

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), 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, Cliff Picton, Randy LaPolla, Max Richter.

Associate Members: Peter Murphy, Giovan Kotsakis, Homer Bassig, Raul Hernandez, Lilac Limpangog, Revyi Marinas, Deirdre McKay, Robert Nery, Vienna Parreno, Maridel Anandar.

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

Filipinos are the third largest non-European immigrant community in Australia (behind Vietnamese and Chinese immigrants). Significant numbers of Filipinos immigrated to Australia between the 1960s and the 1990s and Filipinos remain one of the fastest growing immigrant communities in Australia. At the 2001 Census, members of the Filipino community in Australia numbered 103,990, of which 35,840 are male (34.5%) and 58,150 are female (65.5%).

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 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%).

II. BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

The Philippines maintains a good trading relationship with Australia. Two-way merchandise trade was valued at A\$1.68 billion in 2005-06 and there is significant potential for growth.

Major Australian merchandise exports to the Philippines between 2005 and 2006 were milk and cream (A\$139 million); medicaments, including veterinary (A\$83 million); coal (A\$57 million); and copper (A\$56 million) whereas imports from the Philippines during the same period were crude petroleum (A\$254 million); telecommunications equipment (\$79 million); integrated circuits (A\$50 million); and computers (A\$34 million).

The Philippines is keen to export bananas to Australia and Biosecurity Australia is currently conducting an Import Risk Analysis (IRA) for Philippine bananas. Trial shipments of Philippine pineapples to Australia have been made following completion of an IRA for Philippine pineapples. Commercial shipments of pineapples are expected in the near future.

Total trade in services between Australia and the Philippines in 2005 comprised A\$159 million in exports and A\$263 in imports. Major Australian service exports to the Philippines last year were personal travel services (A\$44 million) and education-related travel (A\$31 million). Major service imports from the Philippines were personal and business travel (A\$200 million).

Opportunities exist for Australian companies to participate in development projects. The Philippines is the fourth largest recipient of Australian bilateral development assistance with an estimated A\$68.8 million in aid flow for 2006-2007.

Australian development assistance to the Philippines has almost doubled over the past decade. In 2006-07, Australian aid flows to the Philippines are estimated to be \$68.8 million, making the Philippines the fourth largest recipient of Australian bilateral development assistance. The Government will intensify aid efforts in the Philippines over the next five years, as outlined in the Australian Government's white paper on overseas aid, launched in April 2006. The Government is developing a new country strategy for the Philippines for the period 2007-2011.

The majority of Australian aid to the Philippines is directed at Mindanao, home to 20 per cent of the Philippines' population and approximately one third of its poor. As a result of decades of unrest, the development of health, education and infrastructure in Mindanao

has lagged behind the rest of the Philippines. Australian development assistance has been used to strengthen the delivery of basic services for children in the areas of health, nutrition, basic education and child protection. Australian aid also supports the Philippines Government's reform agenda by assisting local government service delivery and by working to enhance the efficiency and accountability of the judiciary.

III. DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION

Australia is the second largest provider of defence training to the Philippines after the United States. Historically, the Australia-Philippines defence cooperation program has centred on the training of Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel.

In support of enhanced regional security, the defence cooperation budget for 2005-06 was A\$3.6 million. These funds financed high level policy talks, training some 70 officers in Australia and visits of senior officials.

Australia and the Philippines signed a bilateral MOU on Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism in March 2003, and another MOU on combating transnational crime (between the Australian Federal Police and the Philippines National Police) in July 2003. During his visit to the Philippines in July 2003, Prime Minister Howard announced a three-year A\$5 million package of counter-terrorism assistance to the Philippines Government. In October 2004, the Prime Minister announced a doubling of this assistance to A\$10 million over five years. This assistance package provides practical assistance in policing, immigration, port security and cooperation to address regional counter-terrorism issues. The Philippines will also benefit from elements of the A\$92.6 million Regional Counter-Terrorism Package announced in the 2006-07 Budget.

