

Setenta!

Celebrating 70 years of Philippines-Brazil Diplomatic Relations (1946-2016)



SECRETARY'S MESSAGE

On 04 July 1946, Brazilian President Eurico Gaspar Dutra sent Ambassador Carlos Silvério Martins Ramos, as Special Envoy Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil, to the solemn inauguration of Independence of the Republic of the Philippines from the Americans at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila. Brazil was one of 24 countries represented in that historic event.

Since that time, relations between the two countries have grown from strength to strength. Cooperation in various fields and constructive engagement in areas of mutual interest, both bilaterally and in various multilateral fora, have served to further strengthen the

already close ties which exist between the Philippines and Brazil.

The political and economic landscapes have vastly changed since 1946, and so have the challenges and opportunities that go along with such changes. Despite the distance between the Philippines and Brazil, there is no doubt that both countries will continue to work shoulder to shoulder to secure a better quality of life for its peoples.



HON. JOSE RENE D. ALMENDRAS
Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs

AMBASSADOR'S MESSAGE



It is my honor and pleasure to present to you the Anniversary Magazine to celebrate 70 years of meaningful and productive friendship between the Philippines and Brazil. Official diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Brazil were established when the Brazilian Government sent Hon. Carlos Silverio Martins Ramos, Special

Representative of President Eurico Gaspar Dutra, to the Inauguration of Philippine Independence on 04 July 1946 (from the Americans).

The Philippines and Brazil may be geographically far apart, but we share so many similarities in our history, religion, culture and values. In fact, Brazil and the Philippines were under the same ruler for 60 years from 1580 to 1640 starting with King Philip II of Spain.

Aside from Brazil being the largest trading partner of the Philippines in South America, our countries have always enjoyed good bilateral relations especially in our common concerns and advocacies: transparency and good governance, social protection and poverty eradication, and renewable energy, among others. To paraphrase former Brazilian President Lula da Silva, the Philippines and Brazil are “*povos-irmãos*” (brother-nations).

We are like brothers, or long lost cousins, because the two countries are both similar and different. We are culturally similar due to our common colonial past but we also bring into the table a lot of different aspects, not just culturally.

This makes the present and future relations between Brazil and the Philippines even more interesting, if not exciting.

Our mutual desire to deepen engagement and further strengthen our relations comes at an opportune time. As we are both located in two of the most dynamic regions in the world today, there are various opportunities for our two countries to pursue mutually beneficial initiatives and activities. At the same time, both our countries are undergoing transition in government this year as the Philippines has just concluded its Presidential Elections a month ago.

While I offer my “*Boa sorte*” (Good luck) to our two governments, I am confident that Brazil and the Philippines will come out of this transition as better democracies in an ever-changing world.

I would like to express my gratitude to the generous support of the Brazilian Government to the Philippines, especially with regard to various Study Visits of our delegations to Brazil and in the multilateral arena, among others, through the years. Likewise, the level of engagement between the two countries that we now enjoy is also the result of the work of all the Ambassadors that came before me.

Então, I offer my profound congratulations to Brazil and to the Philippines and the men and women of our Embassy and the Ministério das Relações Exteriores for this momentous occasion. *Parabéns! Mabuhay!* Long Live the 70 Years of Philippines-Brazil Diplomatic Relations!

