



# Brinoy



Official Newsletter of the Philippine Embassy in Brasilia, Brazil

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## PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR RECEIVES HIGHEST HONOR FROM A BRAZILIAN STATE

Philippine Ambassador to Brazil Jose D.R. Burgos received the Anhanguera Order of Merit from Governor Marconi Perillo Jr. of the State of Goiás in Brazil on 25 July 2016 at the Praça do Coreto (Coreto Plaza) of the City of Goiás, a UN World Heritage Site and former state capital.

Named after the founder of Goiás City, the Anhanguera Order of Merit was established on 24 June 1975 to honor “civil or military, national or foreign individuals and/or corporations for their outstanding services, actions or exceptional merits that may deserve recognition from the State of Goiás.”

The award, the highest honor conferred by the Government of Goiás, is divided into three grades: Grand Cross, Grand Officer and Commander.

This year’s honorees included ten ambassadors, five Cabinet Ministers, various parliamentarians, mayors, artists and representatives of civil society.

Ambassador Burgos, who received the Grand Cross Award, took the opportunity to discuss with Governor Perillo the planned Brazilian business delegation to the Philippines on 17-25 November 2016. ♦



### SPECIAL FEATURE

Interview with Ms. Leila Barros, Secretary of Sports of the Federal District



Summer Olympics 2016 (pp. 8-9)



## AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE



Perhaps no year-end report of the Philippines in 2016 would be complete without the year's top story in Philippine sports: the historic silver medal win of Hidilyn Diaz in the Rio World Olympics in August. The win was the first Olympic medal for the Philippines in 20 years, the first in weightlifting and the first by a Filipina athlete.

The Philippine Embassy in Brasilia, which put up the Philippine House/Secretariat in Rio to assist the athletes and Filipino nationals for the duration of the Olympics, was on hand to witness the remarkable win of the country's newest sports heroine.

Philippine media reported how Hidilyn treated herself with rice and chicken adobo after winning her silver medal. What did not come out in the media was that almost an hour earlier, I was with Congressman Raul Daza and staff at the entrance of the Olympic Village in Rio waiting to be ushered in together with the rice, fish and chicken adobo we brought for the Philippine athletes.

Due to the strict security protocol in all of the Olympic venues, it took quite a while for us and for the food to be cleared for entry. When the food finally reached the living quarters of the Filipino athletes, it was just in time for Hidilyn, fresh from her winning performance in weightlifting, to reward herself with a well-deserved Pinoy comfort food, the chicken adobo, which also happened to be her favorite.

Speaking of sports, we are featuring in this issue one of the most popular Brazilian athletes in the Philippines. Ms. Leila Barros, an Olympian medalist herself, led the Brazilian volleyball team to numerous championships worldwide and is now the Secretary of Sports, Leisure and Tourism in the Federal District.

Moreover, we are once again promoting interesting tourist destinations, Brazil's Inhotim and the Philippines' Las Casas Filipinas de Acuzar which, while separated by distance share something in common: they are both large open-air museums.

This issue of our newsletter could very well be the last one under my term as I am now winding down my tour of duty as Philippine Ambassador to Brazil. As you can see from our publications, Brazil is so big it feels like it is five countries rolled into one. Despite its recent troubles, political and economic, Brazil's potential for growth and bilateral cooperation is as big as the Amazon Rainforest, the so-called "lungs of the world," if not bigger.

I thank everyone who has supported the Philippine Embassy in Brasilia in its endeavors particularly those who have enjoyed reading our newsletter.

Obrigado! Maraming salamat po!

AMBASSADOR JOSE D.R. BURGOS



# HONORARY CONSULS GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING



To help better serve the public, especially the Filipino nationals living and working in their respective areas of jurisdiction, the Philippine Honorary Consul and Consuls General in Brazil and Venezuela gathered together on 14 July 2016 at the Official Residence of the Philippine Ambassador in Brasilia, Brazil.

During the said meeting, the Philippine Honorary Consular Officers presented their annual reports of accomplishments for CY 2015 which also formed part of the Embassy's Annual Report 2015. In the open forum that followed the individual reports, the Consuls General expressed their concerns and recommendations

including their inputs to the planned Brazilian business delegation to the Philippines and trade fair in 2017. ◊



Clockwise: Hon. Consul General Sergio Kano, Recife-PE; Hon. Consul General Romulo Mene, Rio de Janeiro-RJ; Hon. Consul General Celso Pimentel, Vitória-ES and Edith Gonzalez, Hon. Consul General Andres Duarte's representative, Caracas-Venezuela



## LUNCHEON MEETING WITH GOVERNOR MARCONI PERILLO



retinue were welcomed by the Governor at the latter's residence with a bountiful midday meal. The main discussion was around the business trip to the Philippines which was tentatively programmed for November 2016.

Governor Perillo wanted to have a broader overview on the current Philippine Political and Economic Spectrum.

Among the possible themes or sectors that the business mission will focus on are the energy sector, including ethanol, sugarcane technology and solar energy; minerals including precious and semi-precious stones for the Philippine creative industry; and pharmaceuticals.

As part of the groundwork for the Business Mission to the Philippines, Ambassador Jose D.R. Burgos, together with Second Secretary Eric P. Valenzuela and Rosamari F. Candido, took a 3 ½ hour trip to meet the Governor of the State of Goiás, Honorable Marconi Ferreira Perillo Junior on 06 October 2016.



The Ambassador and his



Aside from the business side, both parties agreed to explore other areas of cooperation. Governor Perillo offered to bring to Manila an expert on ethanol to give lectures. The Cities Minister of Brazil can also give a lecture on urban planning particularly the State of Goiás' housing project which will soon be adopted by the federal government. Another project of the Governor is the Bolso Universitario (college scholarship) which started in Goiás in 1992 and was adopted by the national government to provide 100% subsidy for the transportation of all students including those in private schools. ♦

## 4<sup>TH</sup> AND 5<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BPBCF



The Philippine Embassy in Brasilia held the Fourth and Fifth Regular Meetings of the Brazil-Philippines Business Cooperation Forum (BPBCF) at the Official Residence of the Philippine Ambassador in Brasilia, Brazil, on 14 July and 05 December, respectively.

During both Meetings, the main discussion was on the Brazilian business delegation to the Philippines which was tentatively scheduled for March 2017. As agreed upon, the Philippine Embassy distributed survey forms to businessmen to determine the composition of the delegation and their business areas of interest, to help in the preparation of logistical arrangements, among others.

The attendees were also briefed about the 12 July ruling of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in favor of the Philippines and its significance to the world especially in global trade where US\$5 trillion of goods passes through South China Sea/West Philippine Sea annually.

The 5th Regular Meeting of the Brazil-Philippines Business Cooperation Forum (BPBCF) also served as the group's Christmas Party.

Ambassador Burgos invited the businessmen to participate in the Brasilia-Manila Trade Fair and Cultural Festival in early February 2017 where Brazilian and Philippine companies would showcase their range of products and services.

The Philippine Ambassador also reported

that due to unavoidable circumstances, the Brazilian Mission to the Philippines (composed of businessmen and government officials) had to be postponed from the original date of November 2016 to February 2017. ◇



# PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA



Ambassador Jose D.R. Burgos presents his Letters of Credence to President David Arthur Granger.

Ambassador Jose D.R. Burgos presented his credentials to H.E. David Arthur Granger, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana on 07 September 2016 as Non-Resident Philippine Ambassador to Guyana.