Key source: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT website)

EVENTS

5th & 6th May 2006:

A Filipino Diaspora workshop was held at La Trobe University and attended by 16 participants:

Prof Filomeno "Jun" V. Aguilar, Ateneo de Manila University

Ms Maridel Anandar, La Trobe University

Mr Homer Bassig, Australia-Philippines Business Council (Victoria)

Dr Trevor Hogan, La Trobe University

Justin Howden, Australia-Philippines Business Council (Victoria)

Mr Giovan Kotsakis, Australia-Philippines Business Council (Victoria)

Dr Beryl Langer, La Trobe University

Ms Tracy Lee, La Trobe University

Ms Lilac Limpangog, Barangay Australia
Mr Reyvi Marinas, Migrante Melbourne
Dr Deirdre McKay, Australian National University
Mr Robert Nery, University of Technology, Sydney
Ms Vienna Parreno, University of New South Wales
Ms Ma. Concepcion B. Rapisora, University of Asia and the Pacific
Dr Czarina Saloma-Akpedonu, Ateneo de Manila University
Ms Annabelle Verdote, University of the Philippines

The Workshop was sponsored by the International Centre for Excellence in Asia-Pacific, Australian National University.

8th May 2006:

A seminar entitled "*Philippines and Australia - social research, agenda and connections*" was organized jointly with the School of Social Sciences with the following speakers: Prof Filomeno 'Jun' V. Aguilar, Professor in the Department of History, Ateneo de Manila University, and Director of the Philippines-Australia Studies Network - "*The Invention of Philippine Citizenship*"; Dr Czarina Saloma-Akpedonu, Chairperson of the Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Ateneo de Manila University, and President of the Philippine Sociological Society - "*Possible Worlds in Impossible Spaces: Knowledge, Globality, Gender, and Information Technology in the Philippines*"

VISITS

Manila to Melbourne

May 2006

Prof Filomeno "Jun" V. Aguilar, Director, Philippines Australia Studies Network, and Dr Czarina Saloma-Akpedonu, Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, both of Ateneo de Manila University; Ms Ma. Concepcion Rapisora, University of Asia and the Pacific; and Ms Annabelle Verdote, University of the Philippines, attended the Filipino Diaspora workshop at La Trobe University on 5th and 6th May, and also had meetings with various representatives of the University to discuss further collaborations between La Trobe and Ateneo de Manila.

20th – 23rd November 2006

Mr Richie Lerma, Director, Ateneo Art Gallery, Ateneo de Manila University, and Ronald 'Poklong' Ananding, 2006 Ateneo National Art Award Winner, visited Melbourne and Bendigo.

Melbourne to Manila:

May, 2006

Mr Martin Van Run, Director, International Programs Office, met with Ms Ely Cuaton, IDP Education Australia; Mr Benison Yap Cu, De La Salle University; and Ms Ma Concepcion Rapisora, University of Asia & The Pacific.

10th July 2006

Professor David Stockley, Deputy Vice Chancellor (International) and Ms Gunilla Carlecrantz, Project Manager International Network of Universities, visited Ateneo de Manila University and met with Dr Antonette Palma-Angeles, Academia Vice President, Dr Assunta Cuyegkeng, Vice President for Loyola Schools, Dr Filomeno Aguilar, Director, Philippines Australia Studies Network, and Mr Glenn de Leon, Assistant to the AVP for International Programs. The visit was on behalf of the International Network of Universities (INU), for which La Trobe University's Vice Chancellor is the President, with the aim of possible recruitment of Ateneo de Manila as a member. Ateneo de Manila is presently unable to join INU for various reasons and La Trobe hope to revisit the proposal should there be a change in their situation.

November, 2006 - January, 2007

Mr Neil Fettling, Head, Visual Arts and Design Program, Mildura Campus, is visiting Ateneo de Manila University as our first Artist in Residence and Visiting Lecturer in Fine Arts Program.

Forthcoming Visits

January 2007

Trevor Hogan visiting Ateneo de Manila University

February 2007

Dr Natalia L Morales, University of Philippines, is Visiting Fellow to the Centre for Dialogue, La Trobe University.

2007

Dr Kathleen Weekley, University of Wollongong, is Honorary Visiting Research Fellow to the Philippines Australia Studies Centre for a year.

PROJECTS

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL LINKAGE PROJECT ON AUSTRALIA-FILIPINO DIASPORA: COMMUNITIES, NETWORKS, IDENTITIES, INDUSTRY PARTNERS: AUSTRALIA-PHILIPPINES BUSINESS COUNCIL, AND *MIGRANTE VICTORIA*.

