

September 2007

Lopez Link

A monthly publication of the Lopez group of companies

Yoga Manila comes to LopezGroup!

Grab your mats and join the free demo class this September! Participation is based on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call **Gani Velasquez** (Benpres, 631-6396), **Christine de Pasion** (First Gen, 449-6265), **Mau Silya** (Rockwell, 403-0088) or **Crisanta Villaluz** (ABS-CBN, 415-2222 loc. 4343) to confirm your attendance. See you there!

1H 2007 financial results:
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Saving La Mesa

THE waters of La Mesa Watershed are churning once again with the return to the spotlight of a 1968 agreement between Metropolitan Water District and its employees that saw 58 hectares of the watershed being parceled off for a housing project.

The project will supposedly benefit 1,411 union members of the former MWD (now the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System or MWSS) and their families. However, for the Save La Mesa coalition, the most vocal opponents of the project, the ones who will actually pay the price for the undertaking that will benefit a handful are the 12 million

Metro Manilans for whom La Mesa is the main source of water.

The prime mover of the coalition, ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. (AFI) through its environmental arm Bantay Kalikasan (BK), has a lot riding on the outcome of the tug-of-war for the piece of La Mesa real estate—and not only because it will pollute Metro Manila's water supply and poison millions of Filipinos.

In 2001, AFI entered into a 15-year memorandum of understanding with the MWSS to reforest, develop, protect and implement biodiversity programs into the 2,700-hectare watershed.

This followed some three years after the foundation first offered to help in the “forest rehabilitation, development and the protection of the reservation and watershed area, including the 33-hectare La Mesa Park located downstream from the reservoir.” On AFI's behest, Urbis Phils. drew up a framework plan for La Mesa, which was subsequently approved by the MWSS administrator, executive committee and board of trustees.

Sorry state

La Mesa Eco Park administrator David Pardo, in a 2006 interview,

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'Bandila' nominado sa International Emmys...p.5

BANDILA

ABS-CBN BANTAY KALIKASAN

This child is among 12 million Metro Manilans whose water supply is endangered by the housing project upstream of La Mesa Dam.

50% off on ABS-CBN Publishing titles! ...p.12

1H2007 financial performance

FPHC lumalakas pa!

NAKAPAGTALA ng kabuuang kita na P2.6 bilyon ang First Philippine Holdings Corporation (FPHC) sa unang anim na buwan ng 2007. Ito ay mas mababa ng 36% kumpara sa kinita nito noong unang anim na buwan ng 2006. Ang pagbaba ay dulot lamang ng P2.7 bilyong kinita ng FPHC mula sa initial public offering ng First Gen Corporation (First Gen) noong 2006.

Kung tatanggalin ang epekto ng one-time gains, hamak na mas mataas ng 48% ang recurring net incoming FPHC dahil sa patuloy na paglakas ng mga operating subsidiaries nito. Patunay nito ay ang mas mataas na performance ng First Gen dulot ng 112 megawatt (MW) Pantabangan-Masiway hydroelectric power plant na kailan lamang nabili ng First Gen group. Ayon kay FPHC chairman Oscar M. Lopez, ito ay patunay ng kabutihang dulot ng pagsasapribado ng mga power plants na hawak ng pamahalaan at ng kakayahan ng First Gen na lalo pang iangat ang operational efficiencies para mapaghusay ang produksyon ng mga planta nito.

Noong Hulyo, lumagda ng dalawang memoranda of agreement ang FPHC para sa pagbili ng shares

of stock ng Meralco. Ang unang kasunduan ay sa Union Fenosa Internacional S.A (UFI) para sa pagbili ng 9% pagmamay-ari nito na nakalagak sa joint venture company na First Philippine Union Fenosa Inc. Ang pangalawa ay sa Meralco Pension Fund kung saan bibilhin ng FPHC ang common shares para sa 6.6% ng outstanding Meralco stock. Sinabi ni FPHC president Elpidio Ibañez na core investment ng FPHC ang Meralco sa energy portfolio nito at naghahanap pa ang FPHC ng mga magandang oportunidad sa mas malaking industriya ng infrastructure.

Kamakailan ay nag-draw down ang FPHC ng kabuuang US\$100,000,000 bridge facility mula sa Banco de Oro Universal. Ito ay gagamitin sa mga strategic investments, kasama na ang pagbili ng karagdagang Meralco shares, at para sa mga negosyo nito sa power, infrastructure at manufacturing.

First Gen sumipya

Naging maganda na naman ang financial performance ng First Gen Corporation sa unang anim na buwan ng 2007. Ang consolidated net income attributable to equity holders of the parent ay lumaki ng 76% mula \$41 milyon, ito'y naging US\$72 milyon.

Tumaas naman ng 11% ang total revenues sa US\$532 milyon dahil na rin sa pag-akyat ng revenues mula sa pagbenta ang kuryente. Maganda ang naging performance ng First Gen Hydro Power Corporation, ang project company para sa Pantabangan-Masiway hydroelectric power plant na nabili ng First Gen mula sa Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, samantalang nanatili bilang pinakamalaking revenue contributor ang First Gas Power Corporation, operator ng 1,000-MW Sta. Rita gas-fired power plant.

Sa pangkalahatan, sumipya ang First Gen dahil sa mga sumusunod: karagdagang US\$17.3 milyong kita mula sa First Gen Hydro; one-time net gain na US\$3.1 milyon mula sa settlement ng insurance claim ng San Lorenzo; at natipid na US\$4.0 milyong interest expense ng Sta. Rita.

Dahil sa magandang resulta, nag-deklara ng cash dividend ang First Gen na P2.50 per share para sa mga stockholders as of Setyembre 7. Ito ay babayaran sa Setyembre 14.

Meralco umakyat ang electric sales sa 1st semester

Tumaas ng 20% ang revenues ng Meralco sa unang anim na

1H2007 Financial Results (Period January-June)

	Total revenues			Net income/(loss)		
	2006	2007	% change	2006	2007	% change
ABS-CBN	P8.193 B	P9.200 B	+8	P417 M	P739 M	+77
Benpres	P8.358 B	P8.989 B	+8	P1.898 B	P1.778	-6
First Gen	US\$478 Mn	US\$532 Mn	+11	US\$41 M	US\$72 M	+76
FPHC	P28.6 B	P29.5 B	+3	P4.1 B*	P2.6	-36
Meralco	P89.506 B	P107.392 B	+20	P367 M**	P2.341 B	+538

*Including P2.7 billion gain on dilution in First Gen

**After providing for probable losses in the amount of P3.03 billion

buwan ng 2007. Mula P89.51 bilyon nuong first semester ng 2006 ito ay umakyat sa P107.39 bilyon ngayong taon. Samantala, tumaas ng 4.2% ang electricity sales sa mga customers nito na pinangungunahan ng commercial sector (+5.8%). Sumunod dito ang electricity sales sa industrial segment (+3.6%) at sa residential segment (+3.0%).

Ang net income naman para sa nasabing anim na buwan ay umabot ng P2.34 bilyon, mula P367 milyon nuong first semester ng 2006. Matatandaang mayroong provision for probable losses na P3.03 bilyon noong unang hati ng 2006 na inihinto na ngayong 2007 matapos mag-desisyon ang husgado nuong Disyembre 2006 pabor sa Meralco ukol sa unbundling issue nito.

Benpres paangat pa

Nag-report ng P8.989 bilyon na unaudited consolidated

revenues ang Benpres Holdings Corporation (Benpres) para sa unang semester ng 2007, 8% na mas mataas kaysa P8.358 billion noong kaparehong panahon ng 2006. Ang net income attributable to equity holders of the parent ay lumiit ng 6% sa P1.778 bilyon mula P1.898 bilyon.

Bumaba ng 38% ang equity in net earnings of investees sa P1.475 bilyon mula P2.395 bilyon. Kasama kasi noong 2006 ang one-time gain ng FPHC mula sa initial public offering (IPO) ng First Gen.

Kung tatanggalin ang one-time gain na ito, ang net income attributable to equity holders of the parent ng Benpres noong unang anim na buwan ng 2006 ay P478 milyon, o tumaas pa ng 272% sa taong kasalukuyan. Ang magandang katayuan ng Benpres ay dahil sa matibay na performance ng FPHC at sa patuloy na pag-angat

ng ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation

Tulad ng nai-report noong nakaraang isyu ng LopezLink (August 2007), tumaas ng 77% ang net income ng ABS-CBN sa P739 milyon mula P417 million noong 1H06. Bumuti ang advertising business ng ABS-CBN at lumakas din ang subscription-based business nito. Ang gross revenues ng ABS-CBN ay lumaki ng 12% sa P9.200 bilyon mula P8.193 bilyon. Umangat ng 20% ang airtime revenues dahil sa mas malaking advertising volume, kasama na ang mga political ads noong nakaraang halalan. Samantala, lumaki lamang ng 5% ang total expenses ng ABS-CBN. Sa pangkalahatan, ang mas mabilis na paglaki ng revenues at mas mabagal na paglaki total expense ang naging susi sa paglakas ng ABS-CBN. (Carla Paras-Sison)

Study cites economics of travel time on NLEX

By Kit Ventura

A STUDY conducted by the University of the Philippines-Planning and Development Research Foundation Inc. (UP-Planades) essayed on the economics of travel using the North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) and the MacArthur National Road (MNR).

The research team, headed by UP Dean Primitivo Cal, used as benchmarks data culled from a series of test drives on both highways. The MNR is commonly considered an alternative to the NLEX.

"If motorists...travel on MNR instead of the NLEX, they would incur additional expenses in vehicle operating cost amounting to P257 per car. In addition, they would incur a penalty of about P800 due to longer travel time," the research document stated.

Travel time along MNR 4 times longer

Since travel time along the MNR is generally four times longer than on the NLEX, it was estimated that passengers of a large bus collectively lose about P3,120 per trip, it added.

The study team has also estimated an average increase of about 30 kilometers per hour (kph) of vehicular speed along the NLEX compared to data on the North Diversion Road (former name of NLEX).

