



AWARD FOR PROMOTING
PHILIPPINES-CHINA UNDERSTANDING
中菲相知奖



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MESSAGE FROM FORMER PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO APCU CHAIRMAN EMERITUS



Former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

The Association for Philippines-China Understanding or APCU is a private association promoting friendship between the Philippines and China. I am the Chair Emeritus of APCU, which means honorary chair. During APCU's formative years, I helped formalize and register it with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The first chairman of APCU was Alejandro Roces, who was the Secretary of Education of my father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal. In the early 70's when I heard that Chairman Roces was organizing a trip to China at that time, I asked him if I could go along. He invited me to join APCU.

APCU was informally organized after China sent aid to the Central Luzon flood victims in July 1972, and it was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission in 1974. APCU helped in the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and China in the sense that it was an advocacy group.

As an organization, APCU helps facilitate and strengthen Philippines-China relations by promoting non-government exchanges. Non-government exchanges are keys to Philippines-China relations. At the end of the day, the government is the body of the country, but the people are the heart. Thus, fostering exchanges at the people level, like what APCU does, as opposed to the government levels, is the natural way to create ties between nations.

Philippines-China relations are important. When I became President, relations between the Philippines and China entered a golden age. The continuing friendship between our two peoples enhances the mutually beneficial relations between our two countries and contributes to the peace and harmony in the Asia Pacific Region. That is the significance of my Presidential Proclamation declaring June 9 of every year as Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day.

Under President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, bilateral ties between the Philippines and China have reached new heights.

The relationship between the Philippines and China is important for the Philippines. One major reason is geography. The Philippines and China are located within each other's backyard, so to speak, good relations between neighbors are always a priority. A second major reason is that China is involved not only in bilateral dealings but also collectively, such as the ASEAN. The third reason is that China's economy remains the most dynamic and fastest-growing among the major nations, and soon, it may become the world's largest economy. The fourth reason is that domestically, the Philippines has a vibrant Filipino-Chinese community for whom business dealings with China are natural. Lastly, infrastructure will continue to be important for the Philippines in the coming years, and no country in the world matches China's recent track record and capability in this area.

The Award for Promoting Philippines-China Understanding or APPCU is expected to help further promote the friendship between our two peoples.

My wish for APPCU is that it will encourage further work to constantly develop bilateral friendly cooperation, accelerate post-pandemic economic recovery and inject new vitality into the Philippines-China friendship.

Thank you!

MESSAGE FROM CHINESE AMBASSADOR HUANG XILIAN



Chinese Ambassador Huang Xilian

I am delighted to see the Chinese Embassy and the Association for Philippines-China Understanding (APCU) jointly launching the Award for Promoting Philippines-China Understanding (APPCU). This partnership timely commemorates two momentous occasions, the 46th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the Republic of the Philippines and the 20th Anniversary of the Establishment of China-Philippines Friendship Day.

As neighbors separated only by a strip of water, China and the Philippines have enjoyed a long history of amicable exchange. From the historical visit of Sulu's Sultan Paduka Pahala to China and Chinese navigator Zheng He's great voyages to the Philippine islands, our intertwined past transcends ages as the ancient friendship between China and the Philippines cements our present ties.

Under the guidance of President Xi Jinping and President Duterte over the past five years, China-Philippines relations have ushered in a new golden age. Our bilateral cooperation in various fields has indeed yielded fruitful results. China is the Philippines' largest trade partner, the second-largest source of foreign investment, and the third-largest export market. To date, 12 major government-to-government projects have been completed across the Philippine islands, ranging from food security, drug rehabilitation, counter-terrorism to radio and television services. Another seven projects are currently under implementation and more than ten projects have been mapped out to cover big-ticket infrastructure projects like highways and railways as well as livelihood projects such as flood control, irrigation. In addition, a thriving number of Chinese companies are making heavy investments in the Philippines, creating more than 150,000 jobs and promoting Philippine economic growth.

Facing the COVID-19 pandemic, our two countries and peoples have been fighting the virus in solidarity, forging an even closer partnership. A friend in need is a friend indeed. China will never forget the help the Philippines rendered and reciprocating it in good faith has been the way for China to show its gratitude. Apart from being the only country that sent a medical expert team to the Philippines, China has donated a large quantity of much-needed medical supplies of PPEs, testing kits, and ventilators. China is the first country to donate and provide vaccines to the Philippines and by the end of May 2021, the Philippines has received more than 5.5 million doses of Chinese vaccines, with more supplies coming on the way.

To further promote the development of China-Philippines relations, mutual understanding of the two peoples need to be enhanced. As a Chinese saying goes, "Friendship, which derives from close contact between the people, holds the key to sound state-to-state relations". To this end, the APPCU is proposed and endorsed by State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

This award is meant to acknowledge and pay tribute to those who have made great contributions in enhancing mutual understanding between our people and promoting cooperation in various fields. I commend all the nominees as the motivation to build better ties between our two countries is one of the greatest catalysts for change that one could dedicate themselves to. I sincerely hope that more and more people will follow the nominees' footsteps and devote themselves to the great cause of strengthening mutual understand and friendship between our people and fostering a closer China-Philippines relation.

Long live the friendship between the Chinese and Filipino peoples.

MESSAGE FROM APCU PRESIDENT JEFFREY NG

Long before the discovery of the Philippines by Magellan, China and the Philippines “had relatively close relations and material and cultural exchanges.” Apparently, the Chinese were among the first groups of people engaged by locals and native inhabitants of the pre-colonial Philippines. Aside from the fact that China is in close proximity as an Asian neighbor because of its geographical location, the depth of historical relations between Filipinos and the Chinese are as far back as the 7th century during the T’ang Dynasty.

