopetoun House, a 300-year-old estate, full of Georgian and Edwardian interiors, providing a very familiar setting to those who had watched the *Downton Abbey* TV series.

**Exploring Edinburgh.** Days 2 and 3 were dedicated to Edinburgh’s treasures. Each of us was provided with a 2-day hop-on hop-off bus ticket, which included entrance fees for most of the important places. Thus we could visit the sights at our own pace with likeminded friends. My group included Malkanti and Ranjith Wirasinha, Jackie and Andrew Norman, Doreen and Neville Fernandez, and my wife Enrie. We first visited the Botanical Garden, which was founded in 1670 in the backyards of the Holyrood Abbey in the size of a tennis court and about 100 years later was relocated to its present place, now covering 70 acres of beautifully landscaped gardens.

We then took the bus to visit the Royal Yacht Britannia, which gave us some insight into the “frugal” life of the Royal family when travelling. There was so much to see, that our group called it a day and looked for a royal snack near the yacht. I had seen the Britannia in action back in the

of equal mass displacement and requiring, as a result, only about 1.5 kilowatt-hours of additional energy to turn the gigantic wheel. We were all impressed by this engineering ingenuity but noted that no commercial vessel was to be seen. This canal reconnection is now exclusively used as a tourist attraction...the visual design of the gondolas gave the impression of (white) elephant ears.

Before our ride on the Wheel, we visited the Kelpies, giant statues of horses’ heads designed by Andy Scott. The horses are Clydesdales—the breed that once drew heavily laden barges along the canal. In Scottish mythology, the Kelpie appears as a horse, sometimes with a fish tail (I prefer the lady in Copenhagen). They live deep in rivers and promise to carry you safely across. Once on their back, however, they dive and you end up as supper. Thus the monument commemorates the horses that were once used to pull the vessels along the canals and that were the horsepower of early industrialization, and links to Scottish mythology.

300-year-old Hopetoun House.







Left: Dining room of the Royal Yacht Britannia; right: Royal Yacht Britannia's temporary captain and communications officer.

1980s when the Queen and I were both inspecting Suva Port—she for the United Kingdom, I for ADB.

On the agenda of the next day was first Edinburgh Castle, high up on the Castle Rock, which provides a splendid aerial view of the city. We arrived on time to

witness the one o'clock gun, which since ages ago is shot every day to allow seafarers to adjust their chronometers before setting sail—I found my Seiko off by one minute. Unfortunately we missed by one day the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, an annual performance of largely military bands and the "massed pipes and drums."

The history of this castle, dating back to 1093, has been highly volatile, with numerous sieges, captures, and



Edinburgh Castle.



Military Museum inside Edinburgh Castle.

The Royal Mile.



Holyrood Palace.



Gala dinner at the Roxburghe hotel.

recaptures between the Scots and the English. During that 1,000-year history the castle was destroyed, rebuilt, and amended. Today's structure, therefore, has elements from all the periods; the latest expansion is from this decade, as the castle still hosts the 2nd British Infantry Division. We could see the Stone of Scone that had been returned in 1996 from Westminster. In 1296, Edward I had confiscated the stone and placed it under the coronation throne. This is the stone on which first all Scottish and then all English kings and queens were crowned.

Then it was down the Royal Mile to Holyrood Palace, not without having a pint in one of the many picturesque pubs along the way. Holyrood is the official residence of Queen Elizabeth II when in Edinburgh (sources say 1 week per year).

We almost wished the queen would be there and we would not be allowed in, since, as in Edinburgh Castle, the palace has so many rooms and stories connected to them,

full of exquisite furniture, tapestries, and paintings, that it is impossible to remember (at least at our age).

**Dining in Style.** We had to cut the visit short a bit, since we had to get groomed for our Gala Dinner, which has become a tradition for our Chapter Reunion, at the Roxburghe Hotel.

**Abbotsford and Whisky.** Day 4 took us by bus about a 1-hour drive south to the border (with England) to Abbotsford House on the River Tweed, the home of Sir Walter Scott. He constructed the house with the ample proceeds of his literary career, and it is a monument to his tastes, talents, and achievements. We were all impressed by his wall-to-wall library and his eccentric collections of antiquities and weapons, but we also learned that his "possession" of and with this house brought him to the brink of bankruptcy.

The afternoon was reserved for visiting Glenkinchie Whisky Distillery, maker of the precious liquid since 1853 under that name. After the tour through the production process, we finally came to the tasting part. We were told to our surprise that above 16 years, whisky does not become better or tastier, despite the price tag getting heavier with each additional year. That was a good take-home.

**The Ghillie Du Farewell.** Not very drunk, we all got safely home to the hotel, recovering for our farewell get-together in the famous pub, the Ghillie Du. The one only appropriately dressed for this occasion was the chapter coordinator. I thanked the hosts, Barbara and Rodney, for excellently organizing the Reunion and all the

participants for their unwavering support of our group. I also invited them to attend the coming year's two events: the Annual Meeting in Frankfurt and the AFE—EU Chapter Reunion in Überlingen on the Bodensee, to which Annette and Peter Fedon have cordially invited us, possibly some with Lederhosen, as the Bavarian border will be only 50 kilometers away. ■



Günter in kilt.

# India

## The Sundarbans

### Barin Ganguli (ADB 1979–1995)



On the easternmost coast of India, in the Bay of Bengal, lies the immense maze of tiny islands known as the Sundarbans. Sundarbans in the Bengali language means beautiful forests. The term comes from the sundari tree, the predominant tree species in the local mangrove forests. Mangrove forests cover 10,000 square kilometers in the Sundarbans, 60% of which is in Bangladesh and the rest in India, mostly in West Bengal, in the Sundarban National Park, Tiger Reserve, Biosphere Reserve, and protected areas. The Sundarbans is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The Sundarbans of India, densely covered by mangrove forests, is one the largest reserves for the Royal Bengal tiger, which numbers only 64 individuals. In these forests, on a double-decker motor boat, the 22nd Annual Meeting of the AFE–ADB India Chapter was held on Saturday 31 October 2015.

Most of the 17 participants arrived at Hotel Lalit Great Eastern in Kolkata on Friday October 30 by air and departed on November 2.

**Temples and the Princep Ghat.** On Friday, afternoon we visited the Dakshinewar and the Belur Math Temples. Dakshinewar Temple is situated on the east bank of the Hooghly River. The temple's presiding deity is Bhavatarini, a manifestation of the Goddess Kali, the symbol of shakti

Belur Math Temple.



Dakshinewar Temple.