H.E. JOSE D.R. BURGOS
Philippine Ambassador to Brazil

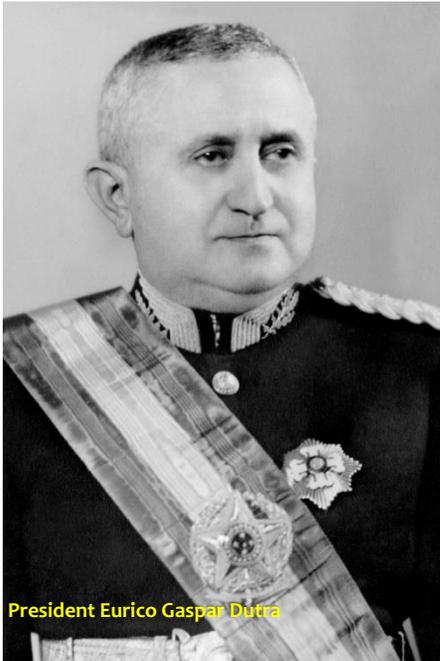


HISTORY OF BRAZIL-PHILIPPINES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Official diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Brazil were deemed to have been established when the Brazilian Government sent Hon. Carlos Silvério Martins Ramos, Special Representative of President Eurico Gaspar Dutra, to the Inauguration of Philippine Independence on 04 July 1946.

On the other hand, the then Vice President of the Philippines Diosdado Macapagal attended the inauguration of the new Brazilian capital of Brasilia in April 1960.

Philippine Vice President Diosdado Macapagal attended the inauguration of Brasilia, April 1960



President Eurico Gaspar Dutra

Initially, the Philippine Embassy in Washington exercised jurisdiction over Brazil, which was later transferred to the Philippine Embassy in Argentina upon the opening of the Philippine diplomatic representation in Buenos Aires.

On 16 September 1965, Ambassador Carlos S. Tan opened the first Philippine Embassy in Rio de Janeiro.

On 01 September 1973, the mission transferred to Brasilia on a piece of property located at the corner of the Northern Embassies Sector (Setor de Embaixadas Norte) with a land area of 2.5 hectares.

Meanwhile, the Brazilian Embassy was established in Manila in 1970. (Source: www.itamaraty.gov.br)

Inauguration of Philippine Independence



DID YOU KNOW?

The word **carioca** refers to anything related to the city of Rio de Janeiro, including the Brazilian people who were born in this so-called “*Cidade Maravilhosa*” (Marvelous City). In the Philippines, carioca or “*karyoka*” refers to a ball of glutinous rice dough that is deep-fried and then dipped in brown coconut syrup.

These sweet balls are often served skewered on a thin bamboo stick and are typically eaten as mid-afternoon snack or merienda.

(Source: <http://aboutfilipinofood.com/karyoka/>)



Philippine Embassy Chancery – Brasilia



NOTABLE VISITS

Through the years, there have been various notable visits of high-ranking officials from the Philippines to Brazil and vice versa, highlighted by no less than the Official Visit to Brazil of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on 23-25 June 2009. The official delegation included Foreign Affairs Secretary (Cabinet Minister) Alberto G. Romulo, Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Favila, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes, Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral and Senator Miriam Defensor-Santiago.



President Arroyo with the Latin American and Caribbean Group of Countries (GRULAC)
Photo credit: Brazilian Embassy in Manila

President Arroyo also inaugurated the expanded container yard of the Suape Container Terminal, the most important and largest terminal in the northeastern region of Brazil operated by Tecon Suape, S.A., a subsidiary of Philippine company International Container Terminal Services, Inc.

Also a result of President Arroyo's visit to Brazil, 2,000 Brazilian Murrah Buffaloes arrived in Subic Bay, Philippines on 18 January 2010. The Brazilian buffaloes were imported to improve the milk and carabeef production in the Philippines. Through the Philippine Carabao Center, the Brazilian buffaloes were dispersed to Filipino farmers to help them improve their livelihood.

(Source: <http://www.philstar.com>)

Before President Arroyo's visit, Foreign Secretary Romulo was in Brazil as the Head of the Philippine Delegation to the 3rd FEALAC Ministerial Meeting in Brasilia in August 2007 while Metro Manila Development Authority Chairman Bayani Fernando participated in a World Bank Study Tour on Urban Planning and Management in

March 2008. In November 2008, Secretary Cabral was Head of the Philippine delegation to the Third World Congress against the Sexual Exploitation of Children and Adolescents in Rio de Janeiro.