Indeed, with our long historical ties with the Chinese people, we at the Association for Philippine-China Understanding or APCU, believe that we have reasons to acknowledge the opportunities that such historical roots open to us Filipinos. It is precisely in this light that APCU endeavors to foster and strengthen the ties between these two nations.

Over the years, without others knowing, APCU has silently worked on behalf of the two countries through the efforts and contributions of individuals and organizations from the ground and the upper echelons of Philippine society in espousing mutual understanding, people-to-people ties, and friendship between the Philippines and China. As it is from the birth of APCU, it is in the best interest of both countries that the Association for Philippine-China Understanding will continue to aspire and to carry out its vision and mission.

On this note, there could not be a more opportune time than at the present moment for the Award for Promoting Philippines-China Understanding or APPCU to be created and pursued. Beyond the name it bears, and for everything it stands for, APPCU is a flame which we would like to kindle to remind and appreciate our deep historical ties and bonds with the Chinese people that facilitate a greater valuing of interpersonal and bilateral relations.



APCU President Jeffrey Ng

Truly, it is my honor to represent the Association in this joint initiative with the Chinese Embassy in creating this novel award-giving body, the Award for Promoting Philippines-China Understanding (APPCU). Personally, I see this initiative as an opportunity in recognizing the industry and contributions made by both renowned and ordinary Filipinos in reinforcing relations between the two countries and the two peoples, Filipinos and Chinese. Even in these simple yet sincere gestures, we hope to encourage more of our fellow citizens and instill in them a renewed appreciation of our Filipino-Chinese ties. I look forward to more productive years ahead of the Award for Promoting Philippines-China Understanding, in the same manner, that I wish for a more harmonious relationship between the two countries.

To our first batch of the APPCU awardees, to my fellow Filipinos and our Chinese friends, it is my honor to be part of APPCU that pays tribute to individuals who, in their conscious efforts and passion, have made an impact in the lives of many of us.

Together, let us kindle the flame of APPCU not only to honor the first batch of APPCU Laureates for their accomplishments, but to be inspired by their life stories in pursuit of better connection and a greater valuing of relationships and ties amongst us and between our country, the Philippines, and China and between our two peoples, Filipinos, and Chinese.

Thank you very much!

Mabuhay!

MESSAGE FROM SIXTO T. BENEDICTO APCU VICE-CHAIRMAN AND APPCU COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

It is with great honor and privilege to pay recognition and tribute to the Award for Promoting Philippines-China Understanding or APPCU and the first batch of APPCU Laureates.

The Award for Promoting Philippines-China Understanding (APPCU) was established as a joint effort of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of the Philippines and the Association for Philippines-China Understanding (APCU), - a pioneer friendship and leading NGO in the Philippines in promoting diplomatic people-to-people relations, understanding and friendship between the Philippines and China.

Aligned with the vision and mission of APCU, the Award for Promoting Philippines-China Understanding (APPCU) aims to recognize, acknowledge and appreciate individuals who are committed to the improvement and advancement of Philippines-China bilateral relations, friendship, and understanding in various sectors such as public service; trade and commerce; and arts, culture, and sciences.

APPCU also aims to encourage more people to join the efforts of promoting China-Philippines friendship, strengthen mutual understanding to overcome differences between the two countries, and most especially, pay tribute to exceptional individuals who made relevant contributions in enhancing mutual relations and nourishing friendship between the two peoples, Chinese and Filipinos.

With the success of the launch of APPCU this year (2021), may I take this chance to acknowledge the people behind the success of this project. To the board and officers of APCU headed by our Chairman Emeritus President Gloria M. Arroyo, Chairman Sec. Raul L. Lambino, and President Jeffrey Ng, to the officers and staff of the Chinese Embassy in the Philippines headed by Ambassador Huang Xilian more particularly Counselor Xie Yonghui, Ms. Liu Yiqun, and Ms. Wu Xiaoyi, and to the members of the APCU awards committee APCU Treasurer Gen. Fernando Pace, APPCU Executive Vice-President Mr. Raymund T. Roquero, APCU Deputy Secretary-General Mr. Peter T. Lavina, APCU Past President Professor Gabriel MA. J. Lopez, Ph.D., APCU Executive Director Mr. Jose T. Arce Jr., APCU member Anna Malindog-Uy and Ms. Raven Jobelle Florante, thank you for your unparalleled hard work, commitment, and dedication to APPCU. To the esteemed judges, thank you for sharing your expertise.

To our first batch of APPCU awardees, **CONGRATULATIONS** and keep the flame and passion of promoting friendship and understanding between our two peoples, Filipinos and Chinese, and between our two nations, Philippines and China.

May we all be infused with vigorous passion as we take on a greater role in the communal task of promoting Philippines-China understanding and friendship!

Thank you and Godspeed! Mabuhay!



APCU Vice-Chairman and APPCU
Committee Chairman Sixto T. Benedicto

THE TEN APPCU LAUREATES

APPCU HALL OF FAME AWARDEES

FORMER FIRST LADY IMELDA ROMUALDEZ MARCOS



The Iron Butterfly, the Queen Bee, are just two of the names given to the former First Lady of the Republic of the Philippines who is but an epitome of power and beauty. Madam Imelda Romualdez Marcos, is the wife of the former strongman of the Philippines, the late President Ferdinand Edralin Marcos. She hails from the province of Tacloban, Leyte, and came from a renowned political lineage of the Romualdez'. It is not a wonder then how someone with a beautiful face can emerge to be a powerful icon in the country's history.

