



Paglbaum



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LGU SEMINARS, ROUND TABLE CONFERENCES, OTHER ACTIVITIES PUNCTUATE ALMOST TWO YEARS IN THE LIFE OF THE CENTER



Participants from Mandaluyong City and Las Piñas City flank Archbishop Oscar Cruz and Prof. Nene Pimentel during the Seminar-Workshop on Good Barangay Governance for National Transformation held last April 27-28.



COMELEC Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr. (center) during the Round Table discussion on the "Challenges Facing the Comelec Today and in Future Elections", held at the Pimentel Center, University of Makati last May 18. Also in the picture: Johnny Pecayo, Nene Pimentel and Raymund Rosuelo (standing).

[May 2012 Report to the Center's barangay and LGU constituents]

By Staff Writers

Brief History

The Center for Local Governance at the University of Makati came from a spark of inspired thought of the then Makati Mayor Jojo Binay and filial support of now Makati Mayor Junjun Binay sometime in 2008.

It burst into the flame of life when it was stoked by the prayers of spiritual warriors like Bishop Deo Iniguez, Coylee Gamboa, Pastors King Flores, Roy Carandang and Hugh Nguyen and Fr. Pascual in 2010.

LGU seminars

In July 2010, it started its mission to help upgrade the knowledge and skills of local
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Word from the Center

The problem posed by Lady Gaga's scheduled shows in Pasay City is more complicated in a functioning democratic country like ours than it is in other aspiring democracies.

Here we have to contend with freedom of expression and of speech and other freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. In autocratic countries, they have no such problem. What those in power say - even in matters of morals - goes.

So what may we who find Lady Gaga's erotic gyrations and sexy songs offensive to our religious sensitivities do?

1. We can insist that the authorities implement existing laws against obscene perfor-

mances but only after the acts are done. I doubt if pre-censorship legal in this country. But actual pornographic performances, I believe, may be sanctioned under existing statutes.

2. We can also demonstrate against what is presumed to be lewd public exhibitions of the performer.

Ultimately, however, the obligation to discourage the youth of the land, especially those below the age of 18, from gravitating towards the shows of Lady Gaga and her ilk lies more in the hands of parents than in the State.

Allowing the State to have a freer hand in defining the mor-

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ELECTORAL REFORM IMPERATIVES DISCUSSED AT PCLG

By Dean Alex Brillantes and Staff Writers

To preserve the sanctity of the ballot is a gigantic task and requires the cooperation of all citizens. This was the message of Commission on Elections Chairman Sixto Brillantes during a forum held at the Pimentel Center for Local Governance at the University of Makati held last May 18.

Areas of Reform

Chairman Brillantes focused on four areas of reform. These are: (1) Registration of voters; (2) Refining the Party List; (3) Regulation of Campaign Finance; and (4) Improving the Automation System.

The Chairman said that "It is imperative to cleanse the voters lists where flying voters, unqualified and undaged voters have been listed."

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ROUND TABLE SIDELIGHTS

By Clarisse Aquino



Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes (seated center at right end of table) fields questions from audience in the Round Table Conference on Election Problems at the Center last May 18. The audience included Congressman Dodo Mandanas, Dean Ed Tapia, Dean Alex Brillantes, other UMak faculty, Muslim leaders, academes and graduate students.

The welcome remarks delivered Dr. Edith Chan, the Executive Vice President of the University roused many participants from drowsiness occasioned by the sultry May weather.

In what may well be a fighting speech from the leading lady academe of the University, Dr. Chan hit the root of the problem that bugs elections in the country at the very start of her welcome remarks.

She said that the "the Commission on Elections has a critical role in building public confidence and in defending democracy."

The usually charming intellectual presaged the vigorous exchange of viewpoints between the main discussant, Comelec Chair Brillantes, and,



Dr. Edith Chan

the participants. She said, the "voters need to know their votes are safe, and that they will be counted."

