

ABOUT US

The *Philippines Australia Studies Centre* (PASC) at La Trobe was formally established at a meeting on 8 October, 2003. PASC is a joint venture between La Trobe University and Ateneo de Manila University (Ateneo) in the Philippines, and stems from the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two universities in March 2000 and renewed for a further 5 years in June, 2005. We have had three bilateral meetings: Manila (January, 2000); Melbourne (April, 2001) and the third in February, 2003 at Ateneo. The initiator of this agreement was Professor Dennis Altman, Politics Program, and the greater part of activity and commitment has been provided by the School of Social Sciences.

OBJECTIVES

The Centre has 9 main aims, as set out in its Constitution:

1. To encourage the development and application of Filipino and Australian research through publishing and presenting material in printed and electronic form and through delivering educational workshops, forums and conferences;
2. To facilitate exchanges between Philippines and Australia of Filipino and Australian scholars;
3. To encourage Filipino students to enrol in Australian postgraduate programs and vice versa;
4. To promote studies of the Philippines and Australia in regional and global settings;
5. To co-operate and collaborate with the Philippines-Australia Studies Centre at Ateneo de Manila University;
6. To encourage student exchange programs between the two nations through the University and Ateneo de Manila University;
7. To significantly expand the opportunities for research in the region especially in facilitating the socio-economic goals of development, justice, poverty eradication, health, trade, and good governance;
8. To promote the teaching and research activities of members of staff of Ateneo de Manila University and the University through the development of projects that require collaborative team research;
9. To improve and deepen relations, networks and mutual understanding between the Philippines and Australia through education, exchanges, research collaboration, and bilateral meetings.

MEMBERSHIP

Office bearers: Dr Trevor Hogan (director), Prof. Charles Mott (deputy director), Professor John Fitzgerald (chair – on leave 2005), Mr Cliff Picton (deputy chair), and Ms Tracy Lee (project officer).

General Members: Dennis Altman, Harry Aveling, Simon Barraclough, Peter Beilharz, Joe Camilleri, Barry Carr, Margarita Frederico, Joel Kahn, Beryl Langer, Vivian Lin, Larry Marshall, Wendy Mee, Max Richter.

Associate Members: Peter Murphy, Giovan Kotsakis, Homer Bassig, Ederlyn Muli, Lilac Limpangog.

-Informal membership of PASC is open to all interested parties.

ADMINISTRATION

PASC La Trobe was established through a seeding grant from La Trobe International. Ms Tracy Lee is employed as the project officer by the School of Social Sciences to work one day a week on this project. The Centre relies on the goodwill and initiative of interested parties across the University.

The Philippines Australia Studies Network (PASN) office is established at Ateneo de Manila University with matching resources.

DID YOU KNOW?

I. PHILIPPINE MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA

Most Filipinos (90%) coming to Australia enter as “family reunion” category immigrants. The 2001 Census showed that the rate of Australian citizenship for the Philippines-born in Australia was 93.5%, compared for all overseas born of 75.1%. Majority speak the Tagalog language (66.7%), while the most common religion was Catholic (81.0%). The majority of Filipino migrants working in Australia are professionals, including public servants, computer analysts and programmers, solicitors, doctors, architects, engineers and academicians. Filipinos have also made their mark and contribution to Australian society as entrepreneurs, businessmen, tradesmen, artists and entertainers.

According to the 2001 Census, the total number of Philippines-born migrants to Australia is 103,990, representing a 12% increase over

the total number recorded in the 1996 Census. The new distribution by State/Territory is: New South Wales - 52,240 (50.2%); Victoria – 22,500 (21.6%); Queensland – 15,450 (14.9%); Western Australia – 5,400 (5.2%); South Australia – 4,510 (4.3%); Northern Territory – 1,730 (1.7%); Australian Capital Territory – 1,390 (1.3%) and Tasmania – 760 (0.7%).

Of this number, 35,840 are male (34.5%) and 68,150 are female (65.5%). The median age was 38.2 years compared with 46.0 years for all overseas born and 35.6 years for the total Australian population. Of those aged 15 years and over, 58.8% held some form of educational or occupational qualification compared with 46.2% for all Australians. In the same age group, the participation rate in the labour force was 68.1% and the unemployment rate was 6.9%. The corresponding rates in the total Australian population were 63.0 and 7.4%, respectively.