Far from being a traditional First Lady, Madame Imelda was a force in her own right. Much loved by the late President Ferdinand Marcos, she became a power broker for statesmen, politicians, and

bureaucrats alike who thought of her as having her late spouse's ear. Indeed, she had not only the ears but more so the heart of the late President Ferdinand Marcos who did not want her to be another "politician's wife" but in all essence, a true and firm political partner hence, the title Iron Butterfly.

For two decades during the reign of the Marcoses, Madam Imelda served in various positions as the Minister of Human Settlements, the Chairman of the Board of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, and Envoy and Ambassador Plenipotentiary and Extraordinary to important "cultural missions" which led to reinforced diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the countries visited by the good Madam, securing for the country important deals and treaties that greatly benefitted the Philippine society. With her state missions, she was considered as among the few who were openly and attentively received by renowned leaders like China's Zhou Enlai and Mao Zedong, US's Richard Nixon, and the Reagans, Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, Iraq's Saddam Hussein, Cuba's Fidel Castro, to name a few.



Madam Imelda also won herself a seat as a member of the Interim Batasang Pambansa (National Congress) representing CALABARZON, and later became the Governor of Metro Manila until the depose of the family in 1986. With politics running in her veins, Madam Imelda re-established herself in the political scene immediately after her family's return from exile. She was elected as Congresswoman of the first district of Leyte in 1995, Congresswoman of the second district of Ilocos Norte in 2010 and Chairman of the Committee on Millennium Development Goals in the Lower House. She won the reelection in 2013 in a bid to renew her term, and then again in 2016 for her third and final term.

Madam Imelda until today remained an epitome of power and beauty not only for her family but also to her constituents who have always looked up to her and her family. Madam Imelda continues to be a pillar of strength to her children and grandchildren, and an inspiration to every Filipino who holds the belief that true "beauty is God and love made real".





AMBASSADOR FRANCIS CHUA

Ambassador Francis Chua is the Chairman Emeritus of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI). He is also the Honorary President of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII). He founded the International Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines in 2015 and served as the first President. In the same year, he was elected as Chairman Emeritus of the Employers' Federation of the Philippines (ECOP). In 2015, he was appointed as the Vice-Chairman of the Silk Road International Chamber of Commerce. In 2016, he established the Philippine Silk Road International Chamber of Commerce as the Founding Chairman.

He introduced Chinese trucks and buses to the Philippines in 1983. He signed a memorandum of cooperation with Chinese counterparts for launching the first international communication satellites for the Philippines in 1993. In 1997, the Philippines' first international communication and broadcasting satellite was successfully launched by the Chinese "Long March III" rocket in Xichang, China.

Ambassador Francis Chua was also appointed by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo as a member of the Constitutional Advisory Committee and as Philippines' Special Envoy for Investments and Trade in 2006. His achievements in solving anti-Chinese incidents that suppressed the rampant kidnapping cases of Chinese nationals paved the way for him to become the Commissioner of the Anti-Organized Crime Committee by then President Arroyo.

Ambassador Francis Chua was also instrumental in the crafting of an Executive Order allowing foreigners who invest in the Philippines to obtain permanent residence visas during President Arroyo's time. This policy did not only pave the way for the removal of Chinese nationals from the list of restricted aliens but also facilitated the granting of permanent residency to 50 Chinese nationals each year in the Philippines.

With the efforts of Ambassador Francis Chua, he helped FFCCCII obtain the rights to host the 10th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Conference and served as Chairman of the organizing committee. The conference was successfully held in November 2009 and was highly praised by more than 3,000 Chinese businessmen who participated in the conference from various parts of the world.

Furthermore, Ambassador Chua collaborated with Fujian Normal University to establish the Philippine Institute of Chinese Language and Culture and was its first Dean. He also helped the University of the Philippines and Angeles University establish Confucius Institutes.

Ambassador Francis Chua believes that the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is the sum of China's connections with the rest of the world and is the Chinese's way of promoting trade, cooperation, and bilateral relations. He is more than willing to cooperate with China, to tell our Filipino brothers the good story of China, its efforts on peace, and how China is a country that cares for its people and mankind.



APCCU AWARDEES UNDER THE OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS CATEGORY



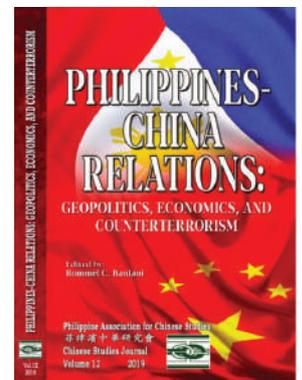
DR. ROMMEL C. BANLAOI

Rommel C. Banlaoi is a Professorial Lecturer in the Department of International Studies at Miriam College and currently an Adjunct Research Professor at the National Institute for South China Sea Studies (NISCSS). He is the Chairman of the Board of the Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research (PIPVTR), President of the Philippine Association for Chinese Studies (PACS), and a member of the Management Board of the World Association for Chinese Studies (WACS). He is also a member of the International Panel of Expert of the Maritime Awareness Project (MAP) of the National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR), and the Sasakawa USA Foundation, and a board member of the China-Southeast Asia Research Center on the South China Sea (CSARC).

Dr. Banlaoi was a Senior Fellow of the Yuchengco Center at the De La Salle University (DLSU) where he once served as Assistant Professor in International Studies. He also served as a Professor of International Relations and Political Science at the National Defense College of the Philippines (NDCP) and member of the Philippine Council for Foreign Relations (PCFR)-National Security Cluster (NSC). He served as a Visiting Fellow at the Faculty of Law in Leiden University, the Netherlands, Fellow of the Asia Pacific Center for Security Studies (APCSS) in Hawaii, and Non-Resident Fellow of the Center for Global Counterterrorism Cooperation in New York City. While working in the academe, Dr. Banlaoi served various offices in the Philippine government as a consultant and adviser. He was a member of the Advisory Council of the Drugs Enforcement Group (DEG) of the Philippine National Police (PNP) under the Duterte administration, and member of the Advisory Council of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) of the PNP during the Aquino III administration. He also worked at the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Plans and Programs (ASPP) of the Department of National Defense (DND) during the Arroyo administration and at the Office of the Secretary (OSEC) of the DND during the Estrada administration. In July 2021, he was reappointed as a member of the Advisory Council of the CIDG.