"There is no alternative to democratic politics," she added. "It enables us to settle our differences peacefully. And political parties play a crucial role in politics in a democratic State by setting out alternative policy positions from which we can choose as voters."

In her statement, the Executive Vice President posed a rhetorical question as to what the people can do to help restore public confidence in the workings of the Comelec. Answering the question, she said that since elections are for the voters, the voters interests must be given utmost consideration.

The leading lady educator of the University explained that "if we're going to restore public confidence in politics, we need to be clear that the process begins and ends with voters.

"The impartiality of the Commission is vital for public confidence. But so is its effectiveness."

The EVP concluded her welcome address with a scathing but realistic summation: "Philippine elections," she said, "bring the best and the worst in it. It makes men out

of boys. It separates the grain from the chaff, it identifies the cream from the crop! But it also results in mudslinging, black propaganda, or worst, killings, and destruction. It produces ambivalence and dichotomy of feelings but it is something that we cannot do without."

True to her nature, however, she urged the participants to enjoy the discussion and to remember that "its more fun in the Philippines during elections."

The Comelec Chair was introduced by Johnny Pecayo, Publisher of the L.A.-based Manila US Times. Pecayo, who is also the President-elect of the Makati Rotary Club-Nielsen, said that Chairman Brillantes brought a fresh face to the work of the Comelec citing his (Brillantes's) in-depth knowledge of election laws and how the Comelec should implement them.

WORD...

als of our people would be more dangerous to our lives and liberties than a thousand Gaga shows.

For one thing, it would relinquish to the government the primary right and duty of parents to rear their children to become responsible citizens that is placed on their shoulders by the Constitution, itself. And consequently, it would unduly broaden the authority of State to intrude into the field of morality that is better left to the people and their religious leaders to prescribe.

That said, existing laws that proscribe obscenity and pornography should be implemented. Otherwise, entrepreneurs - local or foreign - whose values are measured only by the stack of dollars they could extract from the naive youth of the land, would, in effect, be allowed to spit on our values as a people.

A word of caution - those who want to go via the route of law as determined by the courts should be prepared to produce the evidence needed to convict the culprits because that is what the Rule of Law requires.



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LGU...

government officials in administering their respective political units and warding off the blight of corruption from LGUs affairs in a 3 x 4 square meter room at the office of EVP Edith Chan of the University of Makati.

Without any identified source of funds but with full faith in God's benevolence, the Center defined its mission more sharply and started 'to walk in faith' in the Lord.

It is with unbounded joy that The Center can look back to a 10 month and a decade of our existence with happiness in our hearts that God and our people did not let us down.

Without let-up, the Center has delivered the message to hundreds of local government officials through the seminars not only in the University of Makati but elsewhere in the country too.

Additionally, the Center helps the College of Governance and Public Policy underscore the vital importance of the work of city and municipal councilors in strategic regional seminars.

Round Table Conferences

Incidentally, the Center has been holding a series of Round Table Conferences on current and public issues dealing with (1) The Ownership of the Sultan of Sulu of Sabah; (2) The views of some

Moro leaders on the Peace Process; (3) Maximizing the Development of Our Natural Resources; (4) The State of Our Justice System; (5) The Kalayaan-Islands-and-Scarborough Shoal Controversy; (6) The State of our National Defense, and (7) The Power Crisis Confronting the Nation, to mention some topics.

These were professionally and candidly discussed by big names in and out of the government today. Among the discussants were the Sultan of Sulu Ismail Kiram II, former Marawi Mayor and Moro Rebel Leader Commander Omar Ali, DENR Sec. Ramon Paje, DOJ Sec. Leila de Lima, DFA USEC Jose Brillantes, DND Sec. Voltaire Gazmin, AIPA (ASEAN Inter Parliamentary Assembly) Secretary General Antonio Cuenco and DFA Official Atty, Henry Bensusurto Jr. and DOE Sec. Jose Rene Almendras.

The most critical issue of Climate Change has also reverberated in the halls of the Center in the last few months with ecological expert Dr. Steeve Godilano and an environmental activist like Bel Formanes expounding on it for the Center's constituents.