Vice President Noli de Castro and Senator Gringo Honasan attended the 5th World Urban Forum and 6th Global Forum of the Global Parliamentarians for Habitat in March 2010.

Signing of MOU on Technical Cooperation, 23 August 2011



On 20-23 August 2011, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert F. del Rosario visited Brazil at the invitation of Foreign Minister Antonio de Aguiar Patriota.

Secretary of Budget and Management Florencio B. Abad represented the Philippines at the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Conference on 16-18 April



President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

In his meeting with President Arroyo on 24 June 2009, Brazilian President Luis Inacio Lula da Silva referred to the Filipinos as Brazil's "povo-irmão" (brother-nation).

The said Official Visit produced various bilateral agreements such as the MOUs on cooperation in agriculture, bioenergy cooperation and the technical cooperation between the Philippine Agricultural Development and Commercial Corporation and EMBRAPA (Brazilian Agribusiness Research Corporation). While in Brazil,



(DA) officials on 07 May 2009.

A delegation from Brazil led by Director Mitzi Gurgel Valente da Costa from the Department of Immigration and Legal Affairs of the Ministry of External Relations participated in the Global Forum on Migration and Development held on 27-30 October 2008 in Manila.

2012 and the Global Initiative on Fiscal Transparency on 19-20 April 2012, held in Brasilia, Brazil. Both Brazil and the Philippines are founding members of OGP, which advocates greater transparency and accountability in the government and civil society participation.

Deputy Director Alexandre Pontes of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Negotiations of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA) was Head of the Brazilian Delegation to the First

There were also people-to-people exchanges including EMBRAPA scientists doing research at the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines and

Socio-economic Planning Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan headed the Philippine Delegation to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, also known as Rio+20, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 19-22 June 2012.



PH-Brazil Joint Commission Meeting on Bioenergy

Other Philippine government officials have visited Brazil to participate in various study visits, international conferences and meetings.

Joint Committee Meeting between the Philippines' Department of Agriculture and Brazil's MAPA on 28-30 April 2010.

various Brazilian students studying in the Philippines through the Rotary Exchange Program, among others.

On the part of Brazil, Itamaraty's Undersecretary General for Policy Ambassador Maria Edileuza Reis led the Brazilian Delegation to the inaugural Philippines-Brazil Bilateral Consultation Meeting (BCM) hosted by the Philippines on 10 September 2010.

Officials of MAPA headed by Deputy Secretary Lino Colsera from the Secretariat of International Relations in Agribusiness visited Manila and met with the Department of Agriculture



Visit of MARINA Administrator Maximo Mejia at the Brazilian Navy Office

The 3rd BCM was held in Brasilia on 25 August 2014. Coinciding with this, Undersecretary for Policy and Head of Philippine Delegation Evan Garcia delivered a speech on ASEAN and regional security architecture at the University of Brasilia.

COMMON ADVOCACIES

Brazil and the Philippines are founding members of the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which advocates greater transparency and accountability in the government and civil society participation. This is consistent with the agenda of Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III of good governance, transparency and the fight against corruption. Because of these advocacies, President Aquino, whose term ends this year, is largely credited by international media for turning around the Philippine economy into one of the fastest-growing in Asia in recent years.

When Brazil hosted the First OGP Summit in 2012, the Philippine Delegation took the opportunity to learn more about Brazil's best practices in transparency, accountability and participatory governance. Inspired by the practice in Brazil, participatory budgeting was also implemented in the Philippines.

Both the Philippines and Brazil have leadership roles in bioenergy. The Philippines is the second largest producer of geothermal power while Brazil is the second largest ethanol producer in the world. In October 2013, Brazil and the Philippines held the 1st Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) on Bioenergy Cooperation.

Philippine Girls Team to the Street Child World Cup
Rio de Janeiro – April 2014



The JCM was the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding on Bioenergy Cooperation, including Biofuels, between the Department of Energy of the Philippines and the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Brazil signed on 24 June 2009.