(power). Belur Math Temple, on the west bank of the Hooghly River, is an important institution in India, being the headquarters of the Ramakrishna Mission. The mission was founded by Swami Vivekananda, chief disciple of Ramakrishna Paramhansa, who was the priest of the Dakshinewar Temple. On the way to dinner we had a glimpse of the famous Howrah Bridge, the Princep Ghat, for a magnificent evening view of the Hooghly River, and of the well-lit Victoria Memorial, an iconic building and a great landmark in Kolkata. The Chapter's social dinner was at the Kolkata Tolly Club, facilitated by member Shiladyta Chatterjee.

**Meeting in the Sundarbans.** It was a wonderful feeling to discuss serious matters such as the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and the efficiency of the group medical insurance provider (GMIP) while travelling through the Sundarbans ecosystem, which supports diverse flora and fauna, especially bird and reptile populations. The Sundarbans is famous for tigers, and we were fortunate to see their pug marks. We also spotted numerous kingfisher birds, crocodiles, monkeys, spotted deer, and colorful crabs. The sunlight reflected on the rivers Gomor and Durgadhuani, and the ripples made by the powerful engine



of the boat provided a unique background for the serious Business Meeting.

Sant Juneja, ex-President of the AFE–ADB India Chapter, welcomed AFE–ADB President Hans-Juergen Springer and his wife Elizabeth, and thanked both of them for coming to India and participating in the Chapter’s meeting. Sant chaired the meeting on behalf of the current President, Prateep Lahiri. The participants observed a minute’s silence to remember two of the Chapter’s deceased members, S.C. Jha and V. V. Desai, and the spouse of member Ranjit Banerjee, Manju Banerjee.

The Chair sought elaboration from Hans regarding the status of the COLA and further follow-up of Cigna, the new GMIP.

The chapter coordinator noted the number of total retirees from ADB and the total pension payments of \$71.13 million made in 28 currencies during 2014. About 75% of the more than 100 Indian retirees living in India and elsewhere are active on e-mail. Two new retirees, V. Tulasidhar and Nora Jain, have become members of the India Chapter.





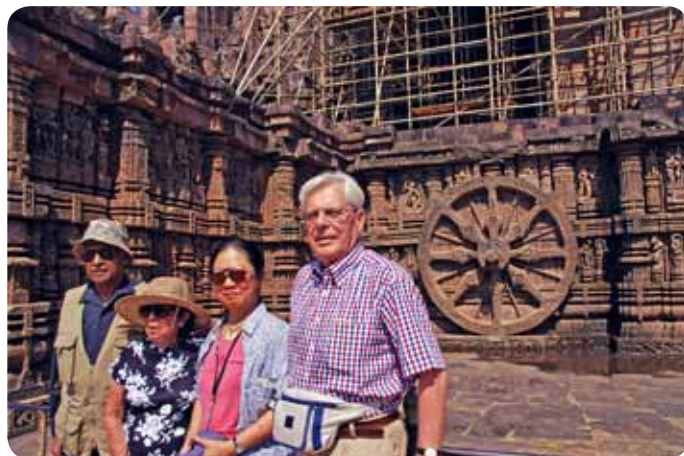
Images of the Sundarbans.



Jayanta Madhab, Lata Deshpande, Ramdass Keswani, Shipra Ganguli, Shoba Juneja, Krishna Bandyopadhyaya, Elizabeth Reyes, Sant Juneja, Snimer K. Sahni, Shilu Chatterjee, Gopa Chatterjee, Anuradha Gupta (Jayanta Madhab's niece), Barin Ganguli.

On the two major issues of pension and health insurance, AFE President Hans-Juergen Springer provided the following clarifications. On pensions, an SRP Advisory Task Force had been established and he is a member of it. Instituting a "claw-back" provision would remain a matter of concern in the future. On the question of whether ADB has the power to take away benefits guaranteed by the board-approved SRP document, he believed it cannot be done. This view was supported by the Bretton Woods Law counsels who were engaged by AFE and the ADB Staff Council.

On health insurance, Hans listened carefully to the complaints of delayed reimbursements of claims and strictness in reimbursements by Cigna, the present insurance provider and administrator. He said that AFE had received such complaints from other retirees. He informed that a second Advisory Task Force on health insurance (GMIP) had been established, in which Jill de Villa, AFE Vice President, is a member. The advice given by the Task Force will be considered by ADB management and may be the basis to bid for new health insurance



Left: Barin and Shipra Ganguli, Liz Reyes, and Hans Springer in front of one of the 24 wheels of the ancient Indian calendar. Right: Devotees at the Konark Sun Temple.

services. Hopefully the grievances aired by retirees as well as ADB staff would eventually be resolved.

On the question of increasing the Chapter subsidy to last year's level of \$700, Hans explained the involved process and promised to look into the Chapter's request.

**Forward Planning.** It was unanimously decided that the annual India Chapter meeting should be held outside Delhi as far as possible. This serves two purposes: first there is greater participation of members from outside Delhi; and second, it gives members opportunities to see some of the places in incredible India. In line with this reasoning, it was decided that the 23rd India Chapter Annual Meeting will be held in Pudducherry (Pondicherry) sometime in the first week of December 2016. The members requested the chapter coordinator to get in touch with Mr. Swaminathan and Mr. Rajendran, members residing in Chennai, to seek their views on the venue, the timing of the event, and their availability to help organize the meeting. In case of difficulty with holding the meeting in Pudducherry, Jay Madhab volunteered to host it in Guahati in Assam in the first week of December 2016.



Fine dining at the Kolkata Tolly Club.

The chapter coordinator expressed his thanks to all the participants including Hans-Juergen Springer and his wife Elizabeth for making the Annual Meeting a success. In particular he thanked Shiladitya Chjatterjee for helping the chapter coordinator hold the meeting in Kolkata and in the Sundarbans. ■

**For information  
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## New York—New Jersey

### La Guardia Reunion

Anisa Yacub-Jameson (ADB 1968–1978)



**B**ravo! They did it again! The AFE—ADB New York—New Jersey Chapter held another successful annual reunion on 17 October 2015 at the ballroom of the Marriott Hotel at La Guardia Airport in Queens, New York. It was an unforgettable evening of fun for everyone. What a blast it truly was! Even the unpredictable East

Coast weather cooperated, unlike in previous years, when we had to slog through rain, snow, and ice.

The chair position for this year's party rested on the capable shoulders of irreplaceable Chato O'Buckley. Not to be overlooked, the usual reliable group composed of Florence Rafulowitz (back from her UN mission at The Hague, Netherlands), Nena Villena-Tanedo, Mila (Simolde) Maculanlan, Lorna del Rosario, Marge Baccay, Vivian Villanueva, and of course the energetic coordinator Nannette Amorado lent their full support. Kudos to them for their sterling efforts and services.