Dr. Banlaoi received his BA and MA degrees in Political Science from the University of the Philippines in Diliman and a Ph D. in International Relations from Jinan University in Guangzhou, China. He also took various international graduate courses from Leiden University on International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, Executive Course on Security Studies, and Comprehensive Security Responses to Terrorism Course from Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies in Hawaii. His main areas of research are political science, peace education, international relations, international peace and security, regional security, foreign and defense policy, South China Sea disputes, local governance, civil-military relations, security sector reforms, and international terrorism.

He authored more than 70 publications in high-impact journals. Some of his written works delved into peace education which highlights the promotion of the Philippines-China relationship. These include the ASEAN Regional Forum, the South China Sea Disputes, and the Functionalist Option (2001); Southeast Asian Perspectives on the Rise of China: Regional Security After 9/11 (2003); Defense and Military Cooperation Between the Philippines and China: Broadening Bilateral Ties in the Post-9/11 Era (2007); Southeast Asian Regionalism and China's Soft Power Strategy in a Global Age (2010); Philippines-China Security Relations: Current Issues and Emerging Concerns (2012); Functional Cooperation and Joint Development: A Way Ahead in the South China Sea (2014); The Philippines: Security Options and Policy Implications (2017); Duterte Presidency: Shift in Philippines-China Relations (2017); Philippines-China Relations: Geopolitics, Economics and Counter Terrorism (2019); Benefits and Costs and the Philippines' Paradigm Shift to China (2020); and Bilateral Consultative Mechanism in the South China Sea and Philippines-China Relations (2021).



His incomparable dedication to peace education, terrorism research, and non-violence studies made him the recipient of the Albani Peace Prize Award for Peace and National Security Education in 2011. He also received the "Kahanga-hangang Pilipino" (Outstanding Filipino) Award in 2012 for peace research. Dr. Banlaoi received the Award for Outstanding Contribution to Humanitarian and Social Cause during the 2016 World Corporate Social Responsibility Congress Day held in Mumbai, India. His various research efforts on countering terrorism in the Philippines considered him to be called "the Father of Philippine counter-terrorism research" and the "leading Philippine scholar" studying radical Islam." He's also been considered as the country's top security studies expert.

As part of his deep involvement in promoting Philippines-China relations, he offered lectures and talks to scholars and experts in various fields such as "China's Current Naval Strategy and the South China Sea Disputes: Maritime Security Dilemma in Philippines-China Relations", Chinese Studies Program Lecture Series (2014) and "Impacts from The Philippines' 'Pivot' To China: Costs and Benefits, Changing the World Order? China's Long-Term Strategy" (2019) to name a few. His recently published book entitled "Philippines-China Relations at 45 during the COVID-19 Pandemic: New Discoveries, Recent Developments, and Continuing Concerns" exhibits a collection of scholarly written articles of authors and experts across different disciplines commemorating Philippines-China relations at 45 amidst COVID-19.

Dr. Banlaoi is well sought and always being interviewed by various media outlets especially on issues concerning the South China Sea and Philippines-China bilateral relations. He has been promoting the two countries' continued mutual understanding, friendship, and bilateral relations for three decades.



Herman “Ka-Mentong” Tiu Laurel

Herman “Ka Mentong” Laurel, for many of his friends, listeners, and readers, is a champion for Philippines-China Understanding. He has been a major figure in fair and accurate reporting about the realities between the Philippines and China, as well as the global vision of China to build a better world for all peoples and the nations.

Ka Mentong sustained this creed of fair writing on issues related to China for over two decades. This has graduated to the persistent heightening of his commitment to truth in addressing the issues relevant to Philippine-China relations over the years even as the geopolitical situation worsened in the early 2010s.

This advocacy for truth and fairness relative to Philippine-China relations extended to Ka Mentong’s broadcast activities, bringing the message of understanding, harmony, and cooperation between the two countries to his TV and radio programs. In the

mid-2010s, Ka Mentong produced a TV show entitled “Journeys” that focuses on the history of Philippine-China relations, Filipinos who had studied in China, and Chinese cultural performances.

His frequent guest in “Journeys” is the current Philippine ambassador-to-China, Jose Santiago “Chito” Sta. Romana, who explains the benefits of good relations with China and clarifies issues on the relationship that antipathetic elements have muddled. At one time, “Journeys” was covered by a Global Times reporter who presented the positive actions of some Filipinos towards the betterment of Philippine-China relations.

In his pursuit of providing better information on the issues of Philippine-China relations, Ka Mentong did not limit himself to activities in media. At the height of the controversies over the U.S. “Pivot to Asia” and the filing of the arbitration suit by the Aquino administration in the early 2010s, Mr. Laurel regularly gathered intellectuals, retired Philippine diplomats, politicians, and writers to discuss the issues and address the public with the right information.

Mr. Laurel organized, in coordination with other individuals, regular media and press forums to explain the issues to other media people. He also organized the Philippine BRICS Strategic Studies think tank that brings together familiar writers advocating the same message.

The Philippine BRICS Strategic Studies think tank was inspired by China’s advocacy and the establishment of the BRICS group that advocates for a multi-polar world structure. In 2019, Phil-BRICS organized a student symposia in Iloilo, intended to be the first of many others to follow. Unfortunately, these plans have been postponed due to the pandemic.