Typhoons Ondoy and Sen-dong that recently wrought indescribable havoc to places that had been typhoon-free in the past simply made the subject inevitably compelling.



Prof. Nene Pimentel explains the finer points of the Local Government Code and how the principles of accountability and responsibility are applied to LGU work to avoid corruption in one of the Center's seminars on local governance.

Essay Contests

With the help of the UMaK faculty, the Center also sponsored English essay writing contests in the second semester of last year for the College students of the University.

The topics dwelt on: (a) how the barangay delivers basic services to the people and (b) how the Lupon Tagapamayapa helps in our people's search for Justice.

The winners received substantial prizes.

Nativiti-han Contest

And to help preserve the true spirit of Christmas, the Center organized a belen contest with the active support of the university's art department.

It was participated in by college classes and by a number of administrative divisions of the University.

The winners likewise got good prizes.

Credit

Credit for those little achievements goes to that self-less band of practical idealists who would like to see our nation transformed. They include Archbishop Oscar Cruz, Bishop Deo Iniguez, Atty. Joe Villanueva, UP Vice Pres. Popoy de Vera, Pastor Andrew Luison, Architech Roy Carandang, Dean Ederson Tapia, Winnie Marbella, Dean Alex Brillantes, Atty. Gwen Gana,

Prof. Terry Dumogho, Fr. Anton Pascual, Atty. Luigi Gana, Dr. Jimmy Ocampo, Dr. Norma Camunay, Prof. Raymund Rosuelo, Pastors King Flores, Hugh Nguyen, and Cris Uy and Liza Ting, Coylee Gamboa and Atty. Jay Dejaresco.

The Center also had the indispensable support of Pres. Tom Lopez, EVP Dr. Edith Chan, VP for Administration Dr. Raymond Arcega, the other vice presidents and officials and employees of UMaK and the City Government of Makati.

Impressive Facilities

The Center gratefully acknowledges the City Government's and UMaK's construction of impressive offices, a Library and a seminar room at the 4th Floor of the Administration Building of the University for the use of our professorial lecturers and LGU Seminar attendees, and the Faculty and Students of the University.

Books and Computers

The Center has also happily received copies of the book, Anti-Corruption Manual for SMEs, from the good heart of Mr. Wash Sy-Cip. These books have been (and are) distributed to the participants of our LGU seminars.

Other books and some computers were donated to the Center by kind-hearted individuals.



A view of the Pimentel Center located at the 4th Floor at the Administration Building of the University of Makati.

PIMENTEL CENTER'S ACTIVITIES 1 YEAR 10 MONTHS

SYMPOSIUMS



The Sultan of Sulu Ismail Kiram II (extreme left) listens with Prof. Pimentel (2nd from left) and Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Jose Brillantes to Moro political and NGO leader Al Tillah (in coat and tie) winding up his summation at the symposium on the Sabah issue last October 15, 2011.



Some Moro academic and political leaders (left-right) MSU President Dr. Macapando Muslim join hands with Prof. Nene Pimentel in symbolic unity in asserting Moro rights at a symposium at the Center last February 4, 2012. Others in the picture are Farouk Dumagay, Mehol Sadain, Senen Bacani and Omar Solitario.

ROUND TABLE CONFERENCES



RTC at the Center on Climate Change last January 12. (Left-right): EVP Edith Chan, DENR Sec. Ramon Paje and Dean Ederson Tapia on stage.



RTC at the Center on the Spratly's issue last March 15. ASEAN Inter Parliamentary Association Secretary General Antonio Cuenco leads the discussion (holding the microphone).



RTC at the Center on Disaster Risk Management last March 12. Discussing the issue is Dr. Viktor Sebek, Executive Director for the Inter-America Center for Peace and Security (extreme right). At the extreme left is the Kenya Ambassador to the UN George Owuor. Sitting next to him is Prof. Pimentel (in blue barong) and former Sen. Heherson Alvarez, who moderated the forum. Ms. Cecile Guidote Alvarez partnered with the Center to hold the RTC.