"This...has positive impact on the various road users of NLEX," the study said. It explained that every car user enjoys savings of about P350 over the 84-kilometer length of the NLEX.

Savings

On the other hand, large bus operators enjoy much bigger savings of P1,040 per trip. Two-axle truck operators generate savings of about P70 per trip, mainly due to the reduced travel time.

"The savings enjoyed by truck operators is modest because the NLEX improvement allows trucks to run at speeds above optimum with the consequence of higher direct operating cost, including fuel consumption," the team explained.

The UP-Planades study was commissioned by the Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC) to determine the impact of the NLEX improvements on such factors as road user cost, road safety and land use and value changes.

Meralco acquires STAs in bid to boost service reliability

MERALCO recently signed a sub-transmission asset (STA) purchase agreement with the National Transmission Corp. (TransCo) in a bid to boost its service efficiency and reliability.

TransCo agreed to sell to Meralco its rights, titles, interests and benefits in and to the assets included in the first of two batches of the STA acquisition.

Batch one is composed of 16 facilities (two substations and 14 sub-transmission lines); based on the contract, Meralco shall pay the amount of P230,800,256.36. Meanwhile,



Meralco president & COO Jesus P. Francisco (left) and National Transmission Corporation (TransCo) president & CEO Arthur Aguilar seal the purchase agreement involving P230.8 million worth of TransCo subtransmission facilities.

the assets under the second batch, which are scheduled for acquisition in 2008 and 2009, include 13 facilities (six substations and seven sub-transmission lines).

Under Section 8 of the Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Epira), STAs shall be operated and maintained by TransCo until their disposal to qualified distribution utilities, which will take over the responsibility for operating, maintaining and expanding the assets.

Meralco and TransCo will file the contract to sell with the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) for approval. The

distribution utility's acquisition of the STAs will ensure its full control on the operation, maintenance, upgrading and expansion of the facilities. Also, Meralco will now serve five former TransCo customers connected to these facilities and eliminate further proliferation of such direct-connect customers.

This acquisition by Meralco of key sub-transmission assets is expected to further enhance the utility firm's overall sub-transmission system and translate to a more efficient and reliable service to its customers. (Meralco Corporate Communications)

Lopez Group midyear conference

OML: 'Maging laging handa'

MAGING laging handa.

Iyan ang mensahe ni Lopez Group chairman Oscar M. Lopez (OML) sa Lopez Group executives na nagpulong para sa taunang mid-year review ng performance ng mga kumpanya sa ilalim ng grupo.

Bagama't maayos ang pangkalahatang takbo ng grupo sa 2007, sinabi ni OML na dapat maging laging handa para sa anumang maaaring humadlang sa iba't ibang negosyo ng grupo, at maging masinop sa larangang pinansiyal.

"There is always the challenge to avoid complacency and to maintain a high degree of preparedness

for anything unexpected that might adversely affect our businesses. As recent events in the international financial and equity markets have demonstrated, while economic activity continues at a high level across the world, there is great anxiety that this period of plenty is a bubble about to burst. Financial prudence is still the order of the day," wika ni OML. "No big surprises"

Ayon pa sa kanya, ang performance ng major investees ng Lopez Group sa unang anim na buwan ng taon ay malapit sa inaasahan: "No big surprises, no major disappointments."

Kaya isang hamon para sa ikalawang hati ng taon na mapagpatuloy ang magandang performance at palawigin pa ang negosyo ng grupo.

Sinabi ni OML na ang mga sumusunod na bagay ang pagtutuunan ng pansin sa hinaharap: ang pagtatapos ng debt restructuring ng Benpres Holdings Corporation na nagsimula noong 2002 at ang privatization ng Calaca coal-fired plant at Palimpinon geothermal plant ng Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation (Psalm).

Joint venture sa electronics

Kabilang din umano sa kailangang pagtuunan ng pansin ang pagsisimula ng Phase 2 ng North Luzon Expressway

(NLEX) papuntang Mindanao Avenue sa Quezon City at ang mga joint venture sa electronics at electricals manufacturing sa pagitan ng manufacturing group at ng Sunpower Corporation, at ng Cooper Industries; at ang pag-deliver ng Joya Towers & Lofts sa Rockwell Center, ang pagtatayo ng One Rockwell at ng business process outsourcing (BPO) buildings sa Ortigas ng Rockwell Land Corporation.

"There is much to look forward to," sabi ni OML, kasabay ng paalala na maging handa sa anumang mga balakid na haharag sa patuloy na pag-angat ng Lopez Group. (Carla Paras-Sison)



Block 09: Urban haven with lush greenery

By Mau Silva

ROCKWELL Land Corp. infuses a breath of fresh air into the city with its newest destination featuring cafés and restaurants nestled in lush greenery.

Rockwell's Block 09 offers delicious treats from breakfast and lunch to dinner and after-dinner chill-out. Take your pick from Pancake House, Starbucks Coffee, UCC Coffee Cafe Terrace, Gram's Diner or Cantinetta.

Part of Block 09's charm is its picturesque landscape. Designed

by Rockwell together with landscape consultant Jun Obrero, the block is reminiscent of a resort where one can luxuriate, relax and enjoy.

Obrero shares that the main inspiration for Block 09's postcard-pretty tropical landscape was a nice garden in Bali. The challenge was in achieving the Balinese look using only local plants.

"Most of those that we chose for Block 09 are prized by collectors, so this is not just an ordinary garden that one sees in parks and other retail centers," Obrero notes.

Mixing the plants, and layering and integrating them for Block 09's layout was another crucial step. The team veered away from the idea that the landscape should look polished. With that guiding aesthetic principle, the result was a carefully balanced tropical garden. Many opt to dine al fresco, savoring the scenery as well as the scent of flowering plants.

See for yourself why Rockwell's Block 09 has become an urban sanctuary, a place where you can relish the lush landscape as much as your mouthwatering meal.

Meralco's TOU program seen to reduce electric bills

MERALCO launched its Bright & Right Time-of-Use (TOU) rate program following the provisional approval granted by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) in June this year.

The TOU rate is an energy pricing scheme which approximates the cost of power at different times of the day. The rates are based on the time of day electricity is produced and on the cost of supplying electricity during that time.

Qualified customers for Phase 1 of the program are industrial and nonindustrial customers with

a 12-month average peak demand of at least 750 kilowatts (KW), and residential customers with a 12-month average consumption of at least 2,000 kWh prior to the date of their application.

This special rate option gives qualified customers the opportunity to reduce their electric bill, in particular on the generation charge component, by using more electricity at the time of the day when the rates are low.

This rate scheme encourages customers to shift use of electricity from the peak periods to off-peak periods. Peak periods are hours

when the demand for electricity is high. Charges during these peak periods are higher than charges during off-peak.

Peak periods are from 8:00:01 a.m. to 9 p.m. (13 hours) on Monday to Saturday, and from 6:00:01 p.m. to 8 p.m. (2 hours) on Sunday.

Off-peak periods are from 12:00:01 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 9:00:01 p.m. to 12 midnight (11 hours) on Monday to Saturday, and from 12:00:01 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 8:00:01 p.m. to 12 midnight (22 hours) on Sunday. (*Meralco Corporate Communications*)

Adtel is an IT success story

FOR the past three years, Advanced Telecommunications (Adtel) has provided information technology support to its affiliates in Benpres Building, applying the concept of hosting computer applications.

In the accounting package called Great Plains, 12 companies are linked in one server, where individual income statement, balance sheets and other accounting packages are generated. Great Plains currently serves Benpres Holdings, Lopez Inc., First Philippine Holdings, Third Generation Holdings, Manila North Tollways Corp. (MNTC), First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp.

(FPIDC), Iloilo-Negros Air Express Co. (Inaec), Eugenio Lopez Foundation, Goldlink Security, Seacrafts, Southbend and Lopez Group Foundation Inc. (LGF1).

Adtel also provides other services, hardware and software, such as for computer backup and disaster recovery, antivirus software, and branded laptops and desktops. Another service provided to the group is the support for an enterprise to create websites. First Philec and the Lopez Lifelong Wellness program are using this website development program; employees can view the services that the Wellness program

provides in the comfort of their offices or homes.

In addition, Adtel provides a unique technology called Speech Recognition. For one to appreciate this fully, try calling the company at 910-2727. You will be interacting with a computer that will guide you through the company directory upon saying the first name, surname or nickname of the person you are calling. Adtel provides the same technology to Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s landline service called PLDT MyMusic 101-123.

Adtel now has two offices in Metro Manila and seven provincial offices. (*Ricky Linga*)

SecureMe Wireless Solutions

DIFFERENT types of closed circuit TV (CCTV) cameras and motion detectors are being developed because of the need for enforced security systems, especially in business establishments or financial institutions. Wires and optic cables connect these security devices together, and if one of these cables malfunctions, the entire system would go haywire.

Webcast Technologies Inc. (WTI), the makers of TrackMe Vehicle Tracking System, provides a solution: SecureMe.

SecureMe is a stand-alone system that may supplement and even eliminate the need for night guards or CCTV monitoring personnel. When a motion sensor is triggered,

SecureMe transmits alerts through the Global System for Mobile (GSM) via text messaging to an authorized number or to a base station software, eliminating the possibility of disabling the system by cutting transmission lines, the technology used by conventional alarm systems.

One of the country's largest pawnshop chains has SecureMe units installed in its 1,200 branches; these are configured to report to multiple parties, including a police station and security team, when a sensor is triggered. SecureMe can also provide backup power for up to 12 hours if power lines are cut or in cases of power failure.

The SecureMe system is much easier to install and it can either

replace or reinforce existing alarm systems because it is compatible with other wired sensors like motion detectors, switches and glass tamper sensors. Also, continuous development will enable it to be integrated with its own camera, which will allow users to take snapshots and monitor real-time action.

Potential buyers from the Lopez Group of companies are entitled to a corporate discount when they avail of the SecureMe package. For more information, visit www.webcast-inc.com.ph. Interested buyers may contact the sales hotline at 411-5698 loc. 111 and 112 or send an email to marketing@findme.com.ph.