The efforts of Mr. Laurel have been instrumental in maintaining the balancing voice and information force that helped Filipino media to maintain the proper perspective on the issues and forestall premature negative conclusions among many in the Philippine public.

Before he became a journalist and broadcaster, Mr. Laurel was appointed to several government posts in the past decades. He headed the Philippine Government-UNHCR Philippine Refugee Processing Center project for several years and ran for senator in 1995.

Ka Mentong currently serves as the host of “Ang Maestro, The Unfinished Revolution” broadcasted by Radyo Pilipinas (RP1). He is also the host of an online podcast “Power Thinks” of the Global Talk News Radio (GTNR) streamlined in various social media platforms like Facebook and YouTube, and one of the hosts of a television show, “Opinyon Ngayon” aired in Golden Nations Network (GNN) every Friday.

His passion and conviction in promoting mutual understanding and good bilateral relations between the Philippines and China are reflective of his writings and commentaries. Most of his writings had helped clarify the truth about the South China Sea (SCS) dispute that has complicated the diplomatic relations between the two countries to an inconvenient degree until today.

At present, Ka-Mentong is a senior citizen and will be turning 70 in October this year. At his age, he is still writes several articles and maintains three TV, radio, and online broadcasts.

Teresita Ang See (洪玉華)



Teresita Ang See has played a significant role as a bridge of understanding, acceptance and cohesion between Filipinos and Tsinoy (colloquial term for Chinese Filipinos). Bringing unity and cohesion in the midst of diversity is an important task she has undertaken and continues to undertake.

She has served as past President of the prestigious International Society for the Study of Chinese Overseas (ISSCO 世界海外華人研究學會), the Philippine Association for Chinese Studies (菲律賓中華研究學會). She has also given lectures in local and

international fora and written extensively on issues of Philippines-China relations, ethnic identities, culture, race relations, integration, with the goal of enhancing understanding of such issues.

She is the founding president of Kaisa para sa Kaunlaran (Kaisa 菲律賓華裔青年聯合會), a movement composed of Chinese Filipinos which intends to promote the full integration of Tsinoy into mainstream society and tapping their full potentials in nation-building. Currently, she serves as Executive Trustee of the Kaisa Heritage Center (華裔文化傳統中心), which houses Bahay Tsinoy, the Museum of the Chinese in Philippine life (菲華歷史博物館) and the Chinben See Memorial Library (施振民紀念圖書館). The center is a repository of the historical and cultural legacy of the Tsinoy in all aspects of Philippine life. With Kaisa as publisher, she has written, edited and co-edited 19 books.

As a Political Science graduate of the University of the Philippines in 1971, at the height of student activism that led to the first quarter storm and Diliman commune, her eyes were opened to social ills and political realities. She lamented then that Chinese Filipinos of her generation, due to legal and social circumstances, remain as bystanders as political events unfolded.

In the early 1990s, she became the face and the voice of hapless, helpless, kidnap victims. She became known as an anti-crime advocate, having championed the cause of Tsinoy at the height of the kidnapping menace. This is what she continues to fulfill as founding Chairperson of the Movement for Restoration of Peace and Order (恢復治安運動), Board Adviser for Judicial Reforms Initiatives and Executive Chair of People's Law Enforcement Board of Manila.

Having started in 1971, this year marks half a century of her role as a social activist, educator, cultural and development worker, and an active advocate against crime and justice reforms. She received numerous awards and recognitions, including The Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service (TOWNS), Lifetime Volunteer awards, among many others. In 2005, she was among the 1,000 women all over the world nominated for the Nobel Peace Award, a recognition of all the work she has done through the years.

She firmly believes in the credo of Kaisa: "Our blood may be Chinese but our bonds grow deep in Philippine soil and our bonds are with the Filipino people." She emphasizes that all her life's work has the end purpose of finding for Tsinoy their rightful places in the Philippine sun.



Dr. Lourdes Tanhueco-Nepomuceno

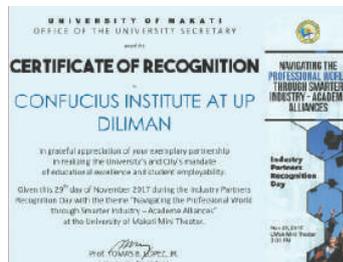


A true academician and esteemed public intellectual, Dr. Lourdes Tanhueco-Nepomuceno is a Filipino with Chinese ancestry who takes pride in her bicultural roots. She was born and raised in Angeles, Pampanga, where she obtained her bachelor's degree in Education, major in English and General Science, Cum Laude. Her inherent passion for knowledge and learning led her to years of further study in the field of education, to wit: Masters of Education degree in Communication Arts (Reading) from the University of the Philippines-Diliman; a Post-Masteral degree in School Administration and Supervision, with distinction, at the Johns Hopkins University in Maryland, USA; and a Doctor of Philosophy in Education, major in Educational Management and Leadership, obtained at the De La Salle University in Manila.

Backed by her robust academic training and relevant professional, corporate and international experiences both in private and public sectors, Dr. Nepomuceno is a visionary in her own right. This enabled her to anticipate the needs and demands of emergent realities in a globalized world. In an era where China is no longer viewed as another player but a formidable force to reckon with in globalization, Dr. Nepomuceno employs her knowledge and passion in aiding communities to bridge major socio-cultural gaps through language and communication arts. Being herself a product of two cultures, Filipino and Chinese, not only makes her appreciate her roots but also enables her to navigate her way into advancing her passion for education. Hence in 2009, in her hometown at Angeles, Pampanga, Dr. Nepomuceno co-established the Confucius Institute at the Angeles University Foundation. Among others, the institute promotes an understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture and the teaching of the Mandarin language. In 2015, Dr. Nepomuceno was welcomed by the University of the Philippines-Diliman to lead the establishment of the Confucius Institute. Over the years, Dr. Nepomuceno has built up many ties with government entities, city colleges, and universities, as well as the private sector, to the extent that the Confucius Institute at the University of the Philippines-Diliman has now the broadest outreach in Mandarin lessons. In both setups, Dr. Nepomuceno holds the distinction of being the pioneer Filipino Director.