RTC at the Center on Energy issues last April 20. Main discussant was the Secretary of the Department of Energy Jose Rene Almendras (speaking into the microphone). At his right is Johnny Pecayo and at his left is Prof. Pimentel.



Homeowners Association (Jabaha) of Project 8, Quezon City, President Bhechi Lazcano places Gold Medal for Honesty on Arnold Banton at the Jabaha Recognition Night on May 13 at the Lazcano residence. Ms. Lazcano is assisted by Judge Hidalgo. Jabaha Board Member Virgilio Robles watch from the side. Banton's story was featured in the April issue of Paglaum.



Officials of Jabaha pose with Arnold Banton and his wife, Lilia (at the center, and their two daughters in front), from left-right: Boardmembers Virgilio Robles and Bob Mallari, Bing and Nene Pimentel, the Bantons, Fr. Alex, President Bhechi Lazcano, Auditor Lizette Reyes and Boardmember Bobby Pagua at the Jabaha Recognition Night honoring the Banton couple on May 13.

ESSAY AND BELEN CONTESTS



First and second prize winners of the Essay Contest on the Barangay for college students of the UMak sponsored by the Center Reuben James Ramos and Helen Nguyen, respectively, stand in the middle with their medals, citations and cash awards last December 9, 2011. They are flanked from the left by English teacher Shelley Saracin and Sen. Bongbong Marcos, chairman of the Senate Committee on Local Governance, and Prof. Pimentel and Pastor King Flores.



The winners of the December 2011 Belen Contest, namely, Adrian Hapa of DCNB (3rd from left), Moner Raguidin of CTM (5th from left), and Ms. Cresteta Evangelio of CASE (2nd from the right) receive their trophies, citations and cash prizes from Pastor King, Sen. Marcos, PILG President Gwen P. Gana, and Prof. Pimentel.

OUT OF TOWN LGU SEMINARS



Baguio City Seminar. Some 200 participants attended. November 25-27, 2011



Cabanatuan City Seminar. Some 1200 participants attended. February 25-27, 2011

SOME IN-HOUSE BARANGAY SEMINARS



Forbes Park Barangay Chairman Jose Conception shares his insights into the duties and functions of barangay officials.



PILG President Gwen P. Gana pays tribute to the late Barangay Kagawad Reynaldo Dagsa. UMak President Tomas B. Lopes presented the plaque of honor to Mrs. Arlene Dagsa and her family. January 28, 2011



Maranaw Participants with DOJ Sec. Leila De Lima. November 25, 2011.



GEN. Luna, Quezon participants with Archbishop Oscar Cruz and DND Sec. Voltaire Gazmin. March 22, 2012.

ELECTORAL...

To do that the COMELEC has begun to use the biometrics and automatic fingerprint system that recognizes the unique and specific features of the voters fingerprints, their eyes and other singular characteristics. This will obviate the possibility of multiple registration by individuals.

The COMELEC chairman cited the example of some areas in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) where the registered number of voters was bloated by underaged voters coming from neighboring provinces. The use of biometric and automatic fingerprint system will prevent that practice as only qualified voters will be registered resulting in the cleansing of the voters' lists.

A second area of reform that was discussed by Brillantes said is the review the abuses of the party list system. In past elections, the party list system was misused and manipulated. It has reached ridiculous proportions, Brillantes said, with a chuckle, that even drug addicts, cockfighting aficionados, "anti-war and anti terrorists" are claiming to be marginalized and underrepresented sectors just so they may be given accreditation to field their groups as party list candidates.

The Comelec head revealed that there are no less than 187 party list representatives in congress and the COMELEC hopes to bring this down to 127.

A third area of reform deals with campaign finance. Brillantes pointed out that the problem is not election finance itself as there is a law – RA 7156 – that provides proper regulation and reporting of campaign finances and contributions.

The challenge is how to implement the law. The law provides that all candidates – winning and losing – must submit statements of campaign contributions and expenditures after the elections.