Officials from the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA), led by Administrator Ma. Regina Bautista-Martin participated in the 3rd Philippines-Brazil Bilateral Consultation Meeting and held a series of meetings and technical visits in Brasilia and São Paulo on 25-29 August 2014.

The purpose of the Study Visit was to observe and evaluate Brazil's best practices in sugar and ethanol production and to establish cooperation with relevant Brazilian public and private institutions. In particular, the SRA was interested in procuring high-yielding and climate-resilient sugarcane varieties, equipment and technology transfer from Brazil to help make the Philippine production of sugar and ethanol more efficient and productive.

In March 2013, a delegation headed by Philippine Sports Commission Chairman Ricardo Garcia visited sports facilities in Brazil and met with Brazilian sports officials.

The visit was capped by with the signing of the MOU of Cooperation in Sports.

Also in the area of sports, the Philippines participated in the Street Child World Cup 2014 which was held in Rio de Janeiro in March 2014 wherein the Philippine Girls Team won 2nd place losing to the hosts and eventual champions Brazil. The Street Child World Cup, initiated by Amos Trust, a British human rights charity organization, is a global campaign for street children to receive the protection and opportunities that all children deserve by bringing together teams of street children and former street children age 14 to 16 years old.



Field trip of the SRA Officials to the giant sugarcanes in São Paulo, Brazil



Signing of Air Services Agreement

In May 2013, the Philippines and Brazil successfully negotiated an Air Services Agreement to pave the way for their respective carriers to mount flights to and from each country. The Philippine

delegation was headed by Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Rafael Seguis.

In the area of poverty alleviation and food security, Philippine officials, headed by Social Welfare and Development Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman and Agrarian Reform Secretary Virgilio delos Reyes, attended a Study Mission to Brasilia, Brazil on 03-10 June 2013 to study the *Brasil Sem Miséria* (Brazil Without Extreme Poverty) strategy under the auspices of the World Bank.



Brazilian President Dilma Rouseff and Secretary Florencio Abad at the OGP Summit

Related to the aforementioned Study Visit, Minister Milton Rondo of the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil, along with Mr. Israel Klug of Food and Agriculture Organization, visited the Philippines on 09-13 December 2013 for field observations and to participate in the Philippines-Brazil Forum on Hunger Mitigation (held on 13 December 2013 in Makati City) as resource persons on Brazil's social assistance programs and strategies.

The result of all these efforts was the signing of the Statement of Intent between the Philippines, Brazil (represented by Minister Rondo), the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization. The document provides for the continuing technical assistance from the Brazilian government to support the Partnership against Hunger and Poverty (PAHP).

PAHP is in line with the Philippine government's program to eliminate hunger similar to Brazil's Food Purchase Program and Zero Hunger Plan. Moreover, WFP and FAO pledged to provide technical inputs in the refinements of the PAHP framework.

From June to October 2014, Mr. Flavio Freitas, a Brazilian consultant under the supervision of FAO, was in the Philippines to provide technical assessment of the main issues of the pilot implementation of the PAHP program including designing trainings and identifying what kind of support the Philippines needs.

On 04-12 July 2015, a Philippine delegation of parliamentarians, government officials and civil society organizations led by Rep. Ibarra Gutierrez III (Akbayan), Vice-Chairperson of the House Committee on Human Rights, visited Brazil to study the *Fome Zero* (Zero Hunger)

Strategy which largely reduced malnutrition and poverty in Brazil by supporting smallholder farmers and locally sourced consumption.



Philippine athletes at the First Indigenous Peoples World Games Palmas, Brazil

As a result of the 2015 Study Visit, Congresswoman and now Vice President-elect Maria Leonor Gerona-Robredo, filed in August 2015 House Bill No. 6062 or the National Food Security Bill of 2015, that aims to streamline the country's food distribution system and expand the national feeding program which will be partly sourced from small-scale farmers/producers.