It is also noteworthy that her commitment to education and advocacy for the appreciation of the Chinese language and culture have also benefited Philippine society. Specifically, during the term of Education Secretary Bro. Armin Luistro, FSC, Dr. Nepomuceno initiated and advanced the inclusion of the Mandarin language in the K-12 curriculum of the Department of Education as a Special Program in Foreign Language. The program greatly facilitates the diversification of the skillsets of Filipinos and provides them headway in employment and/or overall personal development.

It is for these efforts that the Association for Philippine-China Understanding (APCU) and the Award for Promoting Philippine-China Understanding (APPCU) recognize Dr. Lourdes Tanhueco-Nepomuceno as an inspiration and wealth to Philippine society and the global Filipino and Chinese communities.



APPCU AWARDEES UNDER THE MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS CATEGORY

Professor Jaime A. FlorCruz

Professor Jaime A. FlorCruz is a veteran China-watcher and foreign correspondent in China. He was CNN's Beijing Bureau Chief and correspondent, responsible for strategic planning of the network's news coverage of China from 2001 to 2014. He served as TIME Magazine's Beijing Bureau Chief and correspondent from 1982 to 2000 and Newsweek's Beijing reporter in 1981. He is currently a Visiting Professor at Peking University, and the Founding President of Peking University Overseas Students' Alumni Association from 2012 until present.



He served concurrently as the China Chairman of the Fortune Global Forum, a meeting of global business and political leaders, held in Beijing in 2005, Chengdu, Sichuan Province in 2013, and Guangzhou in 2017. As a Time Inc. consultant, his year-long work for the forum focused on program development and government relations.

Jimi, as he was fondly called by his colleagues, took two years of intensive Chinese language study at the Beijing Languages Institute in 1976. He received his B.A. in Chinese History from Peking University in 1982, in addition to B.A. in Advertising at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in 1971. He worked for a year in a state farm in Hunan province

in 1972, and also in a fishing corporation in Shandong Province from 1973 to 1974. Twice weekly, he gave English lessons to professors at Peking University in 1978 and students at Peking Normal College from 1979 to 1981. He also appeared on Chinese national television, teaching English songs every week for the program, "Let's Sing."

Professor FlorCruz has extensively reported in China since 1981 when he started his journalism career as a Beijing reporter for Newsweek. In 1982, he joined TIME Magazine's Beijing bureau and served as Beijing bureau chief from 1990 to 2000. In 2000, he was the Edward R. Morrow Press Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York, the first non-American journalist chosen for the prestigious fellowship. He has witnessed and reported the most significant events in China for the past three decades. In addition to his on-air reporting, Professor FlorCruz contributes regularly to CNN.com and writes a weekly online column "Jaime's China" offering analysis about Chinese society and politics.

Professor FlorCruz is the Dean of the Foreign Press Corps in Beijing, having been the longest serving foreign correspondent in China until his retirement in 2015. He was a two-term president of the 400-member Foreign Correspondents' Club of China from 1988 to 1990 and from 1996 to 1999. In November 2017, he was elected to a four-year term as one of the Vice-Chairs of the Peking University Alumni Association, the first-ever foreign alumnus elected to the position. Professor FlorCruz is fluent in English, Filipino, and Mandarin Chinese.



Dr. & Atty. Mario Leonardo Emilio O. Aportadera

Mario Leonardo Emilio O. Aportadera is currently a faculty member of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences of the University of San Agustin, Iloilo. As a physician, he teaches BS Biology courses such as Human Anatomy and Parasitology, and as a lawyer, he teaches pre-law courses such as International Law, Political Theories, and Introduction to Law.



Dr. Aportadera received his B.S. in Biology degree from the University of San Agustin – Iloilo where he graduated Summa Cum Laude. He also served as Editor-in-Chief of The Augustinian Mirror Magazine. He took his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Santo Tomas and was awarded the Thomasian Poet of the Year of the USTETIKA Literary Awards in 1986.

He was a delegate in the Japan International Cooperation Agency’s Friendship Programme for the 21st Century from May to June 1986. He joined the Manila Doctors Hospital for his post-graduate internship and served as President of the MDH Post-Graduate Interns Organization. Because of his deep love and devotion for learning, he also took his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of San Agustin, Iloilo, and served as Editor-in-Chief of the Augustinian Law Gazette. He is both a practitioner of general medicine and general law in Iloilo.



In his article published in 2016 entitled “Balance Sheets do not Define Friendship,” he discussed how the mainstream media biasedly report on the economic and trade relations of the two countries, the Philippines and China. He also wrote articles related to the issues of the South China Sea explaining the intricacies of the issue while urging Filipinos and Chinese to have an open mind in dealing with a complicated issue like the South China Sea dispute.

Dr. and Atty. Aportadera also came up with a publication entitled, “Mama had a Knack for Storytelling” in 2017, where he shared and imparted the stories of his mother on how the Chinese think and their way of life. Dr. and Atty. Aportadera was born to a Chinese mother and a Filipino father.

His effort as an individual in promoting and advancing Philippines-China relations at the grass-roots level is evident in his sensible observation and enunciated retort against anti-China and biased media reporting.