Two difficulties impede the easy implementation of the law. The first pertains to the capacities of the COMELEC to review the thousands of reports that are submitted to it after the elections. The COMELEC simply does not have enough people to review all the reports submitted. They have only 79 people in the law department, whose job is much more than simply reviewing the reports.

Brillantes said that there is a need for citizens groups to assist the campaign finance unit of the COMELEC in reviewing the reports. He said that PPCRV and NAMFREL and other citizens groups could provide that assistance. A second challenge in implementation of the campaign finance reforms was the legislative decision to decriminalize it. Violation of campaign finances have been decriminalized and is now only considered merely an administrative violation. Consequently, candidates have been willing to simply pay the fines (if caught given the limited capacities of the COMELEC as discussed above).

Finally, a fourth area of reform is in the area of election automation. The case is currently sub judice in the Supreme Court hence Chairman Brillantes did not fully discuss the matter. However, Brillantes provided a background of the automation law.

When the law was passed in 2007, automation of elections were supposed to be only piloted in several selected areas of the country. However, it was implemented all over the country giving rise to the oxymoron that it



Chair Brillantes (back to camera, white barong) facing inquisitors at the Round Table Conference on Election Problems on May 22.

was "piloted nationwide!" However, given what Brillantes felt were only were mostly technological and administrative glitches and failures (e.g., long queues due to precinct clustering, digital signatures, UV lights), it is a marvel that the first nationwide automated elections were, on the whole, quite successful.

There were vigorous exchanges of views in the open forum that followed. Questions were raised about the perceived need to postpone the barangay elections to 2015. Brillantes suggested the elections for barangays be held in 2014. Another issue pertained to the proposed abolition of the barangays with elected officials and converting them to administrative units of the cities or the municipalities with the simple appointments of the barangay officials. Prof Nene Pimentel pointed out that the problem is not as simple as that considering the laws and probably even the Constitution might have to be amended. There is also the question as to who would appoint the barangay officials. The

national government? The local government? In other words, the abolition of barangays as elective levels of local governments has serious implications and is not as simple as suggested by its proponents.

Many questions were also raised about the conduct of elections at the ARMM. These ranged from the continuous padding of voters lists, to the appropriateness of the ARMM structure to the unique needs of the region, to the need to address violence. A proposal was raised by former Governor Al Tillah regarding the need to harness the religious leaders in the ARMM to provide the enabling framework for a citizens arm a la PPCRV for the Muslim areas.

All told, the roundtable discussion on the Challenges Facing the COMELEC Today provided some hope about the future of elections, given the directions for reform being initiated in the COMELEC, led by transformed leadership in the agency, and most important, the need for an engaged citizenry.

QC MAYOR HONORS 'HONEST MAN'



(L-R) Senator Koko Pimentel, Lilia and Arnold Banton, Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte, and Mayor Herbert Bautista during the flag ceremony held at Quezon City Hall Quadrangle last May 7.

Quezon City Mayor Herbert Bautista paid public tribute to Arnold Banton at the Flag Ceremony held at the quadrangle of the City Hall last May 7.

Banton was featured by Paglaum in its April issue as an honest man who found a wallet with some cash on a street in Project 8, Quezon City on April 12, took pains to look for the owner and returned it to

the latter.

This, he did in spite of the fact that he is only a daily wage worker at a butcher shop, had a daughter who was hospitalized at that time and his wife is a full time housewife who takes care of their three daughters from his daily wage earnings.

THE COLLEGE THAT WORKS: HOW COLLEGE OF GOVERNANCE AND PUBLIC POLICY (CGPP) REINVENTED LOCALLY FUNDED CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAM IN UMAK-PCL PARTNERSHIP

By Dr. Jaime G. Ocampo



Dr. Jaime Ocampo

In 2011, the CGPP started to reinvent its service learning delivery through a “customized education” both in the graduate program (Masters in Development Management and Governance) and in the Executive Program (BA in Political Science, Major in Local Government Administration).