Assisting the President during the Presentation of Credentials were H.E. Carl B. Greenidge, 2nd Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Ambassador Audrey Waddell, Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ms. Marion Herbert, Acting Chief of Protocol.



In his Accreditation Speech, Ambassador Burgos conveyed the warmest greetings and best wishes from His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Republic of the Philippines, and greeted the government and people of Guyana in celebrating its Golden Jubilee of Independence this year.

The Ambassador also thanked President Granger's accommodation in the acceptance of his Letters of Credence and the Government of Guyana for taking care of the 100 OFWs working in the country as well as Guyana's support to Philippine candidatures in the United Nations.

Ambassador Burgos was accompanied by his spouse Dra. Blesilda Mansilla Burgos, Second Secretary and Consul Eric P. Valenzuela and Mr. Guillermo Reyes.

## Meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Second Vice President and Foreign Minister Carl Greenidge told Ambassador Burgos that he had visited the Philippines a long time ago and expressed his wish to spend more time in the Philippines if given the opportunity to travel again to the country.

As a former Minister of Finance, Planning and Trade, Minister Greenidge is particularly interested with the Philippines' maritime and port development inasmuch as Guyana and the Caribbean have inadequate ports and boats.



Foreign Minister Carl Greenidge with the Philippine Officials.

## Meeting with the Chamber of Commerce

Ambassador Burgos, together with Consul Valenzuela and Mr. Manniram Prashad, nominee as Philippine Honorary Consul General in Georgetown, met with the young Acting Chair of Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ms. Padma Kunjbeharry on 07 September 2016.

Sugar, rice and gold are the main commodities of Guyana but have been significantly affected by the drop in prices in the world market. The cost of fuel is very high but this may change in the future with Exxon Mobil's discovery of high-quality oil in Guyanese coastal area. ◇



Ms. Padma Kunjbeharry, Acting Chair of Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry poses for a photo with the Philippine Officials.

# XVII NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) SUMMIT CONFERENCE



ASEAN participants with the traditional ASEAN handshake in front of Venetur Hotel.

Brasilia PE sent Ambassador Jose D.R. Burgos and Mr. Guillermo C. Reyes as Representatives to the Advance Briefing for the XVII Non-Aligned (NAM) Summit Conference on 18-20 August 2016 and to the NAM Summit (Proper) in Margarita Island (near Caracas), Venezuela o 13-18 September 2016.

the current NAM Chairman, will hand-over the next Chairmanship of the NAM to Venezuela. ◇



Ambassador Jose D.R. Burgos during the Press Dialogue with Press-in-charge, the 5th from left.



Courtesy call on South Korean Ambassador to Caracas Dal-Young Maeng with Mr. Andres Duarte Vivas Philippine Consul General, a.h., in Caracas, Venezuela.

The Bolivarian Government of Venezuela through the Ministerio del Poder Popular para Relaciones Exteriores (MPPRE), i.e., Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized the advance/preparatory briefing to the XVII NAM Summit in order to brief Embassies and Missions on the arrangements being made by the host (Venezuela) for the said next NAM Summit after which Iran,



Ambassador Jose D.R. Burgos meets with the Filipino Sisters and Filipino Community in Caracas on 17 August 2016.

The Embassy set up the Philippine House/ Philippine Secretariat to the Olympics in Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro from 01 - 22 August 2016. Four (4) Embassy personnel headed by the Ambassador went to Rio de Janeiro to man the Secretariat and to assist the Philippine Olympic delegation, athletes and other guests from the Philippines who came to Rio de Janeiro to participate or view the Olympic Games.

The Embassy transformed the Philippine Secretariat into a showroom for Philippine tourism and a trade information center. Tourism materials, posters, brochures and pamphlets on how to do business in the Philippines adorned the Secretariat. The Philippine Secretariat also performed consular services to Filipinos based in Rio de Janeiro and those residing in the neighboring states.

Majority Floor Leader Rodolfo C. Farinas, Chairman of the House Special Committee on the 31st Summer Olympic Games, and Congressman Raul A. Daza, among other guests, came to view the Olympic event. The Embassy provided transportation services to the Honorable Congressmen during their visit in Rio de Janeiro. ♦



Mr. Jose Antonio M. Bea, Brasilia PE Staff takes photo with Philippine Boxer Charlie Suarez during the Filcom in Rio and Philippine Olympic athletes' Get-Together Picnic at the iconic nature park in Botafogo, the "Mirante do Pasmado."



(L-R) Olympic Director Jose DR B... Kirstie Alora during the v...



Filcom in Rio and Philippine Olympic athletes during the event at the iconic nature park at Mirante do Pasmado.



Majority Floor Leader Rodolfo C. Fariñas (3rd from left) at the International Airport of Rio de Janeiro together with Dra. Blesilda M. Burgos at his left.





Volunteer Carlos Alberto Simon, Cong. Raul A. Daza, Ambassador Jose D.R. Burgos, Ms. Ian Lariba (Flag bearer and table tennis athlete), Ms. Nestor Colonia (taekwondo) and Mr. Nestor Colonia (weightlifting) take photo with the Ambassador and the Congressman at the Philippine Olympic athletes' accommodation.



(L-R) Former Congressman Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, member of the Philippine Delegation, Ambassador Jose D.R. Burgos, Dra Blesilda M. Burgos (Ambassador's spouse) and incumbent Congressman Raul A. Daza share experiences during the Welcome Dinner for all Heads of Olympic Delegations.



Participants at the Get-Together Picnic at the Athletes' Village in Botafogo

## AFTER WINNING SILVER MEDAL AND MILLIONS IN INCENTIVES, HIDILYN DIAZ REWARDS SELF WITH ADOBO MEAL \*

Upon her triumphant return to the Athletes' Village, one of the first things Hidilyn Diaz did was to have her celebratory meal. And she went with none other than a Filipino food staple.

The newest Filipino sports hero relished a chicken and pork adobo meal hours after her silver-medal winning performance here where she ended the 20-year medal drought of the Philippines in the Olympics.

"Ang sarap!" was Diaz's emphatic answer when asked about the adobo meal, which was sent to the delegation courtesy of the Philippine Ambassador to Brazil.

Diaz said the taste of adobo was priceless compared to the food served in the dining hall during her more than a week's stay in the Athletes Village. "Walang kuwenta pagkain sa dining hall. Ngayon ko lang nalasahan na walang lasa," Diaz said, referring to the food at the Athletes Village.

Diaz said she has been limiting her food intake for her competition. But she finally gave in after winning the silver medal.

"Ngayon, tumodo na ako. Ang sarap ng adobo. Matagal akong hindi nag-adobo," said Diaz.

Diaz lifted a total of 200 kilograms to finish second behind gold medalist Hsu Shu-Ching of Chinese Taipei in the women's 53 kg. class, ending a medal dry spell that dates back to boxer Mansueto 'Onyok' Velasco's silver in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. ◇



\*Source: www.spin.ph Date Accessed: 08 August 2016



Perhaps no other name in Philippine sports history could evoke such memories and emotions than that of Leila, the beautiful, shy hitter from Brazil whose smile alone could turn a stadium packed with people into frenzy. Armed with a powerful game, she won the hearts of Filipino fans and changed the landscape of volleyball in the Philippines.