Source: Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA website)

II. BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

The Philippines ranks 28th as Australia's merchandise trade partner (27th in 2003). The balance of trade continued to be in favour of Australia at 1:1.3, compared to the previous year of 1:1.2. Top Philippine exports for 2004 consisted of computers (A\$171,665 million); crude petroleum (A\$84,782 million); telecommunications equipment; integrated circuits; confidential items; radio-broadcast receivers; sound and video recorders and computer parts. These items comprise 66% of the country's total exports to Australia. Top Australian exports consisted of milk and cream (A\$177,006 million); medicaments; confidential items; copper ores; copper; aluminium; cereal preparations; live animals; coal and chocolate. These items comprise 65% of the country's total exports to the Philippines. Australian investments/business interests in the Philippines are in mining; manufacturing; power and energy; and services (construction, financial, transport, engineering consultancy, advertising and professional consultancy).

Currently, the Philippines is the fifth largest bilateral recipient of Australian development assistance, after Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Indonesia (including East Timor?) and Vietnam. Australia is the second largest provider of Overseas Development Aid in the Philippines after Japan. For FY2004/2005, total Australian aid allocated to the Philippines amount to A\$62.2 million, 90% of which is provided bilaterally (Development Cooperation Program) and the rest coursed through APEC and the ASEAN-Australia Economic Cooperation Program..

III TOURISM AND CULTURAL RELATIONS

Australian visitor arrivals to the Philippines in the last decade averaged only 4% of the country's total annual intake of foreign tourists. From January-December 2004, visitor arrivals from Australia totalled 89,175 (tentative) representing a 20.9% increase from the 2003 total (69,846). We have not yet obtained statistics on the numbers of Australian expatriates living in the Philippines, nor the numbers of Filipino visitor arrivals to Australia each year.

KEY SOURCE: Philippines-Australia Relations, Embassy of the Philippines, Canberra, 21/02/05

EVENTS

31 January 2005:

The Philippines-Australia Studies Network (PASN) initiated its first roundtable discussion, "Filipino Encounters with Education Australia", at the Pangilinan Hall, PLDT-CTC Building, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights Campus. The event brought together a select group of Filipinos who studied in Australia to reflect on their experiences as foreign students and the impact of those experiences on their lives and current engagements with Philippine society. The group was composed of Filipinos and Australians from the academe, the government, and the private sector.

The discussions centered on how personal experiences of Filipinos who studied in Australia had broadened their perspective of the world, the contextual differences of higher education in Australia and the Philippines, and how the system of sending scholars to study in Australia could be improved. Another roundtable exchange may be held next year.

Among the notable attendees were Ruth Pearce, the Australian Ambassador, and Dr. Fe Hidalgo, Undersecretary of the Department of Education. Dr. Antonette Palma-Angeles, Academic Vice-President of the Ateneo, gave the welcome remarks. Dr. Filomeno V. Aguilar, Jr., Director of PASN, served as moderator. Other presenters were from the Philippines-Australia Alumni Association, Inc., (PA3i), the University of the Philippines Department of Geography, and the Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute.

On 4 June, members of La Trobe's Philippine-Australia Studies Centre (PASC) met with the organising committee of the local network of Pinoy Postgraduates from all Victorian Universities to explore areas for collaboration. One of the outcomes of the meeting

was the setting up of a database which will be accessible by all interested parties. Another outcome was the establishment of a website: PASC has accepted the invitation to co-develop and host the website project.

13 – 17 June 2005:

There was a launch at Ateneo de Manila of the first PASN publication titled *Australian Perspectives on the United States, Southeast Asia, and the World: the PASN Inaugural Week Lectures*. This is a collection of lectures by visiting Australian academics, viz. Professors Joe Camilleri and Joel Kahn, and Associate Professor Peter Murphy, held during the week of the PASN launch in February 2004.