How It Started?

UMAK is lucky in that the PCL decided to partner with us in crafting a tailor-fit program for Sanggunian Members.

The CGPP designed the program to be conducted in different satellite institutions. Thousands of SB members in many parts of the country are taking part in the program as presented by the CGPP Dean,

College Secretary and Chair of MPA Program and the Partner PCL.

The graduate program on Master of Development Management and Governance is a modified one (1) year program where graduate students attend once a month classes in a three day face to face lecture sessions. The students of the Executive Program on Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Major in Local Administration attend classes from six months to twenty-two months depending on their preparation and credentials.

STRATEGIES FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

UMak being a degree-granting institution has become innovative in delivering learning Modules both in the Masters degree and baccalaureates. The lecturers employ the following strategies and techniques for legislative capacity development:

a. Team-building Techniques.

Much of the classes ‘work both in the graduate and bachelors program is done in groups of legislators.

The UMAK-PCL partnership has already evolved and it has its more than six-months holding classes with the following Satellites Institutions namely:

Satellites	Cluster	Venue	No. of Students
1. Luzon	NCR & its neighboring Luzon Provinces	UMak	178
2. Visayas	Cebu/Lapu-lapu Mactan & Neighboring provinces & islands	CICC	73
3. Mindanao	Davao/Gen.San & Neighboring Provinces	Gen. Santos & Davao Legislative Bld.	181
4. Palawan	Palawan & its islands	Palawan Legislative Building	65
5. Bicol	Albay/Tabaco Camarines Sur/Norte Naga	Albay Legislative Building	58

b. Intergroup problem solving.

If a conflict or competition arises among the SB members over resources and prestige, overlapping responsibilities, facilitator may the groups together to identify problem areas and deal with them.

c. Goal Setting and Planning.

In goal-setting efforts, SB members of the group are

asked to systematically assess their capabilities and set specific targets for future performance. After which the SB members evaluate their work and establish goals for the next session.

d. Sensitivity training.

SB members of the group may improve openness and trust by identifying and exploring their deep-seated feelings about their work, and about one another.

RTC WITH NEPALESE OFFICIALS

By Dr. Alex Brillantes, Ph.D.



Dr. Alex Brillantes

The Pimentel Center for Local Governance will host a round table conference with

a delegation of visiting Nepalese government officials on May 30.

Nepal has recently adopted a federal form of government that provides the framework for autonomy of its sub-national governments. The Nepalese officials seek to familiarize themselves with the state of local autonomy in the Philippines brought about by the landmark

Local Government Code of 1991 within the context of the continuing advocacy for federalism. It has been argued that, in the Philippines, federalism is the next logical next step after devolution.

Professor Pimentel, the author of the Local Government Code and the prime exponent of federalism in the country will discuss the Philippine struggle for devolution and federalism. Secretary Jaya Mukunda Kamal of the Office of the Prime Minister of Nepal, and head of the delegation, shall discuss

the Nepalese experience. The other members of the delegation include Sharad Chandra Paudel and Geha Nath Gautam, Joint Secretaries, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers; Dilli Ram Sharma and Umakanta Acharya, Under Secretaries, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers; and Mr Sumit Sharma Sameer, Program Officer, The Asia Foundation.

The dialogue promises not only to be enlightening but engaging as well.

SAIPAN MAYOR SEEKS PARTNERSHIP WITH RP

By Jay Dejaresco

In a bid to revive an economy weakened by a global decline in jobs and trade, the mayor of Saipan of the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands personally invited Filipinos to embark in mutually beneficial opportunities in the areas of trade, business and tourism.

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores was a guest of the roundtable discussion on 'economic growth thru potential business partnership' of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance and the Pimentel Center for Local Governance at the University of Makati and the Rotary Club of Makati Uptown on May 22, 2012.

Mayor Flores highlighted the proximity of Saipan to the Philippines which is only four hours away by air transport.

He also cited the fact that Filipino comprise about twenty five percent of the inhabitants in Saipan.