**The Main Event.** All in all, almost a hundred people attended: ex-ADBERS and their families and friends who came from far and near. Dear friends from my ADB days went to New York just to see people they knew in the past. I was happy to see them all and to catch up with events in



L-r: Nena Villena-Tañedo, Margie Baccay, Chat Cortes, Lorna del Rosario, Chato Ledonio-O'Buckley, Florence Soriano-Rafulowitz, Jill Gale de Villa, Nannette Amorado, Mila Simolde Maculanlan.

their lives since they left the Bank. I mingled with Frank Berena (NJ), Dina Villaluz (California), Tessie Roa-Zaretsky (Chicago), Au Tolentino-Macias (also from California) and my dear friend Helen Veloso-Williamson (Manila). If I missed anyone I am deeply sorry; blame it on my “senior moments.” Jill de Villa flew in from Manila to represent the headquarters and briefly talked to us about the benefits review and upcoming ADB annual meeting in Frankfurt, Germany.

From Toronto, Canada six of us took the Megabus for a 12-hour overnight ride to New York:

Jun and Malou Trasporto, Leo and Jenny Amigleo, Guia Estabillo, and yours truly. Although we loved the beautiful fall scenery along the way, it was nevertheless a long, tiring trip, aggravated by a delay at the Buffalo-Niagara border due to the number of foreign tourists in the bus. My companions checked into the Marriott Hotel for the night, while I stayed with my niece in Astoria, Queens for a few days.

Delighted squeals, laughter, and games punctuated the evening. Chato had recruited her family—husband and three sons—to help make the evening enjoyable. Don was a most affable emcee for the evening, and the “boys” performed contemporary musical numbers much to the delight of the crowd. Irresistibly danceable music was provided by the DJ couple, Ben and Jing Velasco, old friends from UNDP days, who since then have also retired. Performances by our talented members kept us enthralled,

enchanted, and sometimes in hysterics: Margie Baccay, Chat Cortes, Mila Macuanan, Lorna del Rosario, Diane Venegas, Nena Villanueva-Tañedo. There were also skits and dances to entertain the crowd. The organizers loaded the tables with gifts and surprises for everyone, especially the out-of-town guests to make their visits worthwhile and memorable. Dinner was a sit-down affair of delicious soup, salad, chicken, and salmon. A variety of Italian sweets topped the desserts. Everyone complimented the menu and the chefs in the kitchen. After dinner, dancing was nonstop as the old and the young showed off their cool moves; it seemed nobody wanted to leave the crowded floor.

As the party was winding down, we were shocked and saddened to hear that Lou de Belen, an active, relatively young member of the AFE—ADB, had just passed away in Manila. The news came at the end of a lively reunion of former colleagues and friends, a timely reminder of



Chato and Don O’Buckley.

The O’Buckley trio.

L-r: Oscar Colmenar, Nena Villena-Tañedo, Lorna del Rosario, Delia Villena, Aurora Tolentino-Macias, Sofia Marquez, Juliet Pantaleon-Capati, Ditas Oliveros, Frank Berena, Jennifer and Boy Amigleo, Chato Ledonio O’Buckley, Nerissa Cortes, Vivian Villanueva, Y Chie Primo, Guia Estabillo, Florence Soriano Rafulowitz, Nannette Amorado, Mia Jose, Dina Villaluz, Mila Simolde Maculan, Margie Baccay, Julie Rogers, Tessie Roa Zaretsky, Jun and Malou Trasporto, Helen Veloso Williamson, Diane Venegas, Anisa Yacub-Jameson.





life's fragility, and a main reason for our get-together—to recall once again our halcyon days in good old ADB when we were young, carefree, and full of hope, be it in Makati, Roxas Boulevard, or Mandaluyong. As Mila solemnly proclaimed, “Kaya nga ba mag-reunion na tayo palagi” (“That’s why we should hold reunions frequently.”)

**The Afterglow.** The next day, October 18, Don and Chato hosted a sumptuous lunch at their residence in Queens, especially for out-of-towners before they headed back home. We promised to stay in touch and to see each other again at next year’s party, if not sooner. Who can tell what lies around the corner just waiting to pounce on unsuspecting us. “Carpe diem” should be the appropriate motto for seniors and retirees.

How about the ADB Annual Meeting in Frankfurt, Germany in May 2016? Insh’Allah, I’m looking forward to seeing many former colleagues there, especially the “oldies but goodies” from the ‘60s and ‘70s. See you in Frankfurt, dear comrades and friends! Cheers to us all!

For the 2016 NY–NJ reunion, Mia Jose has been designated as chair, and I know she will get the usual help and cooperation from all. It is hoped that many ex-ADBers will attend as well to make it another enjoyable and memorable event.

Meanwhile, we send our very best wishes to Nannette Amorado as she retires from the UN in May and begins another exciting chapter in her life. As a happy retiree myself, I welcome her to the exclusive club of fulfilled and contented seniors who have done our share to try to make our chaotic world a little bit better. Lorna del Rosario will step into her shoes as NY–NJ chapter coordinator. ■



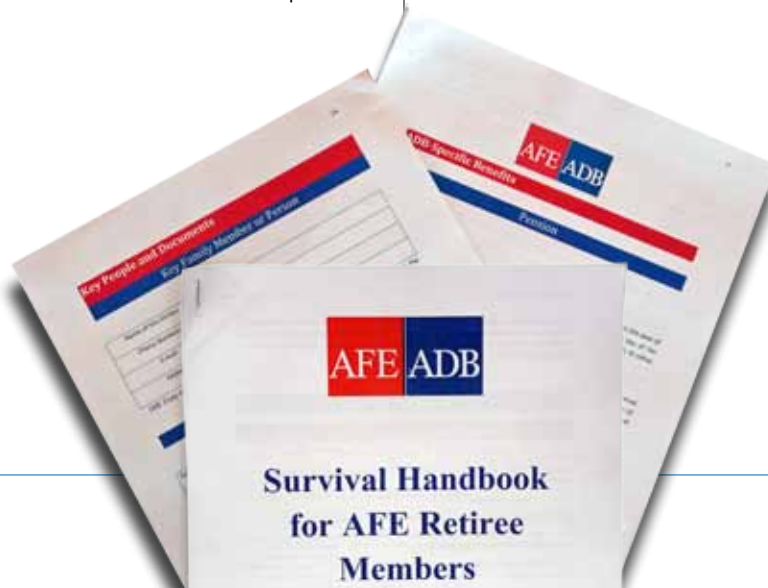
Mila Simolde Maculanan.



Nena Villanueva-Tañedo.



In the swing of the evening.



# People, Places, and Passages

## Travels in Peru

John Kuiper (ADB 1991–2004)



John Kuiper at Machu Picchu.