Leila is more than a pretty face. From a little girl in the outskirts of Brasilia who dreamt of playing for her country, Leila Gomes de Barros went on to win Olympic medals, golds in World Grand Prix and numerous MVP awards. She is a legend in and out of Brazil.

The Philippine Embassy met with the current Secretary of Sports, Leisure and Tourism of the Federal District for an interview.

**Philippine Embassy: Describe to us your family.**

**Leila:** I was born in Brasilia. I came from a poor family. My father was a mechanic and my mother a plain housewife. My parents were originally from Ceara (northeast Brazil). They moved to Brasilia in the late 60s (and I was born in 1971).

My parents really encouraged me to practice sports. I tried every sport in school until I fell in love with volleyball. (But) when we were young, my father was very worried if I could get a diploma. I am from a different generation. Today, Brazil is much recognized in this sport. But during my time, it was not so.

*“I am always sentimental when I think of the Philippines and I am filled with the feeling of gratitude.”*

To say that I will be an athlete meant that there was no future. So there was resistance from my parents when I said that I wanted to play volleyball as a profession. I was the eldest and the first granddaughter. Thus, my family had great expectations on me, that I could be great in another profession. They could not understand my passion for sports because none of them practiced sports. Despite the resistance, I insisted and chased my dreams.

**Has it always been your dream to be an athlete and play for the national team? Who were your inspirations when you were just starting to make a name in volleyball?**

My greatest inspiration in life was my mother. She was a strong woman, very determined. Within my family, she was the one who always believed that I could become ‘somebody.’

I always wanted to play for the national team. When I was starting to play volleyball, I bought a ball and told my mother “Mom, one day you will see me play for Brazil.” My Mom replied, “Oh my daughter, stop dreaming, we are in Taguatinga (satellite city in Brasilia), the realities in our place are very different (from those girls).”

Sorry, I am emotional because I lost both my parents in the past 10 years. But they were still alive to see me play for Brazil in the Olympics and fulfill my dream. I played in Barcelona, Atlanta and Sydney (Olympiads). I had two Olympic medals and I was part of the Brazilian team that won the first medal in women’s volleyball.

**Was it true that you cut your hair short so that people will give more attention to your game than to your appearance?**

My physical characteristics were very different from the rest of my teammates. They were tall and with brown skin. Some were blonde, others with curly hair. I am not that tall, my skin and eyes are different. There was a national tournament in 1990 and there was a competition for the most beautiful player called “Gatinha da Liga.” I was very young, 18 or 19 and I won. I had long hair then. Maybe they found me exotic. I started getting attention from the people and the media and it was disturbing. I always wanted to be known for my game and not for my looks because I really trained hard.

In 1996, two weeks before the Atlanta Olympics, there was an article about Brazil’s beautiful athletes. Our Coach Bernardino (Bernardo Rocha de

# WITH THE ONE AND ONLY “LEILA DO VOLEI”



Rezende) did not like that the media was very much after our beauty and that there were male athletes chasing us trying to get our pictures taken with them. So one day, I went to the beauty parlor and decided to cut my hair very short. Unfortunately, I stood out even more because everyone else in our team has long hair.

When I cut my hair, it was because I wanted to get rid of the attention. But while in Asia, everywhere I went, people were calling out

my name. Well, I guess it was my fate. With time, and much hard work and pain, I think I was able to prove that I was much more than just beauty.

**Can you share with us some of the most memorable experiences you had during your visits to the Philippines?**

I will never, never forget the best moments I spent in the Philippines. There was something different with the Filipino people in the way they treated me. When we arrived at the hotel, they wanted to give me the best room (Presidential Suite). Coach Bernardino and I did not approve of it. I will have the same room as

others. I also did not understand why they were giving me the best room.

Our first game, I think, was against China. The venue for the volleyball games was filled with fans. Every time I attacked the net, the people will scream. The first

time it happened, I actually lost the ball.

My friends were telling me “Leila, we now understand that you are a queen here.” Still, I could not understand it. “Why do those people like me so much?” But at the same time, I knew that every time I make a move, the fans will do something. There were banners saying lots of things like “Leila for President,” “Leila, Marry Me.” It was incredible.

For me it was like a fairy tale. I was also well-received in China, Japan, all over Asia. People would always give me all sorts of gifts. But in the Philippines, the love

and “carinho” (affection) were just different. I cannot explain it.

**Any Filipino food that you liked or found interesting?**

I tasted a lot of Filipino food. There was this meat with rice, a bit spicy. Very delicious. Everything is good. I also had the opportunity to visit the beaches. They were very beautiful. I ate a lot of seafood.

**If you did not become an athlete and eventually sports official, in what field or career do you think you will be?**

I have always liked sports so maybe I will still end up in a related field like a sports journalist. Or maybe work with NGOs. A former teammate, Ricarda (Lima) and I worked together for an NGO. She was also with me in the Philippines. We founded the “Brasilia Volei” which is the best team now in the local league (Brazilian Superliga). This team has Paula Pequeno, an Olympic champion.



I cannot see myself outside sports, whether as a leader of a team or promoting sports and sports policies.

**You were already in Rio de Janeiro working as a sports commentator for Rede Globo, why did you decide to return to Brasilia?**

I decided to return to Brasilia initially because there was an opportunity for me to work in volleyball and with needy children. My own personal life, my background motivated me to give back to society by creating opportunities and inspiration.

Sports saved me. Sports gave opportunities for me and for my family. I believe that what I am today is because of sports and it gives me the mission and obligation to create opportunities for others as well.

**Could you describe to us your work and responsibilities as Secretary of Sports, Leisure and Tourism?**

In Brazil, even when the economy is okay, sports is not a priority. Imagine now that we are in an economic crisis. So every day, I deal with a lot of challenges in the office just to promote public policies.

But I have a very good staff here. They are young but are very much involved. It is a sad moment now in



## THE GIRL FROM BRASILIA (CONTINUATION)



*Leila autographs a volleyball ball.*

our country with the current politics. But I believe in my intentions and the people who are working with me. And I have faith that there will be a new breed of politicians that will come out of Brazil especially in our city, Brasilia. Brazilians are tired of corruption and disrespect.

I am thankful to Governor Rollemberg for giving me the opportunity, I was the first Sports Secretary in Brasilia who came from the athletes.

The challenges are really big. The

values I learned from sports have helped me a lot in my work like resilience and persistence. Despite the little budget, we are able to implement the programs. My image as an athlete gives me credibility but what brought me here was not for politics but sports. My mission, my obligation is with sports.

***How do you reconcile the life of a Secretary of Sports, wife and mother?***

My first priority is my son. Second is my work. And the husband is the last. (Laughter)

Seriously, my husband (Emanuel Rego) is really my great companion. Aside from his accomplishments as an athlete (Olympic champion in beach volleyball), he is a marvelous man and a very good father.

He always supports me in all my projects. When I decided to come to Brasilia and leave him in Rio, it was really sad, something that I will never forget. He told me, "When I married you, I knew that you belong to the world. I want you to be happy, to see you happy makes us your family happy."

I came to Brasilia with our son Lukas. At first it was difficult for Lukas, he is very attached to his father. He was forced to grow up. Actually, he is very mature. Emanuel always comes to Brasilia. I also go to Rio. Emanuel and I understand that as a couple, living together must have quality more than quantity. The times we spent together, we see to it that they are of "high quality." No stress. We take advantage of our time.

***A lot of Filipinos can relate to that because 10 million Filipinos are working abroad away from their families.***

That explains why I have this special connection with Filipinos, I have a similar life with many Filipinos.