SkyCable spurs cable TV rise in RP

ANALYSTS predict that Asia will continue to be a major growth area for the entertainment and media industry in the next few years, with the continued rise of entertainment consumption predicted to produce more voracious television viewers in the next five years.

The massive demand for TV entertainment, coupled with the technological advancement of the Asian region, has led to the proliferation of new media platforms. Trends show that these new media will supplement existing media such as free TV, cable TV or satellite TV.

Optimistic

SkyCable shares this optimistic outlook for the pay TV industry in the Philippines. According to AGB Nielsen NUTAM 07 survey, TV penetration rate is at almost

90% with an estimated 13.8 million households with TV sets. While cable penetration in the Philippines is at only 15%, SkyCable sees the substantial local market potential.

The first to offer Filipinos cable TV as well as tiered programming to fit niche audiences and socioeconomic segments, SkyCable continues to drive industry growth.

Recently, the company launched its latest offerings: the SkyCable DigiBox, which provides subscribers with digital TV quality and expanded control of their viewing experience, and its prepaid services.

Demand for quality content growing

"After introducing new digital technology and affordable packages, we are reevaluating our

program lineup to ensure that we provide the best content for our subscribers," said Juno Chuidian, SkyCable vice president for programming, packaging and merchandising.

Program sales in Asia have been robust, with the demand for quality content growing at a steady pace. "With the large number of new and original programming offerings of TV content providers, we are reviewing our programming mix and will soon announce exciting enhancements," said Chuidian.

SkyCable projects to post a positive bottom line this year. With the projected continued profitability, the country's largest cable provider hopes to offer its shares to the public, with a planned public offering in 2009. (*Floyd Tena*)

Bayan posts P820M net income

IN the first half of 2007, Bayan Telecommunications' total revenue grew 12% to P2.60 billion from P2.32B during the same period in 2006.

Voice revenues grew 6% to P1.57B from P1.47B in the first half. This was driven by the increase in local exchange revenues with additional subscribers from Bayan's wireless landline and the growth in international long distance revenues. Data revenues increased by 23% year-on-year (YoY) to P992 million compared to P804M during the same period last year. International leased lines revenues increased by 10% to P119M versus P108M during same period last year. Internet revenues also grew by 58% to P466M.

Bayan posted a net income of P820M, representing a 169% turnaround from the P1.19B loss posted during the same period last year. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) meanwhile dipped by 6% to P823M in the first half from P873M during the same period last year.

SkyCable Prepaid available na sa mas maraming lugar!

PATULOY ang pagbubukas ng mga bagong lugar sa Metro Manila kung saan maaari nang mag-subscribe sa SkyCable Prepaid service. Kabilang dito ang Amihan, Bagong Buhay, Project 3, Project 4, Duyan Duyan, Marilag, Claro, Escopa 1,2,4, Milagrosa, Quirino 3A/2C, Socorro, Dioquino Zobel, Tagumpay, Murphy, San Roque, Villa Ma. Clara, Masagana at Bayanihan sa Quezon City.

Sa Manila, maaaring mag-avail ng SkyCable Prepaid sa San Andres Bukid, Fabie Estate at sa Dimasalang, Algeciras, Vicente G. Cruz/Economia, M. Dela Fuente/Trabajo, Don Quijote, Dos Castillas, Maria Clara, AH Lacson/Gov. Forbes, Piy Margal, Dapitan, Asturias, Laon Laan/Nicanor Roxas, Alfonso Mendoza/Andalucia, España at Antipolo sa Sampaloc. Para mag-subscribe sa Sky-

Cable Prepaid, magbayad lamang ng refundable deposit upang ma-install ang prepaid digital box sa iyong tahanan. Bumili ng prepaid card at i-load ang mga detalye gamit ang cell-



phone. Sa loob ng ilang sandali matapos mag-load ay maaari kang manood ng mga paboritong programa sa cable.

Ang SkyCable prepaid cards ay mabibili sa dalawang klase—Silver at Select—depende sa budget o paggamit ng cable TV.

Para sa karadagang impormasyon, tumawag sa SkyCable customer service hotline number 631-0000. (*F. Tena*)

HR COUNCIL

The Lopez Group IiP journey

One small step for recognition, one giant leap for business excellence

By Jig Blanco-Yan

IN this day and age of getting things done in the fastest, simplest and most cost-efficient manner, it is not impossible to get lost in the race of improving processes and lose sight of the end goal—which is “outcomes.” Introduced in the UK in 1991, Investors in People (IiP) puts us back in perspective and tells us that while being process-oriented is critical, being results- or outcome-focused is the key in ensuring organizational alignment and capability.

Twenty-five participants from various Lopez companies recently attended an IiP Facilitators Workshop at the Astoria Plaza in Pasig City. Spearheaded by the Lopez Group Corporate HR and HR Council, the workshop was facilitated by Gerry Plana, IiP practitioner and People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) executive director.

5 IiP-certified Lopez Group companies

Through role-playing activities, the participants were able to get a feel of how it is to be an IiP facilitator and if the tables were turned, how it is to be a respondent for a company undergoing IiP certification. The highlights of the workshop were a testimonial from



Lopez Group chair Oscar M. Lopez (OML) discussed the Lopez Group's Investors in People (IiP) journey during the August 22 launch of the IiP standard in the Philippines organized by the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP). Photo shows OML with PMAP VP Ric Abadesco and British Ambassador Peter Beckingham.

Manny Canlas, general manager of First Electro Dynamics Corporation (Fedcor), and a sharing/open forum portion with Janet Webster of IiP United Kingdom.

The Philippines is the only country in Asia with a full IiP licensing agreement. Currently, of the 13 IiP-certified companies in the Philippines, five are Lopez companies: Fedcor, Philippine Electric Corporation (Philec), Asian Eye Institute (AEI), First Philippine Industrial

Corporation (FPIC) and Meralco Management and Leadership Development Center (MMLDC).

Achieving excellence

There are more companies within the group undertaking the journey toward IiP certification. But more than being a badge of recognition, being certified means that the company has achieved excellence in people management—a testimonial that the journey toward greatness can only happen through

the effective development of people.

The IiP focuses on people development and clearly connects human capital return on investment (ROI) with business results. Furthermore, it can be fully integrated into any business excellence initiative, such as ISO, Six Sigma or Baldrige, since it adopts the common concept of a “plando-review” cycle.

Challenge

At the end of the workshop, the participants agreed that the framework is a very helpful tool for organizational alignment and that its use is not limited to HR practitioners. In fact, those who came from operations attested that the IiP is applicable to the line and that part of their back-home plan is to cascade learnings to their respective CEOs/COOs for possible immediate implementation in the workplace.

The participants also recognized that getting the full support of senior leaders is critical to IiP's success and that this is part of the challenge.

As more and more Lopez companies are being IiP-certified, we are proud of the recognition, but even more proud at the fact that once again, we have taken the lead in recognizing our people—the key in achieving business excellence!

Important HR events in September

By Moje Ramos-Aquino, FPM

44th Annual Conference and Exposition of People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP), September 26 to 28, 2007, Cebu City

Ric Abadesco, FPM, PMAP vice president and conference chair, says: “People practices is the main context of this conference. As we explore the theme ‘People Deliver,’ we look into the various aspects of effective people management approaches that deliver excellent bottom line results.”

The keynote speaker will be Dr. David Spong, the chair of the board of directors for the Baldrige Foundation.

The conference will explore tradition-breaking institutional tools such as Investors in People, Balanced Scorecard, perception management and other integrating approaches to business excellence; and prospects of nation building such as corporate social responsibility (CSR), building ethical companies, business results that impact on the economy and a roadmap for national competitiveness.

These topics will be discussed by Dr. Art de Guia (EVP and group head, First Philippine Holdings Corp.), Raffy Alunan (Lopez Group Wellness czar), Bing Portugalisa (HR authority, CP Kelco), Capt. Art Gatbonton (chief learning officer, Philippine Airlines) and Dr. Poch Macaranas (adviser to Philippine presidents, Asian Institute of Management policymaker), among many notable presenters.

For more info, contact Cacay de Leon and Malou Bustos at 726-1532 or email cacay.poncedeleon@pmap.org.ph and malou.bustos@pmap.org.ph

The 2007 Summit for Globalization of Human Resources (September 28-29) and the Train-the-Trainer Boot Camp (October 1-2) with Bob Pike

The summit will feature a mix of international speakers on the topics of global mobility, leadership, talent management, innovation in HR, workplace and global learning, organizational and personal learning, human capital for global competitiveness, trends in globalization and many others.

Two Filipino speakers will be featured: Roger Collantes, regional training and development director for Citibank Asia Pacific, Global Consumer Group, and this writer.

Trainers will have the revered trainer-of-trainers Bob Pike as Boot Camp director. In 2007 Pike received the Instructional Systems Association's “Thought Leader” award for his outstanding contributions to the field. I attend Bob's sessions at the ASTD Conference every year and he has always something exciting and new to share.

For details, visit <http://www.sghr2007.tw/> or email Bronte Hsiao at hhsiao@tcfst.org.tw (moje@mydestiny.net); www.learningandinnovation.com; www.paradigmsandparadoxes.ronjie.com

PR CHALLENGE

14th national PR confab slated

By Ritzi Villarico Ronquillo, APR

THE 14th National Public Relations Congress of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) called “PRrogressive!” will be held at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City, from September 26 to 28, 2007.

The congress brings together hundreds of PR professionals, experts and advocates from business and industry, government, nonprofit organizations, hospitals, schools, hotels and professional services who represent various industries and sectors.

PRSP is also celebrating its 50th year and will honor the founders and pillars of the organization and profession, salute the practitioners of today and look forward to its responsible practice in the future. The theme this year is thus called “Heritage. Relationships. Stewardship!”

Explore revolutionary possibilities in the practice of PR to make it more dynamic and strategic for the businesses and organizations you represent. Meet colleagues and enlarge your network and PR contacts. Hear firsthand about the latest in our profession and make your presence felt!