Brazil is widely regarded as a model in social protection programs. *Bolsa Família* (Family Grant) lifted 36 million Brazilians from poverty since 2003 for which Brazil won the "Award for Outstanding Achievement in Social Security" from the International Social Security Association (ISSA) in Switzerland in October 2013. In 2014, FAO reported that the number of undernourished Brazilians fell by more than 80% in 10 years thereby removing Brazil from the World Hunger Map.

Bolsa Família is one of the models of the Philippines' conditional cash transfer program known as *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program or 4Ps. In terms of scale (number of beneficiaries), the Philippine government's conditional cash transfer program is the third biggest conditional social safety net program among developing countries, according to a report released by the World Bank entitled "The State of Social Safety Nets 2014."



Zero Hunger Study Visit delegation with the Philippine Embassy personnel

BRAZIL-PHILIPPINES BUSINESS COOPERATION FORUM

On 22 October 2015, the Philippine Embassy in Brasilia launched the Brazil-Philippines Business Cooperation Forum (BPBCF) at the Official Residence of the Philippine Ambassador to Brazil.

The Business Forum serves as a venue of like-minded individuals exploring various opportunities for business cooperation and collaboration for the mutual benefit of the Philippines and Brazil.



The distinguished guests during this milestone event in the history of Brazil-Philippines relations included Congressman Nelson Marquezelli, Brazilian Ambassador to the Philippines H.E. Rodrigo do Amaral Souza, Philippine Honorary Consul General in Manaus Francisco Rodrigues da Silva Filho, Director Eduardo Abijaodi of the Brazilian National Confederation of Industries (CNI), officials from the Ministry of External Relations and other government agencies and businessmen.

Despite the challenges, economic or otherwise, that Brazil is currently facing, it is still the largest Latin

American economy and the second largest in the Western Hemisphere. Brazil has an enormous amount of resources and capacity to grow. On the other hand, the Philippines is one of the fastest growing economies in Asia. Thus, the Philippines is naturally the gateway of Brazil to Asia while Brazil is the gateway for Filipino businessmen to Latin America.

Director Abijaodi lauded the Embassy's initiative and agreed that cooperation in business starts with knowing more about the other country and its economic environment.

It is expected that the BPBCF would lead to business missions, among others, from Brazil to the Philippines and vice versa and it starts with businessmen and individuals from the two countries getting to know each other better.

In fact, following the 3rd Regular Meeting of the BPBCF on 31 March 2016, Ambassador Burgos met with Governor Marconi Ferreira Perillo Junior of the State of Goiás to discuss plans to organize a Brazilian delegation of businessmen and officials led by Governor Perillo to the Philippines in November 2016.

In just a short time since its launching, the Business Forum has attracted a good number of businessmen thereby creating a network of Brazilians interested in finding out more about the Philippines which will hopefully lead to business partnerships



and bilateral investments.

Even government agencies within Brazil, particular those relating to business coordination, became connected through the BPBCF.

In its first three meetings, the BPBCF has received interested businessmen and government representatives from seven States in Brazil: the Federal District, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Amazonas, Rio Grande do Sul and Espírito Santo.



Meeting with Governor Perillo, March 2016

Plans are also underway for the creation of a similar Business Forum with the nine States of Northeast Brazil which will enable the BPBCF to reach at least 16 of the 27 States of Brazil.

On the lighter side, the Brazilian guests have consistently praised the Filipino dishes served to them and which have now become part and parcel of BPBCF Meetings.

3rd Regular Meeting of the BPBCF, March 2016



COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

The Philippines, like Brazil, is among the Conservation International's list of 17 mega-diverse or extremely bio-diverse countries. With 174 mammalian species, the Philippines has the greatest concentration of terrestrial mammalian diversity in the world and the greatest concentration of endemic mammals on per unit basis. It is believed to harbor more diversity of life than any other country on earth on per hectare basis, hosting 70-80% of the world's biodiversity.

endangered species: the Philippine Eagle (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) and the Crowned Eagle (*Urubitinga coronata*).