***In 2013, the Philippines and Brazil signed an MOU on Sports Cooperation. Is it possible for the Federal District to receive a sports delegation to come up with areas of cooperation such as sports clinics, friendship games, etc.?***

Yes, we definitely can do that. I am here now in this position but I might not be here in the future because I serve at the pleasure of the Governor. But as long as I am here, I will have an open heart to receive any kind

of delegation from the Philippines. It will be my honor and pleasure.

***What do you think made you so special, so endearing to the Filipinos?***

This is what really enchants me. I think that the Filipino people are very sensitive and welcoming. There is something spiritual with the Philippines. I think they saw in me a great love for what I did, I always have great passion for what I do.

My greatest dream, which is to play for Brazil, was fulfilled. During my entire career, I had no injuries, there was no sadness. That happiness I felt while playing I was able to pass it on to the fans. Maybe the people liked seeing me play because I was vibrant. I was not the best player in the team. But maybe they saw that I was the happiest.

***Over the years, a number of Brazilian players have suited up for Philippine teams to play in the country's volleyball tournament. Is there a possibility that you will return to the Philippines?***

Maybe in 2017 I can go to back to the Philippines and I will spend at least 10 days. It is possible. If you are expecting that answer, imagine my excitement too.

***Your message to your fans in the Philippines, please.***

***"Thank you for all your love for all these years, not only to me but for the Brazilian teams. I will never, in my life, forget this country that has showed me and the Brazilian players much love and gratitude. You are always in my heart. We will still meet again."***

I am always sentimental when I think of the Philippines and I am filled with the feeling of gratitude. I have great love for the Philippines. I have many special fans in the Philippine who keep me updated of what is happening there.

My message to the Filipinos is: "Thank you for your love for all these years, not only to me but for the Brazilian teams. I will never, in my life, forget this country that has showed me and the Brazilian players much love and gratitude. You are always in my heart. We will still meet again." ♦



*Leila poses with the interviewer Consul Eric Valenzuela (left) and Mr. Jose Antonio Bea.*

In response to articles published by Chinese Ambassador to Brazil Li Jinzhang in the 10 May 2016 issue of the *Correio Braziliense* and the 12 July 2016 issue of the *Folha de São Paulo* explaining China's position regarding the West Philippine Sea (WPS) dispute, Ambassador Jose D.R. Burgos published replies to said articles refuting the Chinese claim.

The essence of Ambassador Burgos' replies, in consonance with the Department's guidance on the WPS issue, is that China's claim of "indisputable sovereignty" as represented by the Nine-Dash Line over nearly the entire WPS and its unilateral and aggressive action in the area forced the hand of the Philippines to seek recourse before the Permanent Court of Arbitration and that, if left unchecked, China's action threatens the peace and stability of the region.

Aside from the two articles, an interview with Ambassador Burgos was carried out by *Correio Braziliense* which was published on 27 July 2016. ♦

# FOLHA DE S. PAULO

UM JORNAL A SERVIÇO DO BRASIL

## Tribunal julgará posição da China

JOSE BURGOS

Escrevo em resposta a artigo publicado nesta *Folha* por meu amigo Li Jinzhang, embaixador chinês no Brasil, a respeito de problemas no mar Oriental das Filipinas (mar do Sul da China e do iminente profetismo, em 12 de julho, de decisão da arbitragem sobre a vista reivindicada da China na área).

Tentarei esclarecer dúvidas do público brasileiro sobre as verdadeiras razões e circunstâncias das reivindicações filipinas sobre as Spratlys (ilhas do grupo Kalayaan; Nansha, para os chineses), no mar do Sul da China, e o banco de areia Scarborough, localizado dentro das 200 milhas náuticas da Zona Econômica Exclusiva das Filipinas, mas tomado pelos chineses após mais de um mês de impasse, em abril de 2012.

O artigo do embaixador jinzhang culpa as Filipinas por terem ido ao Tribunal Permanente de Arbitragem de Haia, na Holanda, ao invés de recorrerem à negociação, além de destacar que a China tem o direito de dominar toda a região, pautando-se por reivindicações históricas.

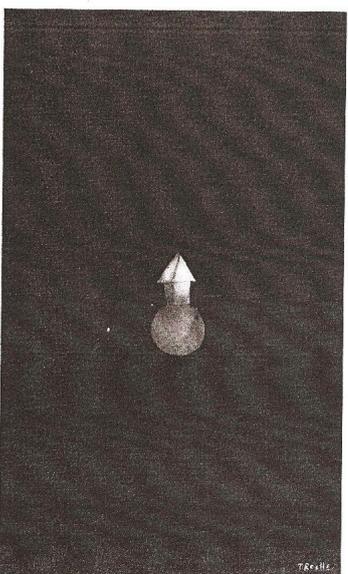
O tribunal rejeitou a reivindicação chinesa, expressa pela sua "linha dos nove traços". O fato de o governo chinês não aceitar essa decisão difícil ainda mais um entendimento com as demais nações que disputam o mar do Sul da China — Brunei, Malásia, Taiwan e Vietnã.

Após 17 anos de tentativas frustradas de negociar com a China, as Filipinas, sem recursos, precisaram buscar outro local para apresentar sua petição. Os membros da Asean (Associação de Nações do Sudeste Asiático) também tentaram, em vão, esboçar um novo código de conduta com o governo chinês.

Quanto ao questionamento da China sobre a arbitragem, vale lembrar que, em 29 de outubro de 2015, o tribunal emitiu decisão unânime sobre a admissibilidade do caso.

A carta de posicionamento chinesa foi devidamente considerada e cuidadosamente discutida. O tribunal julgou que sua própria competência não deixa de valer sobre a China apenas porque esse país se recusa a comparecer às audiências, assim como a decisão filipina de buscar arbitragem unilateralmente não viola os procedimentos de solução de disputas da convenção da ONU sobre o direito do mar.

Ademais, se a China não reconhece a autoridade do tribunal, por que recorre a ele a época do conflito com o Japão nas Ilhas Senkaku? A respeito da crescente preocupação da comunidade internacional sobre a agressividade chinesa no mar do Sul da China,



Após 17 anos de tentativas frustradas de negociar com a China, as Filipinas recorreram ao tribunal para apresentar sua petição

citou a declaração dos líderes do G7 (grupo com os sete países mais desenvolvidos do mundo) em reunião de maio deste ano: "Nós reiteramos nosso comprometimento de manter a ordem marítima baseada em normas, de acordo com os princípios do direito internacional, em solução pacífica de controvérsias apoiadas em medidas de construção de confiança e inclusão por meios legais, em uso sustentável

dos mares e oceanos; em respeito à livre navegação e sobrevoos". Se as Filipinas concordarem em conversar com a China, após a decisão da arbitragem, que garantias terão de que os chineses deixarão o banco de areia Scarborough ou que irão parar suas construções de estrutura e de instalações militares no mar do Sul da China?

Por fim, a opção de não honrar a decisão do tribunal é impensável. Por quanto tempo a China conseguirá evitar ser julgada severamente pelas Nações Unidas?

JOSE BURGOS, sócio-gerente em sênior de interações, pelo Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Humanos (IESH), embaixador das Filipinas no Brasil. Foi assessor especial do Exército de Defesa e Segurança da República do Brasil.

www.correio braziliense.com.br

# CORREIO BRAZILIENSE

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By Gabriela Walker

Entrevista - Embaixador das Filipinas: Jose Dela Rosa Burgos

"A paz é a prioridade"

Como as Filipinas pretendem negociar suas reivindicações na região?