During Vancouver's winter—December to February—I like to go on a long holiday to warm, exotic places, and 2 years ago I revisited South America. I had visited several Latin American countries in the 1970s and 1980s for engineering consulting assignments and occasional holidays, but the last time was Guatemala in 1991, just before I joined ADB. As a high school student, I lived in Madrid for a year, and still remembered enough Spanish to get around and feel comfortable as an independent traveler in South America. My trip included Mexico, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, and the Galapagos. This article focuses on my month in Peru, probably the most colorful and interesting country in Latin America.

**Arequipa to Lake Titicaca.** I started in Arequipa, southern Peru. Arequipa is Peru's second largest city, and has a few interesting places in the centro historico. At 2,300 meters (about 7,000 feet) Arequipa is a good place to acclimatize and get ready for Cusco and Machu Picchu, which are even higher. From Arequipa I took a bus to the Colca Valley to see the spectacular deep canyon there, with its irrigated and terraced green fields, and then went north toward Lake Titicaca. Except in the Colca Valley, most of this route





Transport on Lake Titicaca.  
Below: the “undressed” boats.

passes through long stretches of arid and barren flatlands at high altitude. This is the altiplano, the predominant landscape between the Andes Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. The long-distance bus service in Peru is good, with modern and comfortable coaches on good highways, and provides an opportunity to view the countryside more closely and stop at interesting places en route. From Puno, on the shore of Lake Titicaca, I embarked on a full-day boat trip to visit the floating reed islands with small settlements and to see traditional reed boats on the lake. At elevation 3,800 meters, the air is thin and cold.

**Sacred Valley of the Incas.** From there I took a tourist bus to Cusco, once the capital of the great Inca empire. It is still the most important city in the region, often called the Sacred Valley of the Incas. Cusco lies on the eastern side of the Andes, and is green and fertile as the mountains capture much rain. This is the most interesting and exotic region of Peru, with terraced and irrigated green valleys surrounded by high hills and mountains, and ancient Inca stone ruins in numerous places. Cusco has the remains of many Inca buildings from the 15th century; the foundations and lower walls can still be seen, now topped by the Spanish colonial buildings that were constructed on the old Inca walls. The stone architecture of the Incas is impressive—the most impressive pre-Columbian architecture in South America.

The most famous attraction in this region is the Inca mountain citadel of Machu Picchu, which was abandoned after the Spanish conquest, forgotten for many centuries, and rediscovered by the American explorer Hiram Bingham

in 1911. Machu Picchu is a very special, almost magical place, not only due to the number of intact Inca stone buildings that have remained undisturbed for 500 years, but also due to its isolated setting high in the mountains, surrounded by wispy clouds, with not another village or any evidence of modern civilization in sight. I was fortunate to have good weather the first day there, but the second day started with heavy rain and solid cloud cover—not surprising as the rainy season starts in December.

Several smaller towns and villages in the Sacred Valley of the Incas are equally interesting, and are usually ignored by the organized tour groups that are in a hurry to see the most famous sites in 3 days and then move on. I spent a few days in Ollantaytambo, midway between







Portraits of Andes people.



Machu Picchu, with clouds over the Sacred Valley.

Cusco and Machu Picchu, and visited some small villages where many people still wear traditional Andean clothes every day, and where tourists seldom venture. This was a nice opportunity to take some portraits. It often required patience, a friendly smile, and some small talk in Spanish, although the traditional native Quechua language is more commonly used in rural areas.

**Lima and Trujillo.** From Cusco I flew to Lima, Peru’s capital city, on the coast. Lima has some excellent museums with collections of pre-Columbian artifacts, and some fine seafood restaurants. Then I flew to Trujillo in northern Peru to see ancient temple mounds and visit Chiclayo to see the famous museum of the Royal Tomb of the Lord of Sipan (circa 300–500 AD). It is the most important and richest pre-Colombian tomb ever discovered, filled with golden artifacts.

The early history of Peru is obscure, because none of South America’s pre-Colombian cultures used or left any written records. However, archeological evidence shows that

some large ancient cities, such as Caral, were built near the coast as early as 2600 BC with populations of about 3,000 people and large stone ceremonial complexes and pyramid mounds. This was about the same time that the first great pyramids of Egypt were built. Thus, Peru’s ancient cities are among the oldest urban complexes in the world. Many different ancient cultures have been identified in Peru, and the Classical Era (200–1100 AD) saw the development of numerous distinct cultures, both on the coast and in the Sierra.

The Inca culture is the best known; it expanded rapidly in the century before



the arrival of the Spanish conquistadors in 1532. The Incas had the most powerful and best organized culture in South America. Their history is well known because it was documented by the Spaniards based on the oral traditions at the time of the conquest. Despite the Incas' power, they could not stop the Spanish onslaught, with its superior weaponry; horses, which initially terrified the Incas; ruthless treachery in taking the Inca ruler hostage at their first meeting, which began peacefully; and decimation due to smallpox and other diseases introduced by the Europeans.

The material culture that has survived and been recovered though archeology shows that the early pre-Columbian cultures had made many remarkable discoveries and advances, such as cultivating potatoes and corn and producing artistic ceramics, decorative and sophisticated textiles, and intricate gold work. Reliable genetic evidence shows that cotton originated in Peru and was first cultivated there. Pre-Incan cotton grave cloths found in Peru date back to 2500 BC—which is 2,000 years before the first evidence of cotton use anywhere in Asia. (In the old world, the use of cotton started in the Indus Valley civilization in India in about 500 BC, then spread gradually to the Middle East, Egypt, and North Africa.) Whether this important agricultural advance was somehow transferred from the New World to Asia, or whether it was discovered independently in both hemispheres, is a matter for speculation.

To see more photos of Peru, go to [www.johnkuiper.ca](http://www.johnkuiper.ca) with ID: john and password: jksphotos. ■



## Path to Empowerment

Josephine D. Javier (ADB 1986–2005)



We are a small group of Arellano High School graduates who left the portals of our alma mater in 1963 filled with enthusiasm and passion to better ourselves through higher education. We acquired our university degrees and moved on to higher paths in our professional lives. Many of us

reached the apex of our careers, experienced a fulfilling and meaningful family life, and are now into our second wind.

After more than 4 decades, we returned to our alma mater with a vengeance. We committed ourselves to become “game changers.” We passionately feel and believe that we can touch the students’ lives and make an impactful difference.

**Helping Dreams to Come True.** We are acutely aware that many of the children studying in Arellano High School belong to the bottom of the pyramid. They experience daily the lack of basic needs. To them, hope is a rare commodity. Dreaming for a brighter future and believing that they can become better individuals appear to be a lost cause. Class 1963 aims to restore their hope and let them believe again that they can be better and productive members of society.