The Philippine eagle is the best-known bird species unique to the Philippines and is the country's national bird. Also known as "Haribon" (from "Haring Ibon" or King Bird), it is considered the largest of the existing eagles in the world in terms of length and one of the rarest birds of prey. The Philippine eagle measures 86 to

102 centimeters and weighs 5 to 8 kilos on the average. The adult has a wingspan of about 184 to 220 centimeters and can dive to capture its prey at speeds in excess of 100 kilometers per hour.

The crowned eagle is considered a large hawk, which may reach 3 kilos and 85 centimeters in length. Their main sources of food are medium-sized animals and dead rotten flesh. The reproduction period of this bird in the

Savannah is between July and November, when it uses high trees for the construction of a nest for only one egg. Couples usually remain together throughout the year.

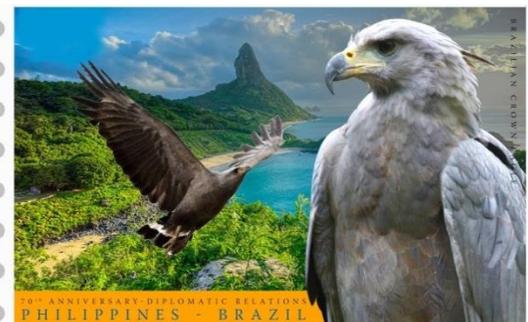
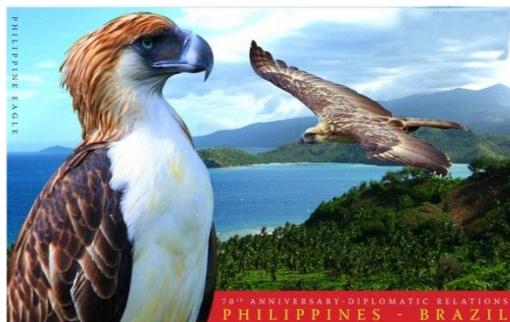
This year, to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Philippines and Brazil, Correios will be using a special Cancellor featuring the same endangered birds of the two countries.



Unfortunately, the country's biodiversity is highly vulnerable and endangered.

In view of this, the Brazilian Postal Corporation (Correios), in its Diplomatic Relations Series in 2014, in coordination with the Philippine Embassy in Brasilia, launched the Commemorative Stamps featuring two birds of great importance to the biodiversity of Brazil and the Philippines to draw attention to the preservation of these

With the issuance of the Commemorative Stamps and Cancellor, Brazil and the Philippines promote, through philately, the protection and preservation of the environment, emphasizing at the same time the good relations and the bonds of friendship and cooperation that unite the two countries.



SIMILARITIES

Aside from being both megadiverse, there are many similarities between Brazil and the Philippines, some of which could potentially be featured in future commemorative stamps, as well.

Mega-diversity



The megadiverse countries are a group of countries that harbor the majority of the Earth's species and are therefore considered extremely biodiverse. In 1998, Conservation International identified 17 megadiverse countries, which include both Brazil and the Philippines.

Famous tourist attractions



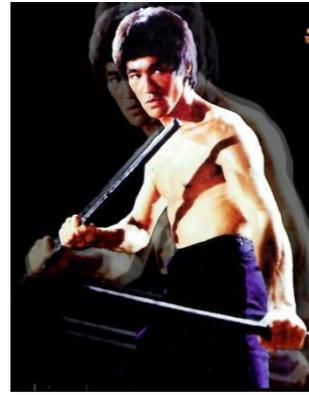
Both the Philippines and Brazil are known for their beaches and other unique and interesting tourist attractions. In addition, the two countries host a number of World Heritage Sites.