PRSP is the country's premier organization for the public relations professionals. The Society's 50th anniversary celebration is sponsored by Globe Telecom Inc., GMA Network Inc., Landbank, Meralco, National Power Corporation, Philip Morris, Pagcor, San Miguel Corporation, Shell Exploration Philippines B.V., United Laboratories Inc.

The media partners for the event include Business Mirror, BusinessWorld, the Journal Group of Publications, Manila Bulletin, Manila Standard Today, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Philippine Star. Early bird registrants can avail of the special rate (P7,000 for the three-day congress) until Aug. 31. For details and registration, call 638-0010 and 638-0012 or email prcongress@prsp.ph or log on to www.prsp.ph.

LAA CORNER



Systems loss management avoids P1B potential loss

LOPEZLINK pays tribute to the 2006 Lopez Achievement Award winners by featuring their story in our LAA Corner. Taking center stage this month is the Meralco Systems Loss Management Team, which won in the Operations Management category.

Systems loss, which represents the unrecoverable purchased power cost beyond the allowable system loss cap of 9.5% imposed on distribution utilities, has had immense impact on Meralco's financials.

In 2004, the system loss level reached almost P2 billion; it was the seventh consecutive year that Meralco was penalized for not meeting the mandated systems loss cap. Thus, Meralco chairman and CEO Manuel M. Lopez (MML) put systems loss on top of the company's priorities in 2005.

Task force

MML formed a task force headed by then senior vice president Ricardo V. Buencamino. The task force laid down the basic infrastructure for a Systems Loss Management Program and led in its strict implementation. MML himself indicated management's



The Systems Loss Management Team receives the LAA for lowering Meralco's systems loss and saving the company an estimated P1 billion.

full backing of the program, regularly visiting offices and spurring employees to help in shaving the system loss level.

What made the process of reducing systems loss more daunting was that resources then were severely limited to meet the targets for 2005 and 2006. However, the program exceeded targets at a cost of P394 million for the 12-month period ending October 2006, and P498M for the 12-month period ending October 2005.

Improvements

The program's success was partly hinged on the display of strong work ethic and teamwork by personnel who apprehended pilferers amidst great hazards. Mastery of new knowledge and skills was another important factor. Chief among these was the development of a model that could monitor daily consumption and billing adjustments and translate these to expected accounting figures.

The institutionalization of systems loss improvements in 2005, the efforts in finding solutions to correct gaps in the electric distribution and customer service processes were the main drivers for the further improvement of Meralco's system loss in 2006. These resulted in the reduction of systems loss levels for the 12 months ending October 2006 from 10.95% in 2005 to 10.28%.

Avoided cost

The 0.67 percentage point-improvement was equal to a 190 GWh-reduction in required bulk energy purchases. The avoided cost is worth P1B, which increased the firm's net income by the same amount for the same period.

Baldrige calendar

Category 6 Process Management
Sept. 5, 2007

Lowering Meralco's Systems Loss
By the Meralco Systems Loss Management Team
4/F Boardroom, Benpres Bldg.

Category 5 Human Resource Focus
Sept. 19, 2007

Special topic: To be announced



'Margarita': Dramang papawi sa uhaw ng pamilya

Ang "Margarita" ay isang family-oriented drama na nagsasalaysay ng mga pinagdaraan ng isang babaeng may wagas na pagmamahal sa kanyang pamilya kung kaya napilitan siyang maghanap-buhay para sa mga ito. Tampok sa "Margarita" sina "Pinoy Big Brother" (PBB) Season 2 Third Big Placer Wendy Valdez, Bruce Quebral at Diether Ocampo. Si Valdez ang gumaganap bilang Margarita, habang si Quebral naman ang matalik na kaibigan nito na may lihim na pagtingin sa kanya. Si Ocampo ang lalaking bibihag sa puso ng dalaga. Kasama rin sa proyektong ito sina Rio Loesin, Dick Israel, Noni Buencamino, Dexter Doria, John Manalo, Sharlene San Pedro at Keanna Reeves. Abangan si Margarita tuwing gabi bago ang "TV Patrol World"! (*Kathy Solis*)



Si Kokey nag-landing na sa Primetime Bida!

Maagang naulila, lumikha ang batang si Bong sa kanyang isipan ng mundo kung saan may nagmamahal sa kanya. Subalit magbabago ang buhay niya sa pagbagsak ng isang spaceship malapit sa bahay-ampunan na lulan ang bibong alien na si Kokey. Makakasama ni Kokey para magbigay-sigla sa ating mga gabi sina Ruffa Gutierrez, Nova Villa, Boots Anson Roa, Redford White, Eugene Domingo, Mylene Dizon, Ryan Eigenmann, Zanjo Marudo at Megan Young. Ipinakilala rin sina Rhap Salazar, Julia Barretto at ang "Little Big Superstar" Season 2 second placer na si Joshua Cadelina bilang si Bong, ang batang makakasama ni Kokey sa kanyang paglalakbay sa ating planeta. Makipagkaibigan kay Kokey tuwing gabi pagkatapos ng "TV Patrol World" sa ABS-CBN Primetime Bida. (*K. Solis*)



Incredible Kyle

After coming out of the woods and found walking into traffic, Kyle is sent to a youth detention center. Psychologist Nicole Trager brings him home to her family for a closer watch. But even as he settles in with the Tragers, some questions remain: Who is Kyle? Why doesn't he have a belly button? Why can't he remember anything from his past? And who is the suspicious man following him around? From the producers of "Final Destination 2" and "Butterfly Effect" comes this new incredible mystery about the surprising journey of Kyle, a 16-year-old teenage savant who is missing instinctive human behavior such as anger, joy and love, and the family who found him. Catch "Kyle XY" on Studio 23 every Wednesday, from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. (*Kane Choa*)

'Bandila' pasok sa int'l Emmy Awards

KINILALA ng International Emmy Awards ang tatlong programa ng ABS-CBN sa news category at drama series category ngayong taon.

Nominado ang programang "Bandila" sa news category. Ito ang unang pagkakataon na nakapasok ang isang newscast ng Pilipinas sa prestihiyosong parangal.

Ang "Bandila" ay napili sa paghahatid nito ng ulat tungkol sa promulgation ng Subic rape case. Dumaan ito sa tatlong rounds ng judging at 500 judges mula sa 35 na bansa.

Makakatunggali nito ang mga entry mula sa UK (Channel 4 News), Brazil (Globo TV) at Romania (Pro

TV) base na rin sa opisyal na listahan inilabas ng International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, ang lupong tagapamahala at tagasuri ng mga mananalo.

Ang "Bandila" ay pinangungunahan ng mga batikang anchors na sina Korina Sanchez, Ces Drilon at Henry Omega Diaz na may higit 20 na karanasan sa pamamahayag.

Naging semifinalist naman ang "TV Patrol World" nina Ted Failon, Karen Davila at Julius Babao sa news category.

Ang teleserye na tampok sina Judy Ann Santos at Piolo Pascual, "Sa Pilling Mo," ay semifinalist sa drama

series category.

Ayon sa vice president for corporate communications ng ABS-CBN na si Bong Osorio, ang naturang pagkilala ay isang patunay na patuloy na naghahatid ang Kapamilya network ng mga de-kalidad na programa para sa mga manonood.

"Karangalan talaga sa bawat isa sa atin na kilalanin tayo bilang isa sa pinakamagaling sa mundo," sabi ni Osorio.

Malalaman kung papalaring magwagi ang "Bandila" sa Septyembre 24 sa awards night na magaganap sa Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers sa New York City.



Korina Sanchez

DZMM, nanguna sa survey ng AM radio stations; Failon at Sanchez, rumaratsada

DZMM Radyo Patrol Sais Trenta pa rin ang nangungunang AM radio station sa Mega Manila base sa pinakahuling resulta ng AC Nielsen Media Research Survey.

Sa ikalawang quarter ng taon, nakapagtala ang DZMM ng 7.1% na audience share sa Mega Manila, na sumasakop sa buong Metro Manila at mga kalapit na probinsya sa Central Luzon at Southern Tagalog.

Sinabi ni ABS-CBN VP for Manila Radio Division Peter Musngi na naging maganda ang resulta ng survey dahil patuloy na nangunguna ang mga Radyo Patrol reporters sa paghahatid ng mahahalagang balita, at dahil sa balanced programming at mga makabagong pamamaraang simulan ng mga programang tulad ng "Tambalang Failon at Sanchez."



Isa sa mga konseptong ipinakilala nina Ted Failon at Korina Sanchez ang pangagaya ng mga sikat na personalidad o ang paglikha ng mga makulay na karakter. Ilan sa mga kilalang karakter ni Failon ay sina Abraham, Marco, Roger at Don Facundo. Samantala, sina Barbara, Isabel, Corazon, Lola Ising at Nemfa naman ang ilan sa mga pinasikat ni Sanchez.

"DZMM is the new AM station and it is changing the landscape of

AM radio programming. We use a lot of production techniques in our talk show, like dramatization, sound effects and music. Mas maraming tunog, mas maganda," paliwanag ni Failon.

Bukod sa "Tambalang Failon at Sanchez," kabilang sa mga pangumagang programa ng DZMM ang "Todo Balita" ni Neil Ocampo at ang "Dos por Dos" nina Anthony Taberna at Gerry Baja. (*K. Choa*)



Gee-Ann Abrahan

'PBB 2' love triangle umaariba sa 'Lovespell'!

In a handog ng "Love Spell" ang tatlo sa pinakapaboritong housemates ng "Pinoy Big Brother" Season 2 — sina Gee-ann Abrahan,



Mickey Perz

Mickey Perz at Bodie Cruz.

Gagampanan nina Abrahan at Perz ang papel nina Nina at Carlo, dance partners at magkaibigan mula pagkabata. Pareho nilang inasam na maging magaling na mananayaw subalit naaksidente at nalumpo si Carlo samantalang si Nina ay naging backup dancer ng isang sikat na dancing pair.