Como foi antecipado pelo governo filipino, a China permanecerá firme na posição de não honrar a decisão do Tribunal Arbitrário de Haia. Recentemente, a China começou a cortejar as Filipinas para negociações bilaterais e disse que se as Filipinas negociarem com a China de acordo com a decisão do tribunal, as Filipinas aumentam o risco de confronto com a China. Esse tom agressivo de ameaça não importa mais, pois a comunidade internacional sabe exatamente como lidar com a situação. A China ameaça sua boa imagem na família das nações.

Qual a prioridade filipina e o que o país espera conseguir na região?

A primeira prioridade é a paz, o fluxo desimpedido para o comércio internacional de bens (que equivale a US\$ 5 trilhões anuais), a liberdade de navegação e o sobrevoos, a preservação de espécies marinhas em perigo, a proteção do ambiente marinho e da biodiversidade, e a continuidade da subsistência de pescadores pobres da área. Quatro dos dez países da Associação das Nações do Sudeste Asiático (Asean), que é o epicentro de um das regiões mais dinâmicas e em progresso do mundo hoje pode ter um sinal de alívio de que seus sonhos de um futuro melhor não serão desperdiçados apenas por causa de uma disputa inoportuna e persistente com o gigante asiático.

Qual a resposta de Manila à advertência chinesa de que a disputa pode se tornar um confronto caso as Filipinas insistam na decisão do tribunal?

As Filipinas são um firme defensor do respeito à lei. A decisão do tribunal é final, não cabe apelação, e não precisamos pressionar a China para que a respeite. Temos uma margem muito estreita para diálogo e vamos consultar nossos aliados para saber qual a melhor forma de prosseguir.

Na semana passada a China supostamente revelou uma foto de um avião bombardeiro H-6K voando sobre o recife de Scarborough. Qual a reação das Filipinas a essa demonstração chinesa?

O voo foi confirmado por imagens de satélite e, sim, as Filipinas estão muito preocupadas. O recife de Scarborough, também chamado de Panatag, fica a oeste de Luzon, que está dentro das 200 milhas náuticas da zona econômica exclusiva das Filipinas. O voo sobre a região é uma clara infração da soberania nacional por parte da China. As ações chinesas estão sendo monitoradas e capturadas via satélite e vão servir como evidência dos continuados excessos e das táticas de assédio na região.

Nesta semana, o presidente Rodrigo Roa Duterte foi citado alertando que as Filipinas não honrarão o acordo sobre mudança climática assinado em Paris. O que o país está fazendo para controlar a emissão de gases-estufa?

Essa questão precisa de mais clarificações, uma vez que as Filipinas são tidas como um dos principais combatentes da mudança climática. A minha opinião, pessoal, é que talvez o presidente quisesse dizer que as disposições relativas ao prazo de cumprimento na emissão de gases de efeito estufa podem ser um fardo muito pesado demais para as Filipinas, de tal modo que afetariam a subsistência de pobres e desprivilegiados. Em resumo, há uma necessidade de os membros do Acordo de Paris nas Mudanças Climáticas darem às Filipinas o tempo que precisamos para cumprir com as disposições sobre as emissões de gases de efeito estufa.

## Normas para a solução da controvérsia em relação ao Mar do Sul da China

JOSE D.R. BURGOS  
Embaixador das Filipinas no Brasil

Em vista da ansiosamente aguardada decisão da Corte Permanente de Arbitragem da Haia sobre o caso registrado pelas Filipinas contra a China, a respeito da controvérsia sobre o Mar do Sul da China, que deverá ser proferida nos próximos dias, eu sou forçado a escrever este artigo a fim de refutar as declarações de meu ilustre amigo e colega do corpo diplomático e de esclarecer os leitores do *Correio Braziliense* sobre os fatos e as circunstâncias acerca do caso.

Primeiramente, gostaria de afirmar que a questão central deste caso é a reivindicação da China de "soberania indiscutível" sobre quase todo o Mar do Sul da China, conforme representado pela chamada "linha dos nove traços". É necessário enfatizar que o que ocorreu às Filipinas a procurarem recurso ante o Tribunal Permanente de Arbitragem foi a ação unilateral e agressiva da China na área disputada, que, se não for controlada, ameaça a paz e a estabilidade da nossa região.

Arbitragem como um meio legítimo de solução de controvérsias. O embaixador Li alega que as Filipinas, por meio da apresentação de um caso arbitral perante a Corte Permanente de Arbitragem da Haia, em 23 de janeiro de 2013, violou seu compromisso no âmbito da Declaração de Conduta das Partes no Mar do Sul da China (DOC).

- No Direito Internacional, a arbitragem é amplamente considerada como um meio pacífico e vinculante de resolução de disputas. Além disso, não há nada na carta ou no espírito do DOC que impede ou exclui as Filipinas, ou qualquer outro país, de recorrer a vários mecanismos de resolução de disputa fornecidos no âmbito da Convenção das Nações Unidas sobre o Direito do Mar (CNUDM), do qual tanto as Filipinas quanto a China são signatárias. Arbitragem é um exemplo

de um mecanismo de resolução de litígios previsto pela CNUDM.

A reivindicação histórica da China sobre o Mar do Sul da China não tem nenhuma base de fato ou de direito. A CNUDM deixa claro que "reivindicações de base histórica", que são precisamente a base sobre a qual a China estabelece sua "linha dos nove traços", não podem ser usadas como embasamento no caso de direitos do mar no âmbito da Convenção. Muito pelo contrário, a CNUDM rejeita qualquer reivindicação por direitos marítimos que se pautem por afirmações, por parte de qualquer país, de um título ou de um direito histórico sobre determinada área. Infelizmente para a China, a história não fornece uma base para sua reivindicação sobre praticamente todo o Mar do Sul da China.

Em seu artigo "Ticção Histórica: reivindicação chinesa sobre o Mar do Sul da China", publicado em 7 de junho deste ano, no periódico *World Affairs*, o autor Mohan Malik afirma o seguinte: A reivindicação da China sobre as Ilhas Spratly (ou Grupo de Ilhas Kalayaan, o qual está sendo reivindicado pelas Filipinas), em bases históricas, empaca no simples fato de que os antigos impérios da região não exerciam soberania sobre nenhuma área geográfica.

Reivindicando uma forte tradição marítima, a China dá muito valor às expedições do início do século 15 do almirante Zheng He ao Oceano Índico e à África, mas, como o notável especialista asiático Philip Bowring destaca: "Os chineses foram, na verdade, retardatários na navegação para além das próprias águas costeiras. Durante séculos, os mestres dos oceanos eram os povos malaio-polinésios, que colonizaram muitas partes do mundo, desde Taiwan até a Nova Zelândia ao sul e o Havai, a este, até Madagascar, a oeste. Embarcações de bronze de Falawan (uma grande

ilha filipina logo ao lado das Ilhas Spratly, um grupo de ilhas no Mar Ocidental das Filipinas) eram comercializadas na época de Confúcio. Quando peregrinos budistas da China foram para o Sri Lanka e para a Índia, no século 5, eles viajaram a bordo de navios cujos donos e operadores eram malaio; navios esses vindos de onde hoje são as Filipinas, comercializados com Funan, um estado que hoje é o sul do Vietnã, mil anos antes da Dinastia Yuan".