Mr. Adolfo “Ado” Quizon Paglinawan

Adolfo Quizon Paglinawan, or simply “Ado” as he is popularly known, is a Filipino journalist, public intellectual, business professional, and devoted family man with extensive experience in diverse academic and professional fields. A Bedan by training, Ado completed his primary, secondary and tertiary education at the San Beda College in Manila. He holds an undergraduate degree in Liberal Arts major in English and Philosophy and is currently completing his Master of Arts in Journalism and International Diplomacy at the Lyceum of the Philippines. Between these academic pursuits, Ado had also obtained certifications in various fields of Information Technology at the USDA Graduate School, International Public Relations at the George Washington University, and Islamology at the Georgetown University.

His active engagements in journalism and social media activism undeniably served as training grounds in his writing and discursive prowess. Veering from a partisan approach to a more rationalized discourse of pressing issues confronting the Philippine society, he offers an alternative perspective that enables opportunities for peaceful diplomatic dialogues. Ado served as Press Attache and Spokesman of the Philippine Embassy in Washington DC from 1986 to 1993 and was recalled to serve in the Peace Negotiating Panel with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Cordillera People’s Liberation Army in 1987.

Of his innumerable contributions and services to the Philippine society, it is his participation in the South China Seas debate that is most noteworthy of the Award for the Promotion of Philippine-China Understanding (APPCU), which likewise earned him the designation of an Ambassador of Goodwill. His participation in the debate “was inspired by the scandals revolving frustrated oligarchic capture of oil and gas opportunities at the Reed Bank or Recto Reef in 2011, the incompetent mishandling of Philippine foreign affairs resulting in the Scarborough Standoff of 2012, and the subsequent filing of a case with the Permanent Court of Arbitration against China. ”

Backed by his training and extensive experiences in journalism, and “motivated by nothing but reporting as close as possible to facts”, Ado stood his ground in facing-off with US Pinoys for Good Governance in a debate at Oxon Hill in Metro-Washington DC when said a group of “Sino-phobics” led by Loida Nicolas launched its shame-China campaign in the U.S. Since then, Ado never lets off the South China Sea discussions, engaging his audiences through his articles in print and broadcast media, and mobilizing together with Migrants Heritage Commission chairman Arnedo Valera, a US Pinoys for Real Change movement based in Washington DC in a continuing attempt to present an alternative view amidst disinformation among Filipino-Americans.”

Furthermore, Ado authored two noteworthy books: “A Problem for Every Solution,” for most part is a situationer on the territorial dispute in the South China Sea, and “No Vaccine for a Virus called Racism,” a survey of COVID-19 implications from an international perspective. Today, Ado serves as an inspiration to the Filipinos not only in his diverse and well-rounded interests but more so in his pursuit of a factual and rational view of matters concerning the Filipinos and the Philippine society at large.





John Nicolo Fredrik Fernandez

Mr. John Nicolo Fredrik Fernandez, also known as “Teacher John Lucas” and “That Crazy Fun Teacher”, is a 51Talk Teacher Brand Ambassador who has been on the platform for over 3 years. He creates videos about Chinese culture and collaborates on video projects with his Chinese students. He is also very popular in China on his BILIBILI channel “☑卡斯和他的朋友☑” which has thousands of followers.

John Nicolo Fredrik Fernandez took his Bachelor of Arts in Multimedia Arts from the De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde in 2009. Before joining 51Talk, he held diverse positions in various companies as Visual Effects Artist for Creative Media and

Film Society from 2009 to 2011, Graphics and Design Manager for Geenger Communications Inc. from 2011 to 2012, Motion Graphic Artist for AARKI from 2012 to 2013, and Videographer and Post-Production Editor for Prodigy Ace Multimedia from April 2012 to November 2013. Currently, he is the Director for JNF Studios since 2013.

He also gave workshops and lectures which include a 3-day Animation and Visual Effects Training for TEAM Pacific Corporation in 2014, a 5-day Animation and Visual Effects Training for the Global Filipino Investors in 2015, and a talk on Arts and Design Career Pathways at De La Salle Santiago Zobel School in 2016 as Resource Speaker.

His passion for teaching made him become an online sensation in China because of his cool and engaging antics while conducting lessons. He has lots of followers in his social media accounts where he shares efficient teaching strategies and techniques to aspiring teachers. He loves to incorporate and promote Chinese culture into his videos. He made videos of making Chinese food during Chinese New Year, and did some cosplay of Chinese celebrities on his social media accounts in YouTube and Facebook as “That Crazy Fun Teacher.”



John Nicolo Fredrik Fernandez has been traveling to China many times since 2019. In one of his travels, his team competed in Beijing for the SINA 5-Star Teachers Competition and clinched the 5-Star Teacher Award because of their unique and engaging teaching techniques. His warm interactions with students made him an active advocate of student-centered learning. This significant attribute of his personality is seen through his creative videos on students’ birthdays, movie dubbing shows, and tongue twisters with Chinese students.



THE AWARDS FOR PROMOTING PHILIPPINES-CHINA UNDERSTANDING



The Award for Promoting Philippines-China Understanding or APPCU is a joint undertaking spearheaded by the Association for Philippines-China Understanding (APCU) and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Republic of the Philippines. It is a novel award-giving body that pays special tribute to Filipinos who have made efforts through time in strengthening friendly ties and promoting mutual understanding between the Philippines and China using their respective advocacies and expertise in the various fields and disciplines of mass media and public service; trade and commerce; and arts, culture, and the sciences.

APPCU was launched on January 16, 2021 when State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi and former Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo jointly attended the inauguration of the Manila Forum for China-Philippines Relations via video link. The basic rationale behind the launching of APPCU is to actively continue the efforts of promoting friendship between China and the Philippines and to enhance people-to-people exchanges, noting that amity between people holds the key to sound state-to-state relations.