Isa sa kanila ay si Dominic (Cruz) na napipilitan lang mag-artista dahil sa kanyang mga magulang. Magbabago ang takbo ng buhay ng tatlo nang makakita si Nina ng isang bulalakaw na magbibigay sa kanya ng kakaibang kapangyarihan. May lihim na pagtingin si Nina kay Carlo kaya gagamitin niya ang kanyang kapangyarihan para matulungan ang kaibigan matupad ang kanyang pangarap. Ito na kaya ang maging daan para ibigin ni Carlo si Nina?

Tunghayan ang unang episode ng "Love Spell: Bumalaka, Bulalakaw Boom!" sa bago nitong oras, 11 ng umaga pagkatapos ng "Princess Hours." (*K. Solis*)

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Timeline: The genesis of the La Mesa controversy

1968

Metropolitan Water District (later the National Waterworks and Sewerage Authority or NWSA, presently the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System or MWSS) enters into a collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with their labor unions, Kaisahan at Kapatiran ng mga Manggagawa at Kawani sa NWSA (KKMK-NWSA) and Balara Employees and Laborers Association (BELA). Under the CBA, the MWSS will provide a 58-hectare tract of land for housing for 1,411 rank and file workers.

NWSA identifies the site for the project at an area located downstream from the water reservoir (dam) and outside the forested portion of the 2,700-hectare La Mesa Reservation/Watershed area.

1971

KKMK files a case in court because of NWSA's failure to issue a deed of absolute sale over the 58 hectares.

1975

The Supreme Court rules that NWSA must execute the required deed of sale in favor of its workers/awardees.

1976

Then President Ferdinand Marcos issues Letter of Intent (LOI) 440 mandating the transfer of the land, and builds a filtration plant now known as the Maynilad Filtration Plant.

1989

NWSA orders the housing site to be relocated upstream of the water reservoir to where it is now located—adjacent to Quirino Highway and in the boundary of Quezon City and Caloocan. Another resolution provides an additional hectare for "road widening."

1993

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources-National Capital Region (DENR-NCR) warns that the "implementation of the... housing project would have a considerable impact on the environment."

The Department of Justice-Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (DOJ-OGCC) states that "should the findings... be adverse to the awardees, then MWSS may have to possibly relocate its housing project."

1998

DENR-NCR, in a letter to Genaro Bautista, representative of the awardees of the MWSS housing project, states that the awardees or their recognized association should obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) from the DENR.



1999

ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. (AFI), through its Bantay Kalikasan program, offers to assist and contribute in the forest rehabilitation development and the protection of the La Mesa Reservation/Watershed area, including the 33-hectare La Mesa Park located downstream from the reservoir.

2001

A 15-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) is signed between AFI and MWSS granting AFI full project management status over the "reforestation, species reintroduction and biodiversity programs over the entire 2,700-hectare La Mesa Reservation/Watershed area." The MOU specifies that the following areas would not be included: the MWSS treatment plant, staff house and the MWSS housing project (KKMK).

2003

In a letter to administrator Orlando Honrade, AFI says it has no objection to the construction of the KKMK housing units, as long as environmental mitigating measures are put in place.

MWSS commissions the University of the Philippines-National Hydraulic Research Center (UP-NHRC) to determine mitigation measures to address the impact of the housing project on the water quantity and quality of La Mesa Watershed and Reservoir.

2004

The UP-NHRC's final recommendation is that "it will be in the best interest of MWSS and the general public who... utilize for drinking the water in the La Mesa Reservoir that the 58 hectares of the La Mesa Watershed area... shall remain a protected watershed area and not be converted to a housing project area."

2005

DOJ, in a letter to the MWSS administrator, requests the implementation of the SC decision on the MWSS housing project "by executing a deed of absolute sale in favor of the 1,411 awardees..."

MWSS administrator Hondrade writes then DENR Sec. Michael Defensor echoing the concerns and recommendation of the UP-NHRC."

2006

The deed of absolute sale is executed in favor of the claimants/awardees, which states that they need to secure an ECC... and that an alternative site for the housing project will be provided... should they be denied the ECC.

Rep. Edcel Lagman remits, in behalf of the claimants/awardees, P3.091 million to MWSS as payment for the land. Previous down payments amounting to P98,600 are deducted from the original purchase price of P3.190M (or P5.50 per square meter).

The AFI managing director writes a formal letter to then DENR Sec. Angelo Reyes asserting their opposition to the issuance of an ECC over the establishment of the proposed KKMK housing units.

2007

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo announces the proclamation of La Mesa Water Reservoir as a protected watershed subject to private rights.



Clockwise from top: La Mesa Dam is the primary source of potable water for Metro Manila; Over 40,000 volunteers have worked to rehabilitate the La Mesa Watershed in partnership with Bantay Kalikasan; Opened in 2004, at the heart of the watershed is La Mesa Eco Park which provides an engaging outdoors for biking, picnics and boating; AFI's Gina Lopez with Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte; and Unilever's support to the preservation of La Mesa.

Saving La Mesa from page 1

recalled that La Mesa was in a sorry state when the AFI took in hand its rehabilitation almost a decade ago. "...The forest surrounding the dam was already 50% gone because settlers had not only cut down the trees for lumber but also brought in animals—horses, carabaos, cows and goats—that feasted on the vegetation. And, at 2,000 hectares, authorities had a hard time policing the area," Pardo said.

Save La Mesa Watershed project manager Marlo Mendoza said BK originally targeted only 25 hectares to plant trees but decided to cover the entire watershed area despite "unfriendly" encounters with some of the 2,500 informal settlers.

"There was *kaingin* or uncontrolled burning for farming, erosion, encroachment... We knew that if we leave the seedlings, *mamatay lang* or *kakainin ng* farm animals. We had to buy seedlings *pa naman*. The foundation bankrolled it, and the people who have visited the watershed, having appreciated nature, have donated," Mendoza said.

The situation alarmed AFI managing director Gina Lopez, "who subsequently started the Save the La Mesa Watershed project. The endeavor's initial phase involved reforesting and replanting the area through 'Adopt a Hectare' and 'Adopt a Tree' programs. Later, it was decided that the park be redeveloped and refurbished because it was the 'money generating unit' of the project. The entrance and rental fees paid by visitors

to La Mesa Eco Park go back into the Save the La Mesa Watershed project."

With the help of the Quezon City government and the MWSS, Bantay Kalikasan formed a multi-sectoral task force that compensated or relocated the settlers, of which only 40 households are now left.

Generous souls to the rescue

Through the settlers' removal, BK has managed to cover 98% of the area with trees and save endemic animal and plant species.

Pardo said the master plan for the park's rehabilitation is being carried out on a staggered basis since the AFI relies mainly on corporate and individual donations and sponsorships. Thankfully, many generous souls came to the rescue of the park.

These include Pilipinas Shell and its Flower Terrace, now one of the eco park's most famous attractions; former Senator Franklin Drilon who donated his late wife's collection of rare orchids; water utility firms Maynilad and Manila Water Co. Inc.; Unilever; San Miguel Corp.; Rotary Clubs; Ifugao artisans who worked on an open-air amphitheater patterned after the Banaue rice terraces; and oil giant Petron, which funded the Petron Amphitheater and the fitness trail.

Other major sponsors include HSBC, Aboitiz, the Lopez Group of companies, senators Pia Cayetano, Kiko Pangilinan and Loren Legarda, TransCo, ABN-AMRO, Universal Motors, Department of Tourism Sec. Ace Durano, the Japan Embassy, AusAid and the UNDP-Global Environment Facility (GEF).

Preserving La Mesa becomes even more imperative in the face of what has come to be

known as global warming. No part of the world, including those located in the tropics like ours, is safe from water shortages.

A United Nations (UN) report released in April this year said that "water availability in Central, South, East and Southeast Asia, particularly in large river basins, is projected to decrease due to climate change."

5 million signatures

The report said the resulting water shortages will cause species to become extinct, water shortages to spread, and floods to recur.

All regions from Africa to Asia will suffer from the adverse effects of climate change, with more people in Asia expected to face water shortages less freshwater by the 2050s, UN experts.

The same report said that the consequences such as land degradation, pollution and over-exploitation of resources could make the situation even worse.

Meanwhile, many farmers in the highlands of Luzon lost millions of dollars due to dehydrated land. Millions of people no better as some cities have experienced water rationing, which provoked a wave of troublesome activity, especially among students, businessmen, students and residents.

The Save La Mesa Coalition believes that we already have the technology to do something that can lessen the impact of global warming—though we need to understand better how to protect our water. We will do our best to ensure that enough will do so.

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

By Carla-Paras Sison

ADVERTISING icon Emily Abrera, who became a member of the ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation board of directors in 2005, has recently gotten involved in a most controversial issue: the move to stop a housing project on Court-awarded property upstream of the La Mesa Watershed.

She says she joined what is now known as the La Mesa Coalition in her private capacity.

"I joined it because I personally agree with the issue. It is not because I am on the board of ABS-CBN. The protection of the environment should be something that concerns us all. The protection and development of our watershed areas, in particular, is an urgent measure that we must address. Clean drinking water is the sort of thing we take for granted until it is endangered, and usually by then, it's too late to do anything."

Abrera joined the Coalition after ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. (AFI) managing

director Gina Lopez shared the results of a University of the Philippines (UP) study showing that any housing project located upstream, or above the main body of water, would endanger the safety of the water in the dam. The study was presented in a meeting among environmentalists and concerned citizens. Abrera was hooked.

"Anyone who sits through that presentation can see that it's a valid and urgent concern. We can't plead ignorance because the study was made and it clearly says that if a housing project goes up in that area, there are no mitigating measures that can be taken for ground contamination—so, knowing what we know, how can we just stand by and let it happen? It's unthinkable," she says.

But the challenge is daunting. MWSS (Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System) employees have legal right over the land appropriated for their housing, as recognized by the Supreme Court.

"We are talking about two very sensitive issues here: the need to ensure that Metro

Manila's 12 million people have clean drinking water and the rights of former settlers to their housing. Clearly, there can be no mutually exclusive interests.