As reivindicações da China sobre o Mar do Sul da China são fundamentadas na declaração de que era uma área sob o domínio do Império Manchu. Entretanto, antigos mapas da Dinastia Manchu indicam que, a extremo sul, fica a Ilha Hainan (atualmente a província do extremo sul da China) e não Fancel e as Ilhas Spratly, as quais a China afirma serem partes de seu território.

A China declarou repetidamente que não aceitará o parecer que será proferido pelo Tribunal. Se, assim, é surpreendente a razão pela qual enviou tantos esforços para se opor a um parecer, o qual, como declara, não terá efeito algum de qualquer maneira. De qualquer forma, os procedimentos conduzidos pelo Tribunal Arbitral foram transparentes e deram à China todas as oportunidades de participar em qualquer estágio. Apesar de sua recusa em participar dos procedimentos, a China continua vinculada às leis internacionais e a qualquer parecer que o Tribunal venha a proferir. As Filipinas acreditam firmemente que o parecer que será proferido pelo Tribunal Arbitral fornecerá uma base sólida para seguir em frente rumo a um novo começo em um regime regulamentado no Mar do Sul da China. As Filipinas obedecerão ao regulamento, independentemente de ser favorável ou não.

The ASEAN Committee in Brasilia (ACB), composed of seven (7) Member-States present in Brazil, made various courtesy calls on high officials of Brazil's parliament and the Ministry of External Relations in October 2016. All calls were organized by the Philippine Embassy in Brasilia.

**Courtesy Call on the Chairman of the Committee on External Relations and National Defense of the Chamber of Deputies**



*Congressman Pedro Vilela (center) poses with the ACB Heads of Mission.*

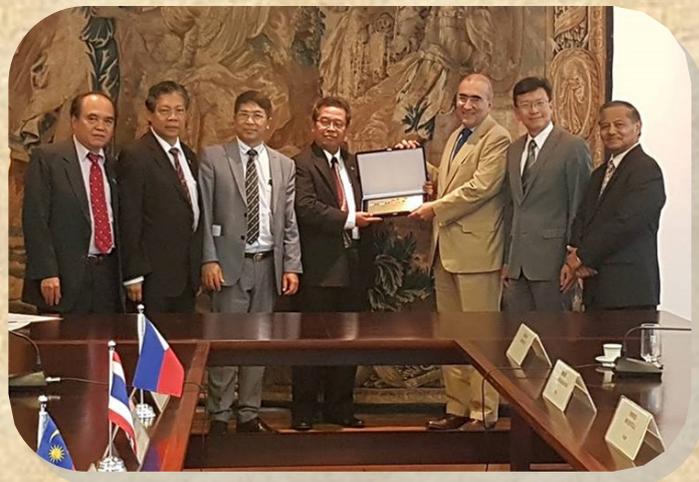
On 04 October 2016, the ACB met with Deputado (Congressman) Pedro Vilela, Chairman of the Commission on External Relations and National Defense (CREDN) of Brazil's Chamber of Deputies, who was interested on whether ASEAN works like MERCOSUL (Southern Common Market) and asked the Ambassadors how the Brazilian Congress could help ASEAN.

The ACB replied that Congress could help in the policy direction and pronouncements of the Brazilian Government. Congress could also draft pro-business legislations as foreign companies, including those from ASEAN, face difficulties in Brazil's complex tax system and customs procedures. The Philippine Ambassador Jose D.R. Burgos suggested constant interaction and meetings with the parliament.

Congressman Vilela replied that his office could invite ACB to relevant seminars and to meet with the other Congressmen as what they did with Argentina and Italy. He also offered help in arranging a meeting between ACB and Foreign Minister Jose Serra.

**Courtesy Call on the Secretary General for External Relations**

The ACB met with Amb. Marcos Bezerra Abbott Galvão, Secretary General of Brazil's Ministry of External Relations, on 10 October 2016.



*ACB Heads of Mission led by Ambassador Rahimi Harun of Malaysia (4th from left) present a souvenir plaque to Amb. Marcos Bezerra Abbott Galvão, Secretary General for External Relations on 10 October 2016 at the Itamaraty Palace.*

In his opening remarks, Secretary General Galvão said that the Brazil's Ministry of External Relations (MRE) is determined to try to accomplish more things with the countries in the ASEAN region. He said that Brazil is now beginning to come out of a deep recession and external links with other economies would be more beneficial to Brazil especially since the country has relied on the domestic market as the engine of growth for a long time now. He admitted that there is a "deficit of knowledge" between Brazil and ASEAN.

Ambassador Rahimi Harun of Malaysia, current Chair of the ACB, explained that it is precisely the objective of the ACB to raise the awareness in Brazil about ASEAN. As of now, the Brazilian Government seems to look only to China, Japan, Korea and India as far as Asia is concerned when in fact, the economic figures, including a market of more than 620 million, speak highly of ASEAN. The Chair also prepared an Aide Memoire, to be given to the Secretary General after the meeting, on why Brazil should pivot towards ASEAN.

The Secretary General remarked that both Brazil and



*Ambassador Jose D.R.Burgos proposes constant interaction between ACB and Brazil's parliament during the Courtesy Call on Congressman Pedro Vilela.*

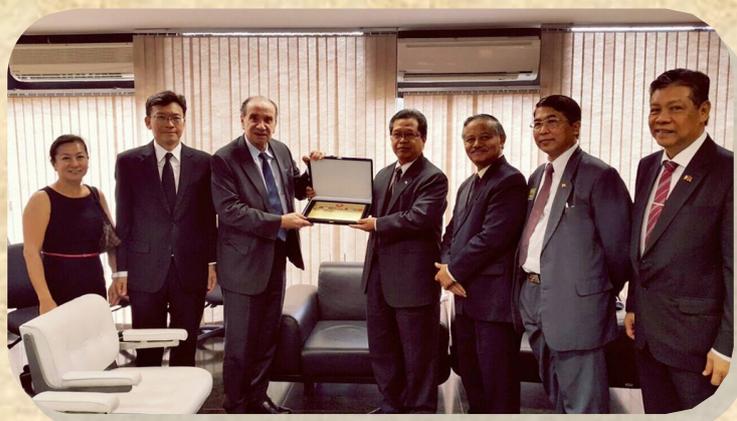


*Ambassador Jose D.R.Burgos (2nd from right) talks about the Philippine economy and the West Philippine Sea issue during the courtesy call on Amb. Marcos Bezerra Abbott Galvão, Secretary General for External Relations.*

ASEAN know their economic relevance in the world but for some reason could not yet find the right button to deepen and enhance the relations. He said that it is definitely necessary to include more of Asia in their radar especially the ASEAN. He added that this is not just rhetoric and that the administrative decisions under his term, such as the personnel deployment to Brazilian posts, will bear him out.

## Courtesy Call on the Chairman of the Senate Committee on External Relations and National Defense of Brazil

Continuing with the series of courtesy calls on high-level Brazilian officials, the ACB visited Senator Aloysio Nunes Ferreira, Jr., Chairman of the Senate Committee on External Relations and National Defense, on 18 October 2016 at his office at the Senate Building.