Last year we were able to announce that Dr Beryl Langer and Dr Trevor Hogan, School of Social Sciences won an ARC grant for \$75,000 over three years, being for one Ph.D. scholarship.

The ICEAPS workshop held at La Trobe University in May reported above was a first step in the building of a research network on this theme. We appointed a student to take up the Ph.D. scholarship in May.

It is with great regret, however, that we have had to relinquish this ARC grant in June. At the eleventh hour, our industry partner, Australia-Philippines Business Council informed us that they were unable to meet its obligation to provide \$5,000 per annum to this project. Fortunately, the Ph.D. nominee was able to hold onto her existing employment. While we are disappointed that the APBC – who initiated the project – have withdrawn, we remain hopeful that the goodwill of the research participants and the 18 months preparation by La Trobe staff, as well as the establishment of a research network, will ensure the survival of this project, albeit in more modest terms.

ART EXCHANGE PROGRAM

This three year project commences officially with the arrival of Mr Neil Fettling, Head of Visual Arts and Design program at the Mildura Campus, LTU, in Manila on November 13 to take up a three month teaching post at Ateneo de Manila University in the Fine Arts program there. He will teach a full semester course to Masters students in their Fine Arts program on 'Art in Context: Profession and Practice. Mr Fettling is a leading contemporary artist in his own right, and some of his own works will be featured in an exhibition at the Ateneo Art Gallery – Southeast Asia's leading private modern fine arts gallery. Mr Richie Lerma, the Curator of the Ateneo Art Gallery will be visiting La Trobe at its Bundoora and Bendigo Campuses with the artist, Mr Ronald (Poklong) Ananding, the winner of this year's Ateneo National Art Award in the Philippines. Mr Lerma will discuss plans with Mr Vince Alessi, Curator, La Trobe University Art Museum, and staff at Bendigo School of Visual Arts and Design, and Ms Carolyn Dew, Curator, La Trobe University Visual Arts Centre, plans for future visits and artists-in-residence schemes at La Trobe by Ateneo artists and Visual Arts academics. In addition next June, we plan to send an exhibition of La Trobe's contemporary abstract landscape collection to Ateneo Art Gallery. To mark this venture a team of over 10 La Trobe academics and postgraduate researchers will meet with Ateneo colleagues for a research colloquium on this theme, and deliver three public lectures.

BOOK COLLECTION DONATION

We are very honoured to announce that the renowned development social scientist, Dr Brian Fegan, has donated over 500 books in his fine and extensive collection on the Philippines including books on the anthropology, history, sociology, economics, and contemporary literature of the Philippines, to the Borchardt library, LTU. Some of the items in the donation include:

-Harold Conklin's *"Ifugao Atlas"* of which a limited set of only about 1,000 was printed. They went to university and museum libraries and to collectors at a price of about \$200 apiece (in 1970s dollars).

Harold Conklin was Brian Fegan's supervisor at Yale and gave this one to him.

-several old and rare journals dating from the early 20th century, browned from using acid paper, with articles on minority tribes of the area.

-two rare economic botany books which may be valuable references to anyone working in forestry or farming. One was made at the orders of General Douglas Macarthur's Southwest Pacific Command.

Printed in Australia during World War II, it was to provide information on plants useful to troops, during the re-invasion of the Philippines.

We are grateful to Dr Paul Mathews, secretary of the Philippines Studies Association of the Asian Studies Association of Australia, for first approaching the PASC and then working with us in liaison with Ms Eva Fisch, Acquisitions librarian, LTU. Together we have ensured this important collection is put into public circulation, and therefore in a small way show our respects for a lifetime of academic and applied social research achievements by Dr Fegan in advancing Australia-Philippines connections. Since its inception in 1967, La Trobe University has developed one of the best collections in Australia on and about the Philippines, and Dr Fegan's donation ensures that this tradition is built upon for a new generation of researchers.