While she believes that the million residents of Metro Manila have precedence over a small group of a few, she also knows that the public interest is all.

"We need to be clear about the issue. The issues are not just about you get right down to the basic issue of the housing project. It's about the public interest. With the coalition, we are protecting La Mesa from potentially polluting the environment. She is not just a desire to safeguard the environment for the next generation will inherit it."

"We must increase the public about the



Save the La Mesa Coalition members



planted trees at La Mesa which offers the public the ever's Chito Macapagal

No country in the world is more affected in the tropics by water shortage.

A report released last week says that the world's freshwater availability is declining. The Southeast Asian region, which has the most water basins, is promoting climate change.

Changing conditions are making the world's water supply more scarce. Droughts and floods are becoming more frequent.

From the Pacific to the Atlantic, the effects of climate change are being felt. In the Philippines, the effects of climate change are being felt in the form of droughts and floods.

That man-made climate change, pollution of resources and the depletion of resources are making the situation worse.

Members in different parts of the country are working to protect the environment. In Metro Manila, the effects of climate change are being felt in the form of droughts and floods.

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In late 2006, the group led efforts to collect five million signatures for a petition aimed at leaving the watershed untouched.

'Protected area'

"At least five million people have demanded that the area be protected. That has to mean something—and it is that people actually want a clean environment," BK's Mendoza said.

But even with the signature drive a success, the campaign to minimize human activities in the area other than nature appreciation still has a long way to go.

Recently, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo declared the watershed a "protected area subject to private rights," relating the Save La Mesa Project groups.

However, when Gina Lopez asked Pres. Arroyo what she meant, the president referred to the MWSS housing project.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) had told the MWSS in a letter that the housing project's implementation would have a "considerable impact" on the environment." It also required awardees of the project to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC).

Dismayed

In 2001, MWSS issued a board resolution on the execution of conditional deeds of sale in favor of the qualified claimants/awardees.

Pres. Arroyo promised to have Albay Rep. Edel Lagman, who represents the claimants, place measures to mitigate the housing project's effect on the La Mesa environment, but the preservation groups were already dismayed.

Citing a study by the University of the Philippines-National Hydraulic Research Center (UP-NHRC) on the seepage of liquids from trash, they countered that "there is no mitigating measure for ground water contamination, no engineering measure that can be implemented that will prevent seepage into ground levels."

"What will they do, put guards to make sure they don't throw garbage? Even if they put a fence, the houses will be 24 meters higher than the lake," Mendoza said.

In addition, putting in place measures and infrastructures for floodwater and wastage treatment will cost about P100 million, plus an additional P8 million annually to maintain and operate such. It remains unclear just who will shoulder these financial burdens.

'If we cannot win this war...'

"Sana hindi na lang niya (Arroyo) dineclare na protected area...It sends a bad signal. She shows that government doesn't put much effort sa environment," Mendoza lamented.

He said that problems in other "protected areas" in the country stem from such moves. "Nagpaalis na kami ng 2,500 informal settlers and now 1,114 will be coming in (through the housing project). How will that look like? Inconsistent *iyon*."

"This should have been a model. If we cannot win this war, how can we replicate it? *Laging* may exception," Mendoza said.

Professor Leonardo Liongson, director of UP-NHRC, told MWSS administrator Orlando Hondrade in a letter that "it will be in the best interest of MWSS and the general public who eventually utilize for drink-

ing the water in La Mesa Reservoir that the 58 hectares being proposed for the housing project shall remain protected."

Impetus should be on preservation

The Save La Mesa project is currently in negotiations with Rep. Lagman, and MWSS is helping to nudge talks forward by offering a better site for the people in Antipolo. But if the talks do not work, its member-groups plan to file a class suit against MWSS and Rep. Lagman.

Another course of action is to file a criminal case against Rep. Lagman for representing the people and getting a contract for them, printed in his letterhead.

An administrative case versus Rep. Lagman to the House Ethics Committee and a petition for the DENR not to grant an ECC for the housing project are also in the cards.

"This is not just for us but for the future generation as well. If La Mesa cannot be protected from human settlements, how can we ensure that the other protected areas in our country will really be protected? Even the people trying to get control of the land will be affected when our drinking water is contaminated. The good of the many should prevail here," Mendoza said.

"The point is that in terms of the watershed use, the impetus should be on preservation, leaving it untouched. What we can use is the water, we can appreciate nature, with no waste seepage, no cutting, no hunting, no plant gathering. If we cannot do that, it defeats all our efforts and defeats the purpose of declaring it a protected area." (RTO)

guarding our forests and watersheds so that our children and their offspring will have safe drinking water in the years to come! I have seven grandchildren—I want them and their families to live healthy lives."

As a passionate advocate of healthy environments and of social responsibility, among many other causes, Abrera believes in doing her part, no matter how small it seems. She cites the five million people who signed the coalition's petition in support of healthy drinking water.

"There is so much we can do to show our love and respect for nature, every little bit counts."

Emily Abrera:
'Clean water for our grandchildren'

Save La Mesa Coalition's Emily Abrera is "Nonna" to granddaughters Sophie, Sabine and Antonella



Company/Organization	Name
Regina Paz Lopez	AFI managing director
Emily Abrera	Coalition chairperson
AMDG Motorcycle Group	Nilo Vergara, president
Architecture Network	Chrioni Gonzalez
Artist for Nature Sake	Melvin Calderon
Assumption College	Jon Lingatong
San Lorenzo	
Bansang Marangal	Edgar Maranan, chair
BMW Owners Society of Safe Riders	Joseph Tan, president
Caloocan City	Mayor Enrico Echiverri
Caritas Manila Inc.	Choy Gagala, Technical Services-Devcom/Advocacy
Catholic Women's League-Obando, Bulacan	Gladys Garcia
Center for Social Involvement-Assumption	Karen Baldemoro
Concerned Citizens Against Pollution	Bebet Gozun, chair
Conservation International	Romeo Trono, country director
Couples for Christ-Oikos Society	Roland Nillas
DES Makati	Danilo Villas
Earth Saver's Movement	Roger
Fatima University	Remigia Nathanielsz
Federation of FilChinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry	John K. Tan, president
Far Eastern University	Dr. Marcon Espino
Firefly Brigade	Jack Yabut, president
First Philippines Conservation	Atty. Jun Quicho
Greenpeace International	Von Hernandez, director
Haribon	Anabelle Plantilla
Kabalikat Civicom Makati	Agustin Gregorio
Kabalikat Civicom Makati	Raynante Besmonte
WWF-Philippines	Jose Maria Lorenzo Tan, president
Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP)	Butch Canoy, president
Life Long Initiatives for the Formation of the Ecosystems (LIFE Inc.)	Arnel Caranto
Manila City	Mayor Alfredo Lim
Marikina City	Mayor Marides Fernando
Miriam Public Education Awareness Campaign for the Environment (PEACE)	Dir. Donna Paz Reyes, executive director
Mother Earth Philippines	Odetta B. Alcantara, convenor
National Youth Commission	Angelie Costelo, representative
Nestor S. Mangio Architects	Bryan John Mangio
People's Journal	Dulce Reyes
Phil. Hotel Federation Inc.	Nicole Morris, president
Philippine Nurses Association	Dr. Leah Primitiva Samaco-Paquiz, president
Poblador Law Office	Atty. Luis Martin Clemente
QC Environmental Protection and Waste Management Dept.	Frederika Rentoy, chief
Senate	Sen. Jamby Madrigal Sen. Pia Cayetano Sen. Serge Osmeña
SMC-Polo Brewery	Jose Manuel Alba
Tanggol Kalikasan	Atty. Asis Perez, executive dir.
United Architects of the Philippines	Marcos de Guzman Jr.
UP Alpha Phi Beta Fraternity	Jo Tugas
UP College of Engineering	Prof. Leony Liongson
UP Law Center	Atty. Harry Roque
World Vision Development Foundation	Dominique Tabora

ABS-CBN Foundation Inc.-Bantay Kalikasan

Marlo Mendoza, acting program director

Gerry Ortega, deputy program director

Tel. no.: 924-4101 local 4551

Telefax: 410-9670

Email: marlobk@yahoo.com

CSR ACTIVITIES

Kch updates



Tie-up with Philip Morris

Knowledge Channel Foundation Inc.'s Rina Lopez Bautista and Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. (PMPMI) managing director Christopher Nelson recently signed a memorandum of agreement for the educational project "Proficient Measures for Quality Education." The project provides 62 schools nationwide with access to the Knowledge Channel and Department of Education-required textbooks in math and science for all elementary grade levels. Philip Morris International is providing funding of \$ 497,482 for the project. Also in photo are PMPMI community relations and local regulatory affairs manager Atty. Amy Eisma and KCFI donor manager Risa Muñoz, who worked together to implement the project.

Rina is Outstanding DLSU leader

KCFI president Rina Lopez-Bautista was the keynote speaker during the Gawad Mag-aaral 2007 at De La Salle University (DLSU), Manila. The event aims to recognize all outstanding student leaders, brothers and alumni who have made an impact on the history of De La Salle University. Now on its 24th year, the Gawad Mag-aaral 2007 had the theme "Communion in Mission and Mission in Communion." In her speech, La Salle alumni Lopez-Bautista shared her inspiration and experiences in her mission in making education a means of building communities and the nation through Knowledge Channel. The KCFI founder and president challenged her fellow Lasallians: "Open your hearts and eyes to what we can do to alleviate the plight of the majority of our people."



Am-Phil support

Am-Phil Food Concepts Inc., owners of Chilli's Bar & Restaurant, donated a check amounting to P50,000 to KCFI at Chilli's Greenhills branch. The board of trustees, Rob Epes, Luigi Vera, Ricky Young and director for operations Art Latinazo extended their financial support to Knowledge Channel and its mission to bring quality education to poor students in public schools nationwide.

United Pulp and Paper donation

United Pulp and Paper Co. (UPPC) Inc. gave to KCFI a check donation which was raised through the joint efforts of UPPC, its customers and suppliers during their "Bowling for a Cause" event in July. UPPC's corporate social responsibility (CSR) goal is to support quality education and impart essential knowledge to the children in need. The beneficiary is a public school in Calumpit, Bulacan.