Ramoncito Z. Abad, former president of Philippine National Construction Corporation and chairman of the Development Bank of the Philippines, noted: “The Class 1963 Scholarship Program was established to ensure that deserving, yet financially challenged students, are provided with the financial and moral support to enable them to complete their high school education equipped with the knowledge, attitude, and skills to pursue college education and face the real world with conviction and strength of character. To achieve this goal, Alumni Class 1963 devotes considerable time, treasure, and talent to monitor the scholars’ progress, not only academically, but personally. The regular interactions through face-to-face meetings create a caring community and family, where a sense of generosity and gratitude is imbued with deep sincerity. Our bottom line is to develop a cadre of complete persons who will overcome all obstacles and exceed all expectations. The scholars will be the Philippines’ future leaders who will govern with honesty, integrity, and maturity.”



Jo Javier (center, 2nd row) with donors and beneficiaries of class 1963 Scholarship Program.

The plus side is that the scholars belong to the millennial era, whose members value the primacy of family and tend to be more socially aware and environmentally conscious. Digital connectivity is second nature to them.

**Seeing Success.** After seven years, 2007–2014, Class 1963 has graduated 40 high school

students: 10 each in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2014.

In March 2011, Ivan Cyrus Dalde and May Antonette Palacio graduated as the valedictorian and salutatorian. In March 2013, Wilson Paat graduated as valedictorian and Hyacynth Andres gained 3rd honorable mention. In October 2014, May Antonette Palacio graduated with a B.Sc. degree in secondary education, cum laude, from de la Salle University in Manila. Currently, 90% of the scholars are enrolled in courses in Manila colleges and universities, and we are supporting 50 high school students.

Scholars affirmed their thanks for the program and its benefits including:

Ivan Dalde: "Through their continuous support and encouragement, I learned how to trust and believe in my own abilities and capabilities."

Melody Madrid: "Being part of the scholarship program is one of the greatest gifts I have ever had because it helped me improve my talent and boost my confidence. It brought out the best in me and guided me on how to achieve my deepest dream."

Wilson Paat: "Through their support in every aspect such as financial and moral, and through the seminars that they conducted for us, I learned to overcome my weaknesses and convert them into strengths. I achieved different things in the past few years."

So far, Class 1963 has invested P1.136 million to support the 90 scholars for school year 2014–2015.

**Future Plans.** We have vowed to continue the Scholarship Program until 2020, when we pray and hope the 2011 alumni-scholars will accept the baton of responsibility and continue the scholarship program. Our fervent dream is that each class support one child each to complete the K-12 program beginning in 2015. ■

**Providing Financial and Moral Support.** We began in 2007 by committing financial support to 10 first-year students who had been recommended by the Arellano (Manila North) High School Alumni Scholarship Committee under the leadership of Mrs. Elizabeth Bartolome Cristobal. We ensure that we address the scholars' intellectual and emotional needs through the conduct of seminars and workshops. To reinforce the lessons taught, we also conduct focus group discussions to encourage them to tell about their family life; hopes and expectations from their teachers, school administration, and classmates; issues, problems, and challenges confronting them; and their career plans and dreams. The interaction creates an atmosphere of trust and respect.

Class 1963 also supports the participation of our scholars in the YMCA National Assembly of High School Students held annually in Baguio City. In 2014, we sent six scholars to the YMCA Baguio conference.

We conduct annually a "Meet and Greet" event to introduce the incoming first year grade 7 scholars to their coscholars from the other years and grade levels. A buddy system is created, which allows the senior members to mentor the junior members of the scholars' group. As a culmination activity, we hold a Christmas party to bring the members of Class 1963 to meet the scholars.

Class 1963 hopes to instill in the scholars the six C's mantra—conscience, compassion, character, community, competence, and culture (patterned after Xavier School). As the millennials of the 21st century, the scholars are expected to learn how "to think—to reason, analyze, weigh evidence, problem-solve. Effective communication, curiosity, and critical thinking skills are essential competencies and habit of mind for life in the 21st century" notes Tony Wagner in *The Global Achievement Gap*.



## Lunch in Finland

Robert Wihtol (ADB 1994–2013)



In 2015, the AFE–ADB Finns organized their traditional summer lunch. We enjoyed summer food, reminisced about life and times in Manila, and had a lively discussion about the fate of our pensions and other benefits. ■

Back, l-r: Heikki Noro, Rolf Westling, Aulis Makitalo and Max von Bonsdorff; front, l-r: Leo and Annukka Westling, and Anita Kelles-Viitanen.  
Picture by Robert Wihtol.



## ADBarkads Nannette Guinto Amorado (ADB 1982–2007)



It is Sunday and I have a few minutes before I join my community in a prayer to thank God for another week gone past—I have not only survived but truly thrived in this City. Ten years ago I was a reluctant New Yorker. In a few months I will be going home for good and will be sadly leaving a bunch of beautiful girlfriends whose

friendship was rekindled/rediscovered over those years.

We call ourselves the ADB Barkada (“Gang”) or D’Barkads for short. And last night we were together again till midnight!

How we got closer seems ordinary but has been truly magical. Planning for AFE–ADB annual reunions usually gets some of the old heads together at lunch or coffee break: Emma Dumalag, Ruth Esmilio, Chato O’Buckley, Florence Rafulowitz, and me. Eventually Ruth retired and moved to North Carolina, and Emma changed duty station to Jerusalem. Chato, Florence, and I decided to expand the group and called in Mila Simolde, Nena Villena-Tañedo, Vivian Villanueva, Chat Cortes, and the younger ones—Margie Baccay and Lorna del Rosario.

Chato also decided to host more frequent planning meetings. The meetings were spiced with videoke singing, dancing, and a lot of eating. Then came a mahjong session, a movie, a concert, and more dining opportunities. Group text messages started coming in on an almost daily basis, greeting

each other good morning and good night and ending the day with thank yous. As history would have it, the ADB reunion became a success, like a matter of course, but of course!

The post-party bonding continues—Friday night-outs or weekend escapades—and, in addition to more videoke singing and dancing and dining, other activities such as



Front: Nena Villena-Tañedo; middle, l-r: Nannette Amorado, Mila Simolde, Lorna del Rosario, Chato Ledonio-O’Buckley, Vivian Villanueva, Margie Baccay, Chat Cortes; back Florence Soriano-Rafulowitz.

casino hopping and skiing are coming up. The friendship is only growing stronger and stronger. I'd say, there is something about women that keeps them together, or is it New York that makes things exciting, where everything is within reach, just a subway ride away, and there are just so many possibilities? This the Empire State of mind.