THE CENTRE FOR DIALOGUE PROJECT

The Centre for Dialogue and partner organizations in the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia have commenced a project comparing responses in each country to post-September 11 intercultural tensions. The project receives strong support from the Tokyo based Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research. At the Institute's Human Development, Regional conflicts, and Global Governance Conference in Vancouver, in June 2006, research coordinators from each participating country met to discuss the project's aims and the objectives for each stage. A key player in this project is Assoc Prof Benjamin Tolosa, Jr., Department of Political Science, Ateneo de Manila University, Manila. His university will play an integral part in stage two of the project when it hosts a workshop involving the four research teams. The aim of this workshop is to consider the preliminary findings relating to security (considered broadly to encapsulate 'human security'), terrorism, inter-communal

tension, border control, migration and foreign relations, law and order / civil rights, education, good governance (public and private), social welfare, and the needs and significance of diasporas. Importantly, the Ateneo workshop will lay the foundations for a larger international workshop that will bring together key civil society actors from each country. The Centre for Dialogue team is headed by Professor Joseph Camilleri, and includes Research Fellows Dr George Myconos, and Dr Michalis Michael.

For more detail contact:

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RESEARCH

Ricardo Manapat commenced his PhD in July 2006 on “*Spanish Colonization of Philippines*”, supervised by Peter Beilharz, Barry Carr and Trevor Hogan.

Trevor Hogan supervised a Masters of International Policy Studies thesis by Craig Woolley on “*Australian Aid in Official Relations with the Philippines 1996-2006: linkages between development assistance and security policy pre and post- september 11*” submitted for examination in November, 2006.

NETWORKS

Student Exchange

PASC supported the negotiation of a student exchange agreement between La Trobe and Ateneo universities, which provides for two semesters of fee-waiver exchange each way each year. It urges La Trobe's students to take advantage of this facility to study for a semester at this prestigious Filipino university, and will be happy to provide advice on request. Financial support is available for students going on exchange. PASC is working with Ric Manapat, a Filipino doctoral student in our School of Social Sciences, to encourage Filipino students at the university to join together for self-help and social purposes. It is also working with the International Programs Office (IPO) and the Philippines consul-general in Melbourne, Raul Hernandez, to develop linkages between the Philippine community and the university. Finally PASC arranged, with financial backing

from IPO, for Barangay Australia, to hold its annual 'Study in Australia' series at La Trobe's city campus. Next year we hope this meeting can be held at Bundoora campus. PASC greatly appreciates the IPO's involvement in these useful projects

Philippines Australia Studies network (PASN)

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

PASN is hosted by the Institute of Philippine Culture and chaired by Professor Antonette Palma-Angeles (Vice-President of Academic and International Programs). The outgoing project officer was Reneli Ann B. Gloria. We thank Reneli for her efficiency and good humour. She will be replaced by Fe Dayap. 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).

Australia Philippines Business Council (APBC)

Website: <http://www.apbc.org.au/>

PASC became a formal member of APBC in September 2004.

Barangay Australia

Website: <http://www.latrobe.edu.au/socsci/pasc/barangay.htm>

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)

Website: <http://www.cfsi.ph/profile.htm>

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.

Philippine Studies Association of Australasia Inc

Website: <http://www.pilipinas.com.au/>

The Philippine Studies Association of Australasia Inc (PSAA) continues to work in maintaining links with individuals and organizations world wide, facilitating information-sharing and collegial discussion among Filipinists.

Among some of the achievements and events from the past year are several publications (eg. Raul Pertierra, *Transforming Technologies: Altered Selves – Mobile Phone & Internet Use In The Philippines*; Vicente L. Rafael, *The Promise of the Foreign: Nationalism and the Technics of Translation in the Spanish Philippines*, and the completion of several theses (eg. Dr. Eduardo Ugarte; Dr. Emily Teoh; Dr. Bella Ellwood-Clayton), as well new candidates (eg. Marco Hewitt in WA) and continuing postgrad students.

Unfortunately, there have also been several retirements such as Ron May (ANU), Norman Owen (HK), Brian Fegan & Peter Krinks (Macq), and regretfully the passing away of some Filipinists recently, such as Carle Lande. There is hope that new Filipinists outside the Philippines will move forward to carry on with dedicated research and scholarship on the Philippines.

Nevertheless, PSAA, now more than 30 years old, in conjunction with its joint USA publication, *Pilipinas*, continues to connect and inform scholars. The Journal, *Pilipinas*, always welcomes paper submissions, and looks forward to a special Issue on Filipino sexuality, and its 50th Issue in 2008. The Journal has a website (www.pilipinas.com.au under construction), and is currently archiving back Issues to 1980.

Membership of PSAA automatically links to *Pilipinas* subscription. For more information please contact:

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Managing Editor, *Pilipinas*.

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