Training on disaster relief operations held

HEAVY rains and waist-high floods did not prevent participants from attending the Corporate Network for Disaster Response (CNDR) disaster management training held at the Bank of the Philippines (BPI) head office and the Meralco Lighthouse, respectively, on August 8 and 15, 2007.

Chris Yap of Meralco Millennium Foundation Inc. (MMFI) welcomed participants to the event. The two-day disaster relief training tackled the human rights aspect of disaster victims, the importance of getting their consensus on their needs, the proper way of handling donations for relief purposes, the processes necessary in handling relief operations, as well as the kind of relief goods to be distributed.

The training also discussed The Sphere Project on disaster management, which involves 800 people, 225 organizations and 60 countries.

The participants included CNDR members from the Lopez Group Foundation Inc. (LGFI) represented by Dulce Festin-Baybay, Petron Foundation, Shell Foundation, BPI Foundation, Chevron, Philippine Business for Social



Disaster management training participants Dulce Festin-Baybay of LGFI, representatives from Petron Foundation, Shell Foundation, BPI Foundation, Chevron, PBSP, AFI and trainers from CNDR with Chris Yap of MMFI, who delivered the welcome remarks. (Photo by Dianah Barbo/Meralco)

Progress (PBSP), Mabuhay Vinyl, ABS-CBN Foundation Inc. (AFI) and trainers from CNDR, among others.

LGFI later distributed CDs of the two-day training to member companies involved in disaster relief operations. (Dulce Festin-Baybay)

Help clean up Bay Walk/Mall of Asia seawall on Sept. 15

EACH year, some 350,000 people worldwide invest a precious day of their time to clean the coasts, rivers and lakes in their local communities. Today, the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) is the single largest one-day cleanup event in the nation, if not the world.

The ICC engages people to remove trash and debris from the world's beaches and waterways, to identify the sources of debris and to change the behaviors that cause pollution.

In 2006, 358,617 volunteers pitched in to help clean 34,560 miles of shoreline of some seven million pounds of trash. That's an average of over 19 pounds per person.

Mission to conserve biodiversity

The Philippine participation in the ICC began in 1994 through the initiative of the International Marinelife Alliance (IMA), a nonprofit, nongovernment organization whose mission is to conserve marine biodiversity, protect marine habitats and to promote responsible

use of living aquatic resources for the benefit of the local communities.

The first coastal cleanup in 1994 was held in Puerto Princesa City, El Nido and Coron in Palawan, Tacloban City in Leyte, Bacolod City in Negros Oriental and Anilao Bay in Mabini, Batangas. With only 3,080 volunteers, they were able to cover 76 kilometers of coastlines and underwater areas and collected 8,459 kilos of marine debris.

In 1995, the number of volunteers increased to 7,928 with 52.8 miles (85 km.) cleaned and in 1996, volunteers totaled 50,000 and cleaned 308.2 miles (496 km.) of coastline. In 1997, the Philippines ranked second to the US by mobilizing 75,000 people over 1,000 km. (621.37 mi) of coastline. Approximately, 500,000 kg. of marine garbage were collected.

14 out of 15 regions

The rise in 1998 in terms of volunteers has gained distinction for the Philippines as No. 1

in the world (Figure 2). For the first time, the coastal cleanup had expanded to 14 out of 15 regions, with the exception of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). IMA mobilized a record-setting participation of 296,437 volunteers who covered 3,366 km (2,091.5 mi) of coastal areas and collected about 900,000 kg. of marine debris.

The goal of ICC is not merely to increase participation or to remove trash from the shore. The ultimate goal is to trace this marine pollution problem to its source, and work for a solution to stop it from occurring.

Sign up and participate in this year's cleanup at the Bay Walk or Mall of Asia seawall on Sept. 15. In Batangas, Governor Vilma Santos-Recto will lead the ICC.

For more information, contact Gerry Reyes of First Philippine Conservation Inc. (FPCI) at tel. nos. 638-7670 or 449-6087; fax no. 631-4086; or mobile no. (0917) 641-1746. Join now!

MMLDC is 'great @8'

Meralco Management and Leadership Development Center (MMLDC) marks its eighth year of being "great" through its "Great@8" promo for groups, families and companies.

"Great@8" is our way of saying 'thank you' to everyone who supported MMLDC and enjoyed the facilities in the center," said managing director Agnes Fidelino.

As part of the promo, MMLDC is offering a 40% discount on function room rental and room accommodation from Sunday to Wednesday. This is especially geared for big groups out for a teambuilding or seminar.

For those who avail of the "Power Meeting" packages from Monday to Sunday, MMLDC is offering plated meals at P788/pax inclusive of function room use. It includes two snacks, one lunch, and use of a

function room with PC and LCD—a budget-friendly package that is best for sales meetings, planning sessions or conferences.

Groups can enjoy videoke fun with the "Beer Bucket" promo at the Areva Pavilion from Monday to Wednesday with no minimum consumable charge on drinks and cocktails. The promo allows guests to avail of eight bottles of beer (7+1) for P288 plus free pulutan.

"This is the best season to visit MMLDC, enjoy its facilities, savor the food and indulge



in bonding with friends, family or office-mates and coworkers," Fidelino said.

The "Great @ 8" promo is ongoing until Sept. 30. For more information, please call 632-8111 or visit www.mmldc.org. MMLDC is located at Km. 27, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City.

Ongoing@Lopez Museum



'In Conversation: Tad Ermitaño and Dr. Tilman Baumgärtel'

September 1, 2007 (2 p.m.-4 p.m.)
Fee: P120

IS crossing over among media platforms possible? How exactly does the crossing over occur? "In Conversation: Tad Ermitaño and Dr. Tilman Baumgärtel" on September 1, 2007, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. at the Lopez Museum will discuss these.

Taking off from Ermitaño's "Eisenstein's Monster," the discussion will go into media art, works relevant to the aforementioned work, single channel ex-



Artists Tad Ermitaño (far left) and Dr. Tilman Baumgärtel and will lead the exciting discussion on media art organized by the Lopez Museum

perimental films that led the artist to using sensors and computers in installations such as /mutation, (pronounced as "permutation"), the self-editing video, and Shift Register, which melts the image of the viewer's face.

Ermitaño is a sound designer who trained in film and video at the Mowelfund Film Institute and produces video for projection in a variety of stage/concert contexts. He was the sole Filipino artist selected to exhibit at the Ogaki Biennale 2006 New Media Festival and has screened his short films at international film fests, including the Hong Kong International Film Festival and the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival.

Dr. Baumgärtel teaches at the College of Mass Communications at the University of the Philippines. He was a founding member of mikro e.V, an organization for media culture in Berlin, and cofounder of rohrpost, a German-language mailing list for digital culture. He has curated a number of exhibitions focusing on media art.

The talk complements the exhibition "Dime a Dozen" ongoing until September 22 at the museum.

The Lopez Memorial Museum is at the ground floor, Benpres Building, Exchange Road corner Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. Museum days and hours are Monday-Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, call 631-2417 or email pezseum@skynet.net.

'Obra Maestra Mamera: Gloryhole/Blackhole' with Yason Banal

September 15, 2007 (2 p.m.-4 p.m.)
St. Scholastica's College

Malate, Manila
Reservation a must (slots limited)

The Lopez Memorial Museum, in cooperation with the University of the Philippines' College of Mass Communications, presents the "Obra Maestra Mamera" series, which tackles issues concerning the reproducibility, development and flow of the arts across demographics.

The third in the series features Yason Banal and will be held on September 15, Saturday, 2 p.m.-4 p.m. at the St. Scholastica's College in Malate, Manila. Subtitled "An Experimental Lecture Probing Ronald McDonald, Metrosexuality and the Museum," the talk will feature a performance by Banal. His works have explored the idea of icons—how they are created, how they aspire and survive.

"Ceasing to be themselves, people who have become icons eventually become concepts, the ideas fueled by a life of its own, particularly visual culture," Banal observes.

What these concepts are and the visual culture these create are some of the things tackled in Banal's talk cum performance.

Banal has a BA in Film and Audiovisual Communications from UP; an MFA from Goldsmiths College, University of London, United Kingdom; and a Certificate in Experimental Fashion from Central Saint Martin's, also in the UK.

As slots are limited, reservations are required.

'Hybridity': Mark Lewis Higgins

Ground Floor Gallery

September 18, 2007-October 21, 2007

AYALA Museum offers for Zero In 6 "Hybridity: Mark Lewis Higgins," works that juxtapose painted and collaged images from history, religion, geography and archaeology. Showing for the first time in the Philippines, Ayala Museum has invited Higgins to premiere his latest series entitled "Diaspora" before proceeding to New York. The exhibition will run at the Ayala Museum from September 18 to October 21, 2007.

The focus of Higgins' compositions remains highly adorned iconic portraits that have earned the artist rave reviews in Hong Kong and New York for two previous exhibitions, "Tribes" and "Invisible Cities."

Born in Manila to an Irish-American father and a Chinese-Filipino mother, Higgins presents Ayala's perfect choice for the theme "Hybridity" as he continues to explore the history of art and archaeology in the face of dissolving and overlapping borders.

Now on its sixth year, Zero In 6 is the collaborative project of five private museums: the Ayala Museum, Ateneo Art Gallery, Bahay Tsinoyn, Lopez Memorial Museum and Museo Pambata. Their aim is to expand Manila's museum-going audience.

Ayala Museum is located on De la Rosa Street corner Makati Avenue, Greenbelt Park, Makati City. It is open from Tuesday to Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. It is



'Palmyra' by Mark Lewis Higgins, mixed media with semi-precious stones, 38"x26" (mounted)

closed to the public every Monday. For more information, please call 757-7117 to 21 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org.

The complete Zero-In schedule

Lopez Museum 'Blur'

Oct. 25, 2007-April 5, 2008

Bahay Tsinoyn 'Comida China'

Nov. 10-Dec. 15, 2007

Museo Pambata 'Child's A.R.T.'