Or is it that we have something in common that binds us together—ADB? Yes, indeed ADB! Except for Ruth and Chato, all the rest were really new friends to me. But we bonded like we were old souls, as if we had a common past and had been on some journey together back in Manila. We talked of Marbella 1 and 2 and Central Bank and HQ on Roxas Boulevard and now Mandaluyong as if it were one big house where all of us resided when we were younger. We reminisced about ADB events and discussed some topics with so much passion. And always there would be something that would make us remember some fun and we would laugh together, as if we were all there at some point at the same time.

I will surely miss this city and my ADB girlfriends. But there will always be something that will keep us together forever—ADB. ■

## Syria to Canada

Linda Trabulsi (ADB 1969–1974)



It began with a telephone call in late November 2015 from an official with Immigration Canada, advising Mike (who had migrated to Canada in 1970) that his sister, Ikram, had been approved to come to Canada as a Syrian refugee. Ikram was 68, and Mike had not seen her in more than 45 years. She would be arriving with her husband,



Before leaving Lebanon.

Abu Ayman, son Anwar, his wife Alaa, and their two sons, Nour El Din (8) and Ezza Din (6). The family had fled Syria 4 years earlier and lived in Lebanon, together with Anwar's other siblings; but it was Anwar who had helped his mother in her health crisis when she lost a leg due to a blood clot.

**Welcome to Canada.** The family was coming to Canada on a government-assisted refugee program and was told that Mike did not have to worry about their sponsorship. He needed only to provide comfort and moral support. They would receive assistance with employment, 1 year of housing, English as a second language (ESL) classes, and schooling for their children.

Mike had periodically contacted the family through Viber and confirmed that indeed this was true, but the family did not know when this was happening. Mike and Sam, his brother, were thrilled with the news. Mike had not seen his family since 1969, when he deserted from the army.

On December 16, Mike was told that the family was due to arrive on December 18. Their first night was to be in a hotel, and then they would eventually be housed temporarily at the Refugee Centre in Toronto until they found permanent housing.

**Reuniting, Resettling.** During the days that followed their arrival, Mike acted as the translator and intermediary with the Refugee Centre in their quest for banking, housing, medical, and dental assistance; and for ESL classes and schooling for the two young boys, because they spoke only Arabic. Mike frequently borrowed our son's van to transport the family to our home and back to the Centre, as Mike's car was too small.

I, too, felt the sense of excitement that Mike had, especially when meeting his sister and the rest of the



At the Tribulsi home in Mississauga, Ontario: L-r: Anwar, Linda, Ikram, Mike, Abu Ayman, Alaa; in front: Nour El Din, Ezza Din.

family for the first time. Even though I don't speak Arabic, I was able to connect with them and feel the love and warmth among us, especially the little boys. They are so happy and loving; they kept smiling and hugging me every time they visited our home. Sign language and a few words of Arabic I learned and a bit of English that they knew helped us communicate with each other.

Through this, I gained a greater understanding of how my husband's life will change dramatically from having one household to now two. His sister said to Mike that I am so easy to love and that makes him proud, knowing that we are together in this journey to settle his family in this beautiful country, Canada.

**New Supplies, New Ways.** The family moved to a three-bedroom upper floor house on January 8. The settlement agency provided brand new living room furniture consisting of two sofas, two chairs, three side tables, a coffee table, and two upright lamps. Dining room furniture was two square tables and eight chairs. They were given a bunk bed for the boys, two single beds for Ikram and Abu Ayman, and a double bed for Anwar and Alaa, including beddings. All were delivered and assembled by the delivery team.

On the same day, I supplied them with bath, hand, and face towels; kitchen towels; microwave and cooking utensils; and a start-up pantry with sugar, salt, flour, a sack of dried chickpeas (which they prepare and eat at almost all meals), dried beans, rice and pasta, potatoes, fresh and frozen vegetables, cooking oils, tahini, honey, and spices that they are familiar with such as mint, coriander, cumin, cardamom, cinnamon, etc.

Anything that I have plentifully in our house was given to them, such as plates, drinking glasses, mugs, a can opener, spatulas, pots, and pans; and whatever I did not have that they needed, I bought from Ikea and showed

them where to store things in the kitchen and bathroom.

On their second night at the house, Mike and I shared dinner with them for a meal of lamb with okra, tabbouleh, hummus, grilled koftas, manek sausages, and salata (salad). All eight of us toasted with glasses of water their good fortune and the reunification of the family. The next morning, we were

again invited for a traditional breakfast of fattet hummus made of toasted pita bread, whole chickpeas, yogurt, tahini, tomatoes, more pita bread for hummus, green and black olives, tea, and coffee.

Thus begins their journey to the Canadian way of living. Mike showed Anwar how to separate garbage and recycling materials and the day to put them out on the curb for waste collection, snow shovelling and salting, and other things that the "man of the house" must know how to do. Mike takes them to the grocery; however, there are food stores near where they live that they can easily go to when the weather cooperates. They have a donated TV; and internet that will enable them to connect to their remaining families in Lebanon, Mike's brother and his family in Saudi Arabia, and a sister still living in Damascus.

The family was examined by our family doctor and prescribed medications they needed. The children and adults were given the necessary inoculations. They have appointments for dental check-ups. Ikram will be getting physiotherapy treatments from a government-assisted program. The children are in school now. Anwar and Alaa are enrolled in ESL classes. Mike has spent countless hours filling out forms, four times and sometimes six, for the various programs and activities that the family will take part in.

They are very happy and grateful that Canada has given them a peaceful existence away from the horrors of war, the destruction of their former family home and furniture factory, and moving from one apartment to the next because of landlords' demands for higher rents. The family is trying to cope with the winter weather and is looking forward to spring and summer. They have settled comfortably in their home and are beginning a new chapter in their lives—thanks to the generosity and kindness of all those around them, including and federal, provincial, and municipal governments in Canada.

*Post script: The family has now settled very well. Anwar and his father have stopped smoking. Ikram has started knitting without instructions and she is very good at it. My friend with young grandchildren has collected toys and clothes for the boys. Anwar is helping Mike with his snow shovelling contracts and doing nightly clean-up at our son's gym.*

*Mike has bought a used van to transport the family here and there. There is a pond nearby where the boys see ducks, birds, and squirrels and a park where they play soccer in spite of the cold weather. The boys speak more English now. I found out that Ezza Din and I share the same birthday. Anwar and Alaa were born on the same day, same hospital, and the same doctor who helped their mothers give birth to them, six years apart. What a coincidence! ■*

## Reunion of the Ports, Railways, and Telecommunications Division

Bruce Murray

On 27 February 2015, several members of ADB's former Ports, Railways, and Telecommunications Division met in Yokohama to catch up with each other and to discuss their professional experiences of the 1980s and early 1990s and after leaving ADB. Appropriately, the reunion took place at Navios Yokohama (the International Seaman's Club and Inn). Everyone appreciated Tatsuhiko Ikeda's efforts to organize the reunion of colleagues and to arrange delicious Japanese food. Ikeda provided recent traffic figures for some ports that ADB supported (e.g., Banjarmasin, Manila, and Surabaya) that clearly demonstrated what good infrastructure investments those port projects turned out to be. Ikeda also organized a tour of the ultra-efficient Yokohama container terminal for Bruce Murray, who was visiting from Canada. ■



Tatsuhiko Ikeda, Bruce Murray, Satoshi Inoue.