Five years after La Trobe University and the Ateneo de Manila University formalized their partnership in education and research, the Philippines-Australia Studies Centre (PASC) and the Philippines-Australia Studies Network (PASN) hosted a celebration of their cooperation on 17 June 2005 which was highlighted by the ceremonial marking of the PASC-PASN book collection at the Pardo de Tavera Hall of the Rizal Library, Ateneo de Manila Loyola Heights Campus. Dr. Filomeno V. Aguilar Jr., PASN director, and Prof. Charles Mott, PASC deputy director, welcomed the distinguished guests and representatives of the two universities, including Australian Ambassador Tony Hely, Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J., Ateneo president, Dr. Anna Miren Gonzalez-Intal, Ateneo Vice-President for the Loyola Schools, and Dr. Antonette Palma-Angeles, Ateneo Academic Vice President. The program started with Fr. Nebres signing a renewal five-year Memorandum of Understanding. Professor Michael Osborne, vice-chancellor and president of La Trobe, already had a signing in Australia.

On 1 July IPO/PASC sponsored a meeting of Philippines students at the La Trobe City Campus, at which the students exchanged presentations on their various research projects. Prof. Charles Mott attended on behalf of IPO/PASC and gave the opening remarks.

Public Lecture Series at Ateneo,
13 - 17 June 2005:

To mark the 9th Anniversary of *Budhi: a journal of culture and Ideas* edited by Luis David, SJ, three public lectures were given at Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights Campus:

'South-east Asian Cities', Dr Trevor Hogan (Sociology, Latrobe)

'Asian cities – megapolis and technopolis', Associate Professor Peter Murphy (Monash University)

'North American critical theory post World War II – the last 50 years', Professor Peter Beilharz (Sociology, Latrobe)

VISITS

Melbourne to Manila
12-18 June 2005

An 8-member delegation consisting of **Dr Trevor Hogan** and **Professor Peter Beilharz** (Sociology, La Trobe University), **Associate Professor Peter Murphy** (Monash University), **Adjunct Professor Charles Mott**, **Professor Stephen Turner** (Social Philosophy, University of South Florida), **Ms Miriam Riley** and **Mr Darrell Bennetts** (both postgraduates in Sociology, La Trobe University), and **Mr Clinton Walker** (freelance writer, Sydney) participated in a series of events co-hosted by *Budhi* and *Thesis Eleven* Journal editors to celebrate the 9th Anniversary of *Budhi* - organized by Luis David at Ateneo de Manila.

The following week **Trevor Hogan** and **Peter Murphy** undertook a week's research in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, North Luzon, 10-hour drive by car to the north of Manila.

Charles Mott and **Trevor Hogan** visited the Manila office of IDP Educational Services and the International Office of De La Salle University. Charles Mott also visited the University of Santo Tomas, the oldest university in Asia, and the University of Asia Pacific, where he spoke to 120 students interested in Australian studies and studying in Australia.

Manila to Melbourne
30 June to 3 July 2005

Professor Teresita Ang See (Anthropology and Sociology, Ateneo de Manila University) attended and was the keynote speaker at the Chinese Studies Association of Australia Conference. She gave a

lecture organized by Barangay Australia and hosted by PASC on 4 July and met with Pinoy students.

July 2005

PASC sponsored the visit of **Ms Mae Ozcam** (Media and Journalism, Mindanao) and her participation in the Journalism conference hosted by La Trobe's Media Studies Program. Ms Ozcam is a Media Academic and also a radio journalist in Cotabato City, focusing on developing conflict resolution and promoting peace initiatives at the community level.

Professor Fernando 'Butch' Zialcita (Anthropology and Sociology, Ateneo de Manila University) was a keynote speaker at the Asian-Pacific Conference on Central and Latin American Studies. Professor Zialcita is a leading public intellectual spearheading many heritage projects and initiatives over several decades in Vigan and Manila. He writes on urbanism, urban heritage, religion, food culture, and cultural and national identity issues in the Philippines with particular reference to the place of Spanish Colonialism as mediated through Mexico.