World Heritage Sites



Martial arts

Arnis, also known as *Eskrima* or *Kali*, is a traditional Filipino martial art that emphasizes weapon-based fighting with sticks, bladed weapons and various improvised weapons.



Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art form which combines fight, dance, rhythm and movement.



In contrast to some martial arts that stemmed from revered warrior classes or nobles, both *Capoeira* and *Arnis* originated from the common folks.

In both countries, the colonists (Portuguese and Spaniards) prohibited the practice of martial arts in order to prevent any resistance to their rule. Both martial arts had to be disguised by their respective practitioners in the form of dances.

Both styles have undergone a revival in the last 100 years, with not only a lifting of the ban but even rising in popularity to become the national sports of their respective countries.

Today, both have gained global popularity with schools and practitioners of both styles to be found all over the world.

(Source: Wikipedia, "Eskrima in popular culture")

Beauty



Brazil is the first country to capture all of the so-called “Big Four” of international beauty pageants when Ms. Priscilla Meirelles won the Miss Earth 2004 crown in the Philippines. (Ms. Meirelles would eventually marry a Filipino actor and settle in the Philippines.)

On the other hand, the Philippines completed the "Big Four" of beauty pageants by winning the Miss World title in 2013. Brazil and the Philippines are two of only three countries (along with Venezuela) so far to complete the Big Four crowns.

In 2009, Brazil won again the Miss Earth crown while the Philippines won five major crowns from 2013-2015 including the 2015 Miss Universe for its 12th Big Four title overall.

Music and Culture

Bossa Nova was arguably the most popular music in the Philippines in the mid-2000s as popularized by Sitti Navarro. But while the huge revival of bossa nova in the Philippines can be attributed to Sitti, the said Brazilian music was already popular in the Philippines during the 60s and the 70s especially when Brazil’s famous musician and Grammy winner Sergio Mendes first came to the Philippines in the early 70s.



Mendes popularized in the Philippines such classics as “Girl from Ipanema”, “One Note Samba”, and “Mas Que Nada,” among others. He held concerts in the Philippines so many times over a span of more than 40 years that he is considered an adopted son of the Philippines. In an interview by major newspaper Philippine Star for his 50th Anniversary Concert in Manila this year, Mendes said that he always looks forward to going back in the Philippines because “Filipinos have something in common with the Brazilians. Filipinos and Brazilians are very romantic and they love music, they love melody.” (Source: www.philstar.com)

In the mid- to late 70s, Bong Peñera and his band Batucada (Portuguese for “beat) were considered the main proponent of Brazilian-influenced Philippine jazz, particularly samba and bossa nova.

Peñera composed “A Samba Song” which is unmistakably Brazilian in melody but with Filipino and English lyrics. The song has been performed as covers by Tadao Hayashi, Eddie Katindig, Sitti and Guarana, a Filipino band that has been promoting Brazilian music, particularly bossa nova and samba, in the last decade. Guarana’s

lead vocalist, Eileen Sison, also founded the Escola de Samba de Manila, the first and only samba school in the Philippines.

(Sources: WikiPilipinas.org;
<http://dancepinoy.blogspot.com.br/>)

Maria Blesilda de Leon Badilla, more popularly known as Bessie Badilla, has recorded various songs melding Brazilian music with Filipino lyrics under the so-called “Brinoy” (which is short for Brazilian Filipino) CDs.

Aside from being a recording artist, Bessie Badilla was a former supermodel, actress and cancer survivor. She was the first Filipina to be chosen Carnival Queen in Brazil.

In 2008, Bessie was selected to represent three of the 14 samba schools competing in São Paulo Carnival: *Unidos de Vila Maria*, *Nene de Vila Matilde* and the eventual champions *Escola Vai Vai*. The following year, she was again Carnival Queen this time in Rio de Janeiro for the *Viradouro Samba School* at age 50!

(Sources: Inquirer.net;
www.queenbessie.com/news_1.html)



Sergio Mendes

Bessie Badilla



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