Seated, l-r: Bruce Murray and Yuzo and Mrs. Akatsuka; standing, l-r: Hiroshi Ueda, Satoshi Inoue, Tadahiko Yagyu, Ikuo Fujita, Tatsuhiko Ikeda, Takeshi Nakasaki.

## New Members

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

### August 2015

Balocchi, Giuseppe (Switzerland)  
Cuevas, Lagrimas E. (Philippines)  
Hettige, Hemamala (Philippines)  
Kazushi, Sato (Japan)  
Medenilla, Maria Madonna (Philippines)  
Sann, Tara (Myanmar)

### September 2015

Alexander, Patricia (Canada)  
Clarke, Mary (Canada)  
Galang, Ma. Gilda (Philippines)  
Lawrence, Sandra (United States)  
Liu, Chongshan (Philippines)  
Moktan, Kathleen (Canada)  
Rauniyar, Ganesh (Philippines)  
Venkataraman, Susheela (India)

### October 2015

Anaya, Veronica (Philippines)  
Faulmino, Vivian (Philippines)  
Lavides, Myrna (United States)  
Yu, Hyong Jong (Rep. of Korea)

### November 2015

Choynowski, Peter (Canada)  
Gozali, Emile (Philippines)  
Jena, Vandana (India)  
Manalang, Aleli (Philippines)  
Ortiz, Isabel (Spain)  
Ruthenberg, Adrian (Germany)

### December 2015

Ahmed, Hasib (Philippines)  
Barua, Milan (Bangladesh)  
Feig, Henrike (Germany)  
Mangalindan, Angelita (Philippines)  
Orr, Robert, Jr. (Japan)  
Roque, Angelina Adriana (Philippines)  
Sabirova, Raikhan (Kazakhstan)

### January 2016

Arriola, Charito (Philippines)  
Baeza, Rosalia P. (Philippines)  
Chiplunkar, Anand (India)  
Feng, Yushu (People's Republic of China)  
Israr, Anjum (Canada)  
Mariano, Ruzette (Philippines)  
Matsumoto, Ikuko (Japan)  
Rasiah, Carina (Sri Lanka)

### February 2016

Bañas, Margaret T. (Philippines)  
Bituin, Marilou H. (Philippines)  
Cortes, Nerissa (United States)  
del Rosario, Lorna C. (United States)  
Finlayson, Bob A. (United Kingdom)  
Iffland, Andrea C. (Germany)  
Lorenzo, Kristine A. (Netherlands)  
Mulqueeny, Kala K. (Australia)  
Nuestro, Maria Olivia P. (Philippines)  
O'Sullivan, Rita A. (Australia)  
Roque, Carmencita A. (Philippines)  
Senapaty, Manju (India)

## Senior Appointments in ADB

**A**FE–ADB congratulates the following staff members on their new appointments.

**Edimon Ginting**—Director, Economic Analysis and Operational Support Division, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD), assumed office on 15 February 2016.

**Dayalini Mendis**—Deputy Director General, Budget, Personnel and Management Systems Department (BPMSSD), effective on assumption of office.

**Cevdet Denizler**—Country Director (Designate), Turkmenistan Resident Mission, Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), assumed office on 2 February 2016.

**Rainer Hartel**—Director, Public Management, Financial Sector and Trade Division, CWRD, assumed office on 1 February 2016.

**Samiuela Tukuafu**—Country Director, Cambodia Resident Mission, Southeast Asia Department (SERD) assumed office on 1 February 2016.

**Pierre Passin**—Director, Infrastructure and Communications Division, Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST), assumed office on 26 January 2016.

**Shirin Hamid**—Principal Director, OIST, assumed office on 20 January 2016.

**Michael Kjellin**—Director, Policy and Systems Division, Office of Risk Management, effective 4 January 2016.

**Jonathan Grosvenor**—Advisor, Office of the Treasurer and Head, Treasury Client Solutions Unit, Treasury Department, assumed office on 4 January 2016.

**James Patrick Lynch**—Deputy Director General, Pacific Department (PARD), assumed office on 14 December 2015.

**H. Lorraine Wang**—Advisor, Office of Anticorruption and Integrity, assumed office on 7 December 2015.

**Andrew Head**—Lead Institutional Coordination Specialist, Office of the Director General, SERD, effective on assumption of office.

**Cevdet Denizer**—Country Director, Turkmenistan Resident Mission, CWRD, effective on assumption of office.

**Chong Chi Nai**—Advisor, Office of the Director General, SERD, effective 7 December 2015.

**Valerie Reppelin-Hill**—Director, Strategy, Policy, and Interagency Relations Division, Strategy and Policy Department (SPD), assumed office on 23 November 2015.

**Véronique Salze-Lozac’h**—Deputy Director General, Independent Evaluation Department, assumed office on 23 November 2015.

**Cyn-Young Park**—Director, Regional Cooperation and Integration Division, ERCD, assumed office on 3 November 2015.

**Arjun Goswami**—Technical Advisor (Regional Cooperation and Integration), Office of the Chief Economist and Director General, ERCD, assumed office on 3 November 2015.

**Soonman Kwon**—Technical Advisor (Health), Sector Advisory Service Division, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, (SDCC) effective on assumption of office.

**Nianshan Zhang**—Advisor and Head, Portfolio, Results, Safeguards and Social Sector Unit, CWRD effective on assumption of office.

**Sebastian Paust**—Advisor, European Representative Office, SPD, effective 1 October 2015.

**Debra Kertzman**—Representative, European Representative Office, SPD, assumed office on 25 September 2015.

**Oly Norojono**—Director, Transport, Energy and Natural Resources Division, PARD, assumed office on 5 October 2015.

**Yesim Elhan-Kayalar**—Country Director, Georgia Resident Mission, CWRD, assumed office on 30 September 2015.

**Anna Charlotte Schou-Zibell**—Technical Advisor (Finance), Sector Advisory Service Division, SDCC, assumed office on 14 September 2015.