*The ACB presents a plaque of appreciation to Senator Aloysio Nunes Ferreira, Jr., (3rd from left) Chairman of the Senate Committee on External Relations and National Defense of Brazil.*

Senator Nunes expressed his gladness to receive the ACB inasmuch as the visit is a reflection of the Ambassadors' perception that Brazil is now ready to engage more countries. It is also significant because Brazil is undergoing political transition and economic changes. The Senator said that Brazil's foreign policy is now geared towards economic growth.

Ambassador Rahimi Harun of Malaysia explained to the Senator the objective of ACB and their visit, which is to raise the awareness in Brazil about ASEAN. The ACB Chair also brought up the idea of Brazilian President Michel Temer visiting the ASEAN region. Senator Nunes replied that he will convey the suggestion to President Temer and Foreign Minister Jose Serra.

Senator Nunes said that he is aware of the political and economic importance of ASEAN and agreed that stronger ties should be promoted between Brazil and ASEAN. He also assured the ACB that there is growing awareness and support for legislative reforms in the fiscal and tax systems. With regard to labor, a lot of reforms are underway particularly through judicial results of recent labor cases.

Meanwhile, Philippine Ambassador to Brazil Jose D.R. Burgos highlighted the 70 years of diplomatic relations and historical ties between Brazil and the Philippines. Brazil remains to be the Philippines' top trading partner in South America. Brazil has been a model for the Philippines in social and poverty alleviation programs such as bolsa familia.

Senator Nunes remarked that Brazil and the Philippines were under the same king for 60 years, underlining the special and shared historical narrative of the two countries. He also added "good food" as among the reasons to visit ASEAN. ◇



*Ambassador Burgos talks about the Philippines-Brazil relations during courtesy call of the ACB on Senator Aloysio Nunes Ferreira, Jr., Chairman of the Senate Committee on External Relations and National Defense of Brazil.*

## DID YOU KNOW?



The 2016 Rio Olympics finally gave Brazil its first Olympic gold in football, cementing the country's status as "o País do Futebol" ("the country of football"). Brazil, of course, has the most FIFA World Cup titles with five.

Though not (yet) a World Cup contender, the Philippines used to be a football nation. As a Spanish colony and during the early years of American rule, the primary sport of the Philippines was football. The first football tournament in Asia, the Far Eastern Games, was held in the Philippines in 1913 where it defeated China for the championship with a score of 2-1.

One of the most legendary figures in football history was Paulino Alcantara (born 1896 in Iloilo, Philippines). Known as "El Rompe Redes" or "the Net Breaker," Alcantara was the first Filipino and Asian to play for a European football team having played for FC Barcelona - the same club as Brazilian superstar Neymar - in 1912 when he was 15 years old until he retired as a player in 1927 to become a doctor. Alcantara's record of 369 goals in 357 appearances was the club's goal scoring record from 1927 until it was broken in 2014.

*Sources: "Remembering the Philippines as a football nation" by JM Siasat, 17 June 2014, Rappler.com; Wikipedia; Goal.com*

# GCCM INTERNATIONAL FAIR



*Dra. Blesilda Mansilla Burgos, wife of Ambassador Jose D.R. Burgos, offers free-tasting of the Philippine dried mangoes.*



*Ambassador Jose D.R. Burgos poses with the staff of the Philippine Embassy at the Philippine Booth goods section.*

The Philippine Embassy in Brasilia participated in the annual bazaar, known as the “Feira Internacional Das Embaixadas,” held at the Expobrasilia, Parque da Cidade in Brasilia on 12 November 2016. The bazaar was organized by the Grupo dos Cônjuges dos Chefes de Missão—GCCM (Group of the Spouses of Chiefs of Missions) which counted on the participation of 117 diplomatic missions based in Brazil.

The proceeds from the event went to charity. Around 30,000 guests from the government and private sectors attended the event despite the inclement weather. Many observers commented that this year’s bazaar attracted the largest number of visitors since its inception in 2004.

The Philippine Embassy set up two booths to showcase Filipino cuisine, products and handicrafts. The Philippine booths were very well received by both the diplomatic community and the Brazilian guests. Almost all products were sold out long before the event ended at 10:00 PM. The GCCM Bazaar opened at 10:00 AM.

Christmas lanterns (parols), tarpaulins, posters of places to visit in the Philippines, and Philippine flaglets adorned the Philippine booths to promote tourism in the country. Tourism materials and brochures on how to do business in the Philippines were likewise distributed to the guests.

In addition, the Philippines also took part in the GCCM cultural presentation, featuring Arnis Kali, a Philippine martial arts exhibition performed by the students of the Academia Magkaisa with kulintang music as the background. The said martial arts academy is owned by Mr. Herbert “Master Dada” Inocalla, a Filipino-Brazilian who himself is a renowned martial arts expert.

Overall, the event once again helped in making the Philippines more widely known to the Latin American people in line with the Embassy’s goal to bring the Philippines closer to people on this far side of the world with a variety of renowned Filipino dishes. ♦



*The guests get to taste traditional Filipino food such as pansit, bihon, buko pandan, fruit salad and fried chicken, adobo, siopao, cassava cake, melon cooler and barbecue at the International Fair.*



*GM Herbert “Dada” Inocalla (right) with his student perform Arnis Kali Martial Arts Presentation to the tune of Kulintang from Mindanao.*

## 5TH PHILIPPINE FOOD FESTIVAL, SHERATON HOTEL PORTO ALEGRE

In collaboration with Sheraton Hotel Porto Alegre, the Philippine Embassy in Brasilia, successfully launched for the fifth time the Philippine Gastronomic Festival at the hotel's Porto Alegre Bistrô. The event gave the Philippines the opportunity to showcase once again Filipino cuisine and the appetizing dishes prepared by Filipina Chef Mely Jalbuenas Maravillas (from Salut Restaurant in Florianopolis, Sta Catarina) and Sheraton's renowned Executive Chef, Mauro Sousa.

The hotel guests had a taste of savory Filipino dishes, such as chicken caldereta, pork adobo, pininyahang manok, bistek, kilawin beef, Filipino-style chicken curry, Bicol express, leche flan, sago and gelatine salad, macaroni salad, fruit salad, peanut brittle, maja blanca with peanuts, maja blanca with corn and sago, and mango salad. Not originally planned, Chef Mely surprised the hotel and its guests by preparing a crispy and suckling lechon to the great enjoyment and delight of every guest.

The Filipino menu was widely acclaimed by the Hotel's choice clientele, which included food critics, journalists, tourists, businessmen, and local officials. The Secretary of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Sr. Renato de Oliveira, who came to grace the occasion, expressed lavish praises on all dishes that were served.

Colorful carved fruits and vegetables adorning the Porto Alegre Bistro during the 5th Philippine Gastronomic Festival at the Sheraton Hotel, Porto Alegre on 06-10 December 2016.

The event also provided the opportunity for the Embassy to promote Philippine culture and tourism in Rio Grande do Sul. Philippine tourism and cultural promotion materials - accompanied with dried mangoes and the Paradise Mango Rum- were given away as souvenirs to the hotel guests and special patrons during the said food festival. Traditional Philippine music was played throughout the event to evoke a Filipino festive mood. ♦



*Philippine Honorary Consul General Dr. Somchai Ansuaj, Secretary of Rio Grande Do Sul Sr. Renato de Oliveira Ambassador Jose D.R. Burgos, Sheraton Executive Chef Mauro Sousa, and Filipina Chef Ms. Mely Jalbuenas Maravillas (from Salut Restaurant in Florianopolis, Sta. Catarina) .*



*Ambassador Jose D.R. Burgos presents the Certificate of Appreciation to Filipina Chef Ms. Mely Jalbuenas Maravillas for her efforts as the Guest Chef during the 5th Philippine Gastronomic Festival*



*Brazilian guests flock to the Filipino cuisine presented at the Porto Alegre Bistro during the 5th Philippine Food Festival at Sheraton Hotel*



*The restaurant was adorned with Filipino Fiesta theme and Philippine cuisine during the 5th Philippine Gastronomic Festival at the Sheraton Hotel.*

On 27 December 2016, a Flag Raising and Wreath laying ceremony was held at the Philippine Embassy Brasilia grounds in commemoration of the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Martyrdom of Dr. Jose P. Rizal.