Essentially, the award looks for people who made a mark and contributed much effort through time in the improvement and advancement of Philippines-China bilateral friendly relations and understanding. The award, in essence, promotes the spirit of friendship and understanding between the Philippines and China.

APPCU is an annual undertaking and each year, 10 laureates will be chosen.

Those who are eligible for the awards are Filipino citizens who have committed themselves to the improvement and advancement of Philippines-China bilateral relations using their fields of disciplines and areas of expertise.

APPCU has three (3) award categories. These are:

- The Hall of Fame category which acknowledges the prestige and stature of the individual, and the immense effort of work the individual has done over time as evidenced by the extent of reach, impact, and reception of the work(s) by communities and societies.

- The Outstanding Contributions category which recognizes individuals of lesser prominence but has nonetheless made notable contributions in promoting and strengthening Philippines-China bilateral relations, friendship, cooperation, and understanding.

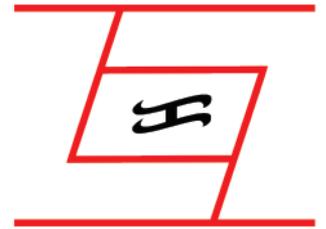
- The Major Contributions category which recognizes the works of individuals whose works have a growing reach and impact on the lives of specific groups or communities of people at the grassroots level.

All APPCU nominees undergo three rounds of the selection process such as the (1) preliminary or the elimination round; (2) second round of judging; (3) and the third and final round.

The winners of APPCU will receive a trophy or a plaque of recognition, and a certificate. Prize money, on the other hand, will be given to each of the awardees for the Outstanding Contributions and Major Contributions categories. APPCU awardees will be formally recognized in an award ceremony.

APPCU is also in many ways a commemoration of the "Filipino-Chinese Friendship Day" and the day when the formal diplomatic ties and relations were established between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China on June 9, 1975.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR PHILIPPINES-CHINA UNDERSTANDING (APCU)



APCU is the pioneer and leading non-government organization (NGO) in the Philippines that promotes people-to-people diplomacy, bilateral understanding, and friendship between the Philippines and China through (a) cultural, academic, and visit exchanges; (b) sisterhood between Philippine Local Government Units (LGUs) and Chinese LGUs; and (c) economic and trade cooperation and partnership.

As an organization and advocacy group, APCU was instrumental and pivotal in facilitating the establishment and strengthening of the official diplomatic ties between the Philippines and China on June 9, 1975.

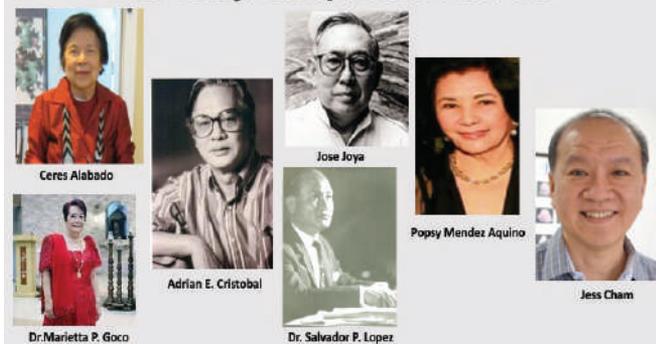
The association started as an informal group of Chinese friends in 1972 organized to coordinate aid and assistance from the People's Republic of China for the victims of a destructive flood that struck Central Luzon at that time. China had no diplomatic relations with the Philippines at the state level during that time, thus, cooperative efforts between the two countries were coursed through people-to-people relations and ties.

From this experience, the group expanded to include other progressive artists, businessmen, journalists, civic leaders, and academics. Eventually, in 1974, APCU was set up and registered as an NGO with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

As part of its programs/projects, it organized study and cultural visits to China. It also staged various projects like fora, symposia and came up with newsletters launched to promote bilateral understanding, cooperation, and friendship between the two countries. These projects and activities notably preceded the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and China.



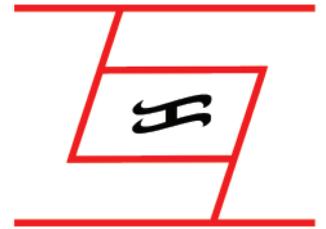
The Early Chairpersons of APCU



APCU Delegation to China October 1975



THE ASSOCIATION FOR PHILIPPINES-CHINA UNDERSTANDING (APCU)



In 2017, APCU was reactivated under the leadership of one of its founding members, former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who is the Chairman Emeritus of the organization. APCU is currently under the leadership of Chairman and Secretary Raul L. Lambino and its President Jeffrey Ng. APCU has regional chapters in Baguio, Cebu, Davao, Angeles City, and Pangasinan.

The Association is very active in the conduct of the APCU Forum, which is a platform for a constructive conversation on current bilateral issues among policy and thought leaders, experts, and stakeholders to foster friendship, understanding, and cooperation. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, the association has also facilitated cultural, academic, and visit exchanges; economic, trade cooperation and partnership.

Early this year (2021), APCU launched two important projects that further help promote mutual understanding, friendship, and cooperation between the two countries and peoples. These are the Manila Forum for China-Philippines Relations and the Award for Promoting Philippines-China Understanding (APPCU).



Speaker: JIN LIQUN
President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank



Message
PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
Chairman Emeritus of APCU



Opening Remarks
AMB. HUANG XILIAN
Ambassador of China to the Philippines

1ST MANILA FORUM FOR PHILIPPINES- CHINA RELATIONS
MARCH 3, 2021, Wednesday | 3: 00 PM via ZOOM

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PHILIPPINES-CHINA UNDERSTANDING
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