**Noriko Ogawa**—Deputy Director General, SERD, assumed office on 14 September 2015.

**Brajesh Panth**—Technical Advisor (Education), Sector Advisory Service Division, SDCC, assumed office on 10 September 2015.

**Eric Sidgwick**—Country Director, Viet Nam Resident Mission (VRM), SERD, assumed office on 7 September 2015.

**Gambhir Bhatta**—Technical Advisor (Governance), Sector Advisory Service Division, SDCC, assumed office on 1 September 2015.

**Risa Zhijia Teng**—Principal Director, Office of Administrative Services, assumed office on 24 August 2015.

**Edna Diez**—Director, HR Policy and Program Division, BPMSD, assumed office on 17 August 2015.

**Ramesh Subramaniam**—Director General, Operations Services and Financial Management Department (OSFMD), assumed office on 17 August 2015.

**Anthony Jude**—Director, Energy Division, South Asia Department (SARD), assumed office on 10 August 2015.

**Abdul De Guia Abiad**—Economic Advisor, Office of the Chief Economist and Director General, ERCD, assumed office on 6 August 2015.

**Toshio Oya**—Director General, BPMSD, assumed office on 3 August 2015.

For information on membership contact [afe-adb@adb.org](mailto:afe-adb@adb.org)

## Obituaries

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

**Danilo Muñoz**, former Contracts Officer in the Procurement and Contracts Administration Unit, passed away on 2 March in Manila at the age of 67. Condolences may be sent to Evangeline Muñoz at mobile number 0063 917 524 1948.

**Ernesto Angeles**, former Accounting Analyst, CTAC-BRU, passed away on 20 February 2016 at the age of 62. Condolences may be sent to Betty Angeles at mobile number 0063 917 792 2445.

**Shireen Lateef**, former Senior Advisor (Gender) in the Office of the Vice President Knowledge Management and Sustainable Development, passed away on 9 February 2016 at the age of 60. Condolences may be sent to her siblings Shazran (Caesar) and Sharan Lateef at 19 Sheoak St. Middle Park, Queensland 4074, Australia.

**Amal Abadi Sidarto**, former Manager, BPBM, passed away on 29 January 2016 at the age of 78. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Vita Sidarto at vitasidarto33@yahoo.com.

**Mir Mustafa Ali Khan**, former Senior Country Officer in the South Pacific Regional Office, passed away on 10 January 2016 at the age of 83. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Rana S. Jehle at RJEHLE@montefiore.org.

**Anthony Francis Burger**, former Executive Director, passed away on 9 January 2016 at the age of 71. Condolences may be sent to his wife Pamela Deacon at 5468 Torbolton Ridge Rd., RR 2, Woodlawn, ON, Canada KOA 3M0.

**Josefina Alvaran**, former Senior Project Procurement Officer, OGC, passed away on 4 January 2016 at the age of 65. Condolences may be sent to her husband Nicolas Alvaran at 58 Bell Street, Filinvest Homes II, Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

**Barun Roy**, former Senior Information Officer, INFO, passed away on 14 December 2015 at the age of 78. Condolences may be sent to his wife Dipti Roy at AE-704, Sector 1, Salt Lake City, Calcutta 700064, West Bengal, India.

**Lourdes de Belen**, former Strategy and Policy Analyst and member of the AFE-ADB Insurance Committee, passed away on 18 October 2015 at the age of 65. Condolences may be sent to her husband Renato de Belen at 12 CRM Zeny BF Homes, Almanza Las Piñas City, Metro Manila.

**Emilia Dimaguila**, former Technical Assistant, passed away on 4 October 2015 at the age of 78. Condolences may be sent to her daughter Ma. Minie Dimaguila Patolot at Minsky888@gmail.com

**Joker Arroyo**, former Alternate Executive Director, passed away on 5 October 2015 at the age of 88.

**Randolph Earman**, former Senior Public-Private Sector Specialist, IWFI, and member of the AFE-ADB Insurance Committee, passed away on 15 September 2015 at the age of 72. Condolences may be sent to his wife Pia Earman at 5135 Shore Drive, St. Augustine, Florida 32086, US.

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- (1) Articles and images may be accepted for inclusion if, in the opinion of the AFE-ADB Publications Committee, 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 Publications Committee 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.

No articles or images may be reproduced in any form without the permission of the publisher, author(s), and/or photographer(s), as appropriate.

Articles for publication may be sent in MS Word as e-mail attachments to [afe-adb@adb.org](mailto: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, and Jill Gale de Villa copy edited. They also proofread, as did Julia Holz, David Parker, Hans-Juergen Springer, and Malou Magalued. AFE sincerely appreciates ADB's Department of External Relations and Printing Unit for assistance with finalizing the magazine. Cesar Juan prepared it for mailing.

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

# Announcements

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## 2016 Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors

The Forty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank will be held on 2–5 May 2016, in Frankfurt, Germany. AFE's cocktails will be held on 1 May; the AFE Chapter Coordinators' Meeting and Annual Meeting will be held on 2 May.

## Chapter Events

The **Australia Chapter** will hold its Annual Reunion in Leura, NSW, just west of Sydney on 24–27 October 2016. For details, contact Peter Carroll (pet@bigpond.net.au).

The **AFE-ADB Europe Chapter** will hold its Annual Reunion in Überlingen at the Lake of Constance, known in German as the **Bodensee**, on 15–19 September 2016. This is an opportunity for those who missed the Reunion in Bregenz in 2007, hosted by Monique & Ulf Freiwald, to catch up. This is however, in no way a repeat, as the program Annette and Peter put together complements the previous activities with other aspects and experiences related to the Bodensee. For more details, contact Günter Hecker (ghecker1@t-online.de) with copy to Peter Fedon (p.fedon@gmail.com).

The **Philippines Chapter** will hold its Annual Business Meeting and Get-together on 17 November 2016. Venue will be announced later.

The **Canada Chapter**:

**Toronto**—Southern Ontario: Informal get-togethers and pot lucks are held every month or two. Bowling every last Friday night of the month. A formal dinner will take place in the fall. For details contact Nida Rodrigo Jugo at ezraboy@yahoo.com.

**Ottawa**—Montreal: A dinner in Ottawa will take place in the fall. For details contact John Rive at johnrive@yahoo.com.

**Vancouver**: A dinner will be held in the fall, and 1–2 smaller informal lunches during the year. For details contact Bruce Murray at bmurray.xadb@gmail.com.

**Vancouver Island**: A brunch will take place in the fall. For details contact Bruce Murray at bmurray.xadb@gmail.com.

## AFE-ADB News No. 49 (September 2016)

Please send, by July, articles, photos, updates, or comments 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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