Ambassador Jose D.R. Burgos (middle), Dra. Blesilda M. Burgos, with the officers, staff and the Filipino community during the Flag Raising and Wreath Laying Ceremony.

Excerpts from an article by Aldwin Quitasol in [Interaksyon.com](http://Interaksyon.com)  
Dated 24 June 2016

Once an overcrowded and congested neighborhood and seen as an eyesore, these closely-knitted houses have been transformed into a giant artwork depicting colorful combinations of flowers, strawberries, and tulips transforming the neighborhood into an added tourist attraction in the province of Benguet.

According to the Department of Tourism (DOT) Cordillera, this is the first of its kind in the country, the painting of the houses in the three sitios of Stonehill, Botiwitiw, and Sadjap (STOBOSA) of Barangay Balili in La Trinidad drew inspiration from the famous favelas in Rio del Janeiro, Brazil where houses were painted to create a large-sized public artwork to improve the place formerly known as a haven for drug lords and criminal gangs. In Benguet, the project was conceptualized in June 2015 by the DOT office in Cordillera. It was officially started in January this year.

DOT-Cordillera signed a memorandum of Agreement with the La Trinidad LGU and Davies Paint Philippines, Inc for the implementation of the project. The artists from the Tam-awan Artist Village under Chanum Foundation were tapped to help in laying out the design.

DOT Cordillera Regional Director Marie Venus Quinto-Tan said during the inauguration of the project that this will serve as a banner project to kick-off the department's "Rev-up, Revive, Resist, Revitalize" Urban Redevelopment Tourism Campaign.

She said that the real heroes are the residents of STOBOSA because they showed the spirit of "bayanihan" when they collectively painted their houses in full cooperation with the DOT and the artists. "More than the mural, more than the beautification, you will see the community has bonded together to spruce up their areas," she said.

Artist and Chanum Foundation president Jordan Mangosan said that the painting of the houses is now more than 80% complete. He said when the project would be completed, the artists, together with the residents, will ensure the maintenance of the giant artwork. He explained that they would repaint or "retouch" every two and a half months to retain the color of the houses. ♦



Ambassador Jose D.R. Burgos delivers a short speech.



The Filipino community and guests enjoy Filipino breakfast such as beef tapa, longanisa, sinangag, sunny side egg, breads, cakes, juice, coffee and tea.



The Hillside Homes Artwork is a work in progress with some 600 volunteers painting the houses at Sitios Stonehill, Botiwitiw and Sadjap (STOBOSA), La Trinidad, Buenguet.  
Photo by JjLandingin/InterAksyon.com

## ART MEETS NATURE

Founded by mining magnate Bernardo Paz and designed by his friend, the late landscape artist Roberto Burle Marx, **INHOTIM** (pronounced IN-YO-TCHEENG) has one of the most significant collections of contemporary art in the world and a botanical collection containing rare species from every continent. It is one of the largest open-air museums in the world.

With a land area of 2,000 hectares (twice the size of Boracay Island in the Philippines or almost the size of Fernando de Noronha Archipelago in Brazil), Inhotim is so big that visitors will not be able to see all the attractions (sculptures, installations, art pavilions and over 4,000 plant species) in one visit. The park is so huge that many people take golf carts from one installation to the next — and even such rides take at least five minutes. In fact, some art enthusiasts buy multi-day passes.

Inhotim has become one of the most important art centers in Latin America since it opened to the public in 2006. The collection is a mix of works from Brazilian and international artists. It has reached international acclaim thanks to the mix of nature and exhibitions of globally known artists like Chris Burden, Adriana Varejao and Cildo Meireles.

Like Inhotim, **LAS CASAS FILIPINAS DE ACUZAR** in Bagac, Bataan, Philippines is an open-air museum. Mr. Jose Acuzar, a known real estate developer and builder in the Philippines started rebuilding Spanish mansions in Bagac in 2003.

Spread over 400 hectares, the park features a collection of buildings and stone houses from the Spanish colonial times which together make up a settlement or town reminiscent of the period. Chosen for their historical, cultural and architectural value, these structures, from different parts of the country, were reconstructed brick by brick, plank by plank.

The result was a heritage park of about 30 colonial houses that opened to the public in 2010 but which takes you back to 18<sup>th</sup> century Philippines complete with a backdrop of majestic mountains, expansive rice fields, and a running river that flows to the sea. ♦

References: Washington Post;  
Lascasasfilipinas.com; Wikipedia



Inhotim



Las Casas de Acuzar

Fundado pelo magnata da mineração Bernardo Paz e desenhado por seu amigo, o paisagista Roberto Burle Marx, **INHOTIM** tem uma das coleções mais significativas de arte contemporânea do mundo e uma coleção botânica contendo espécies raras de cada continente. É um dos maiores museus ao ar livre do mundo.

Com uma área de 2.000 hectares (quase do tamanho do Arquipélago Fernando de Noronha no Brasil ou duas vezes o tamanho da Ilha Boracay nas Filipinas), Inhotim é tão grande que os visitantes não conseguem ver todas as atrações (esculturas, pavilhões de arte, mais de 4.000 espécies de plantas) em uma visita. Muitas pessoas tomam carrinhos de golfe para ir de uma instalação para a próxima - e ainda assim o trajeto pode levar até cinco minutos. De fato, alguns entusiastas compram passes múltiplos.

Desde sua abertura em 2006, Inhotim se tornou um dos centros de arte mais importantes da América Latina. A coleção é um mix de obras de artistas brasileiros e internacionais. Alcançou aclamação internacional graças à combinação de natureza com a exposições de artistas mundialmente conhecidos como Chris Burden, Adriana Varejao e Cildo Meireles.

Assim como Inhotim, **LAS CASAS FILIPINAS DE ACUZAR** em Bagac, Bataan, Filipinas é um museu ao ar livre. O Sr. José Acuzar, conhecido promotor imobiliário e construtor nas Filipinas, começou a reconstruir mansões espanholas em Bagac em 2003.

Estendendo-se por 400 hectares, o parque se caracteriza por uma coleção de edifícios e casas de pedra dos tempos da colonização espanhola que, juntos, compõem uma cidade remanescente do período. Escolhidas pelo seu valor histórico, cultural e arquitetônico, essas estruturas, de diferentes partes do país, foram reconstruídas tijolo por tijolo, viga por viga.

O resultado é um patrimônio de cerca de 30 casas coloniais aberto ao público em 2010, que leva você de volta às Filipinas do século 18. O cenário é completado com um background de montanhas majestosas, extensos campos de arroz e um rio que flui para o mar. ♦

Referências: Washington Post;  
Lascasasfilipinas.com; Wikipedia



**LAS CASAS FILIPINAS DE ACUZAR**



**INHOTIM**



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