14 - 20 November 2005

Mr Richie Lerma, the Director of the Ateneo de Manila University Art Museum, visited Melbourne and Mildura between 14 to 20 November 2005. He brought with him the inaugural winner of the Filipino National Art Award, **Mr Ronald Ventura**. PASC is facilitating meetings with Mr Vince Alessi and the curating team of La Trobe Art Museum and in turn with the School of Visual Art and Design, Bendigo and Mildura. Together, we are exploring artist in residence programs, student and staff exchanges, exhibitions and thematic conferences to complement travelling art exhibitions.

30 November – 5 December 2005

Professor Antonette Palma-Angeles met with various representatives of La Trobe University during this period to further our bilateral research collaborative projects, and teaching and student exchanges. She is the keynote speaker at the PASC 2005 AGM held on 1 December.

PROJECTS

PASN Inaugural Week Lectures Book

Australian Perspectives on the United States, Southeast Asia, and the World: the PASN Inaugural Week Lectures (Ateneo de Manila

University Press, 2005) comprising of the following lectures delivered at Ateneo de Manila University in February, 2004:

'The Premise of Difference: Race, Culture, Nation, and Cosmopolitan Practice in (Pen)insular Southeast Asia' by Joel Kahn

'From Berlin to Baghdad: Competing for Power and Discursive Legitimacy' by Joseph Camilleri

'Designing Intelligence and Civic Power: Maritime Political Economy from Athens to Australia' by Peter Murphy

Library Donations

More than 800 books on the social sciences and public health, solicited from various professors and the library at La Trobe University, were turned over to Ms. Lourdes T. David, director of the Ateneo Rizal Library. In particular we thank Professor Joel Kahn whose initial donation of his own anthropology library provided the impetus for this project.

Diaspora Study

Trevor Hogan and Beryl Langer successfully applied for a grant of \$10,000 from ANU's International Centre for Excellence in Asia Pacific Studies (ICEAPS) for a three year project on *Australia-Filipino Diaspora: Communities, Networks, Identities*. The funding will be used for the first research workshop at the ANU in February, 2006.

Student Exchange

IPO, through Charles Mott, are developing a proposal for a student exchange agreement between Ateneo and La Trobe universities, which will promote two-way student linkages.

NETWORKS

Philippines Australia Studies network (PASN)

PASN is hosted by the Institute of Philippine Culture and chaired by Professor Antonette Palma-Angeles (Vice-President of Academic and International Programs). The project officer is Reneli Ann B. Gloria. The director is Dr Filomeno V. Aguilar. The PASN committee also includes Dr Marife Yap (Public Health), Professor Emma Porio (Sociology), Dr. Angelina Gregorio-Medel (Government) and Dr Gus Rodriguez (Philosophy).

Website: <http://www.ateneo.edu/offices/pasn/index.html>

Australia Philippines Business Council (APBC)

PASC became a formal member of APBC in September 2004. APBC is our key coordinating industry partner for the ARC-linkage project on *Australia-Filipino Diaspora: Communities, Networks, Identities*.

The APBC organized the Australia-Philippines 'State of Play' Briefing on 28 April 2005. Associate Professor Peter Murphy was one of the three speakers with his lecture entitled 'The Philippines into the 21st Century – the Promise and Prospects'.

Barangay Australia

Barangay Australia is a network of Filipino (Pinoy) students as well as alumni and friends across the State of Victoria. It animates the community spirit of *bayanihan* (heroic duties) and *pakikipagkapwa* (fellowship) commonly found in the *barangay* (village) combined with learning and fun. While "Barangay Australia" was only coined in 2005 in conjunction with its first general assembly, it traces its beginnings with scholars from the Philippines who would exchange tips about life in Australia and offer their support.

Today, Barangay Australia aspires to be a cultural bridge between local Filipino students and their international counterparts and a unifying force across the state of Victoria. It operates through volunteer members acting as university-based coordinators and project coordinators at the network level.

Community and Family Services International (CFSI)

During the past year our links with Community and Family Services International have been further strengthened by the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement with the La Trobe School of Social Work and Social Policy for a further five years. As a consequence of this the Myer Foundation has provided a grant to enable La Trobe Social Work Students to continue to complete their practical work at CFSI in Manila. Currently three students are working in the agency for a period of 14 weeks.

In addition to the above Cliff Picton, the University Ombudsman, has been appointed a Trustee and member of the Board of Management of CFSI