Filipinos there can easily form a political block in Saipan which enables them to actively participate or even influence public policy issues.

Flores said Saipan's main source of economic wealth is

tourism, spawned by its numerous pristine beaches, well known dive spots, and resorts.

Flores welcomed the dialogue in the round table discussion saying it can jumpstart mutually beneficial opportunities for the people of Saipan and the Philippines.

Flores came to Manila to inject an economic stimulant to a municipality recently plagued by a sharp economic downtrend.

Mayor Flores bared that Saipan was once a bustling place of commerce in the apparel and garments industry, bringing hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues to his municipality.

Unfortunately, over the last several years Saipan was rocked by the general downward economic trend in the U.S.A. that started with the terrorist acts of September 11, 2001 in mainland U.S.A.

Saipan's booming tourism industry was also adversely affected by the bird flu scare which prevented vacationists in Asia from travelling there.

Flores however remains optimistic that by forging ties with other countries like the Philip-



Saipan Mayor Donald Flores receives from Prof. Nene Pimentel a plaque of appreciation for his discussion at the Round Table Conference at the Pimentel Center on possible RP-Saipan economic, social and academic tie-ups last May 22. Looking on (left-right): Ms. Mache Torres, president of the Rotary Club Makati Uptown; Daniel Buniag of the Office of the Governor of Northern Marianas, Johnny Pecayo, Dr. Norma Camunay (partly hidden), Dr. Jimmy Ocampo, and Dean Alex Brillantes.

ines, the Saipan will revive its once thriving economy and bring back the glory days of Saipan as a center of commerce, trade and tourism in the Pacific.

Saipan is an island of 53,000 inhabitants, belonging to the United States Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The United States exercises political jurisdiction over the islands, particularly in the enforcement of federal laws.

Mayor Flores said that in 2009 the immigration laws of the United States were enforced over the islands belonging to the Commonwealth.

Participants in the round table discussions were several presidents and officers of the different Rotary Clubs of Makati, and fellows and officers of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and governance and the Pimentel Center for Local Governance led by Prof. Aquilino Nene Pimentel Jr.

UMAK WELCOMES VISITORS FROM LOCAL CITIES// MUNICIPALITIES AND ASIAN COUNTRIES



Visitors from Jeonbuk Scouts, Seoul, South Korea pay a courtesy call on UMak Pres. Tomas B. Lopes Jr.

The City of Makati as the financial capital of the country houses the finest and exclusive business establishments, hotels, shopping malls, restaurants and residence in the country. Its city government is recognized through out the country to have the best prac-

tice in governance that brings effective services to its constituents. Aside from being a business and tourist hub, Makati City is also being hailed as the site of a fully locally funded University that helps its less privileged citizens to have better futures in the global mar-

ket.

The University of Makati or UMak is the only locally funded University in the country to have facilities that can match private Universities in the country.

With such a distinction, UMak is invariably included in every itinerary of city visitors both local and foreign.

On the first quarter of this year, the Extension Services Office (ESO) in coordination with International Relation Department and Office of the Senior Citizen Affairs, welcomed visitors from Jeonbuk Scouts, Seoul, South Korea; Senior Citizen Federation-Luisiana, Laguna; High School Students from Seoul, Korea; Senior Citizen Federation-Tuguegarao City, Cagayan; Administration and Faculties of Marinduque State College and Iloilo City

Community College; Graduate School Students from Eastern Visayas State University; and Senior Citizen Federation-Bay, Laguna.

Their visits to UMak include courtesy calls on University President Prof. Tomas B. Lopes Jr., Executive Vice President Dr. Edita I. Chan and a tour in the different University Facilities including the new Health and Physical Sciences Building and interaction with members of UMak community. But visitors from different Senior Citizen Federations throughout the country have a more unique experience on their trips here. The ESO in coordination with different departments and colleges prepare a special program exclusively for them. The program includes the performance of UMak's finest talents in the performing arts of music, dance and theater.