Nov. 17, 2007-Jan. 17, 2008

Ateneo Art Gallery 'Passion & Compassion: A Collector's View'

Artist: Lao Lianben
Nov. 21, 2007-Feb. 21, 2008

'Interactive: 12 Human Senses'

Artist: Impy Pilapil
Nov. 26, 2007-Mar. 31, 2008

SPECIAL FEATURE

Kapamilya gifts keep giving



Left: H2Hope all-occasion gift cards (l-r, top: Set A, Set B, Set C). Matte finish with glossy effect, 3.5"x3.5" folded. P10,000 for 50 packs, P15,000 for 100 packs. Packages include a certificate of donation. Above: Be Knowledge Channel's walking advertisement with the KCh umbrella, P100; cap, P175; and keychain, P40. Far right: I Love BB 163 T-shirt. Available in medium and large sizes. Ladies, P190. Men's, P200.

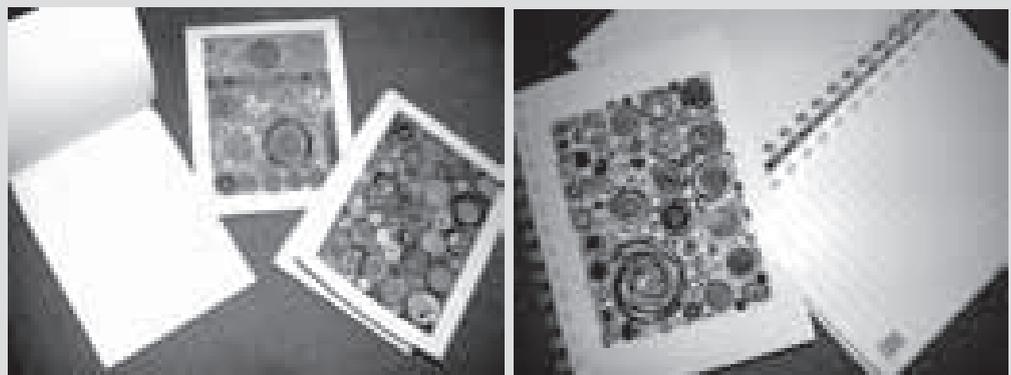
Right: Tipos del Pais notecards in five designs. 6"x4" folded. Not yet printed (printing dependent on number of orders taken). Right (left to right): Memo pads (P50 each) and notebook (P195) by the late artist Pacita Abad.



YOU don't have to look far for gift ideas this Christmas. Various Lopez Group foundations are offering proudly Pinoy and attractive items that your clients, colleagues, friends or family members will surely appreciate.

What's more, by purchasing these alternative gift items, donations will be made on your behalf to the seller-organizations, specifically Bantay Bata, Knowledge Channel and H2Hope.

The Lopez Memorial Museum's Ricky Francisco notes that the museum's offerings are all derived from their collection and are available in only a very limited quantity. Orders for new products such as commemorative art plates, reproduction prints of particular artists, printed t-shirts, mugs and other products can also be accommodated as long as clients orders in sets of at least 500.



SPORTS

Meralco tops badminton tilt anew

THE champion of a badminton tournament among Lopez Group companies in 2005, Meralco successfully defended its top position at the 2007 Inter-Lopez Lifelong Wellness Badminton Tournament held August 25 and 26 at Club 650.

Meralco swept all 33 of its elimination games, winning 11-0

each time against First Philippine Holdings, Benpres/Lopez Inc. and BayanTel. The powerhouse then blasted ABS-CBN Broadcasting 8-3 in the semifinals.

First runner-up BayanTel gave Meralco a valiant fight in the final round, copping two of 11 games, but Meralco proved too strong,

gaining the championship anew at 9-2.

The fight for third place or second runner-up was also fraught with excitement as ABS-CBN fought back against SkyCable, which crushed ABS-CBN 7-4 during the elimination round. ABS-CBN led SkyCable 8-3 in the final round to become second runner-up. SkyCable settled for fourth place of third runner-up.

Lopez Group chairman Oscar M. Lopez, who opened the two-day contest with a ceremonial toss of a shuttlecock, reaffirmed his commitment to Lifelong Wellness as his legacy for the long-term improvement of the health and well being of Lopez Group employees and their families.

Lopez Lifelong Wellness czar Rafael M. Alunan III congratulated all the teams for participating and demonstrating true sportsmanship in the friendly games. Other teams who joined the tournament were First Gen Corporation and Manila North Tollways Corporation/Tollways Management Corporation. This was the first badminton tournament conducted under the auspices of the Lifelong Wellness program.



Team wins 6th straight basketball championship

Customer Process/Relations Management won the 2007 Meralco championship, Class A division, against Manila Sector in the best of three finals. The team is powered by Meralco Lopez Cup 2006 champion Mon Fabros, John Aduag and Doy Quimson with Cezar Dawana as team manager and Roland Sayson as coach. This is the team's sixth consecutive championship. Other players include Tonichi Agoncillo, Aron Rivera, Rico Evaristo, Dan Calangi, Aldrin de Guia, Rolly Sol Cruz, Leo Rafael, Joel Bauto and Darryl Francisco.



Wellness czar Raffy Alunan congratulates core account manager and Meralco badminton team coordinator Romy Justiniano.

Hail the 2007 PICPA tourney champs

Historic triumph for MNTC-TMC bowlers

By Kurt Mendoza

A TEAM from Manila North Tollways Corp.-Tollways Management Corp. (MNTC-TMC) pulled off one of the biggest surprises in the 2007 Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) sports fest by topping the bowling tournament.

It was the first time that MNTC-TMC joined the PICPA-sponsored tournament held at the SM Megamall Bowling Lanes, and the first bowling tournament for two of the five members of the team. What's even more astonishing is that the lineup of MNTC and TMC was formed only on the day of the competition itself; they were not able to practice together as a team. In fact, one of the team members, TMC's Bernard Sanchez, was a late replacement and was still suffering from jetlag during the competition, having arrived from France the night before.

The MNTC-TMC team, one of the representatives of the Lopez Group for the Eastern



Victoria Martinez (leftmost) and Nick Cruz (rightmost) of First Philippine Holdings Corp. cheered for the MNTC-TMC bowling team: Huger Labang (2nd from left), Kurt Mendoza, Ellen Ramos, Bernard Sanchez and Bong Bejec. All are PICPA members.

Metro Manila chapter, ended up besting more than 20 teams from different companies.

In the first of its three games, the team was somewhat jittery, registering only 668 pinfalls; this was not good enough to land them in the top 6.

However, the members rediscovered their touch and form in the second game. Kurt Mendoza and Ellen Ramos burned the lanes with 211 and 174 pinfalls, respectively, while the rest of the team were as solid in their performance. This carried them to the top spot after the second game with a 20-pinfal advantage over the second placer, the defending champion from the Western Metro Manila chapter.

In the last and deciding game, MNTC-TMC opened a commanding lead coming to the last two frames. The team was able to keep its hold on the top spot and was declared the tournament champion.

The key team members received individual accolades: Mendoza received the Male High Single and Average awards while Ramos got the Female High Average Award.



DETERMINE the distance between where the lightning strike hit and your position by counting the number of seconds between the lightning flash and the thunder, and dividing by five. (For kilometers, divide by three.) Lightning safety experts consider this the strike danger zone and advise people to follow the 30/30 rule. Take immediate precautions when thunder is heard within 30 seconds of the lightning flash and wait for 30 minutes after the last thunder is heard to resume your activity.

Here is what you should do if you are in immediate danger from lightning:

Spread out. If the group is in an area of high lightning danger, split up but still be within sight of each other—20 feet (six meters) apart or more—unless this puts some people in a site with a higher strike potential.

Assume the lightning position. Crouch with your feet close together and your butt off the ground. Your hands should be on your knees. Don't lie down on the ground. Don't put your hands on the ground. If possible, crouch on top of a dry, insulating material like a foam pad or your pack.

If the person is crouching in the lightning position with hands

off the ground the current could go up one leg and down the other without passing directly through the heart.

If person is lying down or has a hand on the ground, the current can enter through an arm and exit through a leg traversing all the major organs and causing significant damage and frequently stop the heart.

Lightning injuries

Electrical currents can cause the heart to stop, respiration to cease, thermal burns, muscle spasms, brain and nerve damage and initial blindness. The extent of injury depends on the amount of current, the dura-

tion of the current and the current's path through the body.

With a direct strike or side flash, the current is usually so large that the results are fatal. Ground currents can be significantly less powerful, and the current path makes a major difference.

Other injuries from lightning include ruptured eardrums, burns and even traumatic injuries since a direct strike can literally hurl a person many feet/meters through the air.

Treatment

The most dangerous situation in a lightning strike is that the heart



Sports & wellness calendar

3S Course: Security, Safety and Self-Defense

August 31: Security at EL Center, Antipolo
September 7: Safety at EL Center, Antipolo
September 14: Self-Defense at Asuncion Gym, San Juan
Each module will be a full-day affair from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Registration starts at 8 a.m.

5th Stress Management Program

September 3: Yoga Manila free demo class, Benpres Gym

Walk the Talk

September 8: UP Academic Oval, Diliman, QC



2nd Basketball Tourney

Mid September to November
Venue to be announced

Mt. Apo Mountain Trek

September 27 to 29: Davao

For more info, contact Gani Velasquez or Darlene Lamis at 634-3715 or 631-6465 or email ganiv2002@yahoo.com or darlenealpuerto@yahoo.com or visit www.lopezwellness.com.

may stop beating. Be prepared to administer CPR. Lightning is one of the few CPR situations where you may be able to revive someone without advanced life support, so continue to do CPR as long as possible. Also, there may be electrical burns that can cause volume shock.

Anyone who has been struck by lightning or ground current must be evacuated for advanced medical care. (Sources: www.nws.noaa.gov, www.weather.com, www.crh.noaa.gov/pub/tg.shtml, www.lightningsafety.com, www.usatoday.com/weather/resources/basics/wlightning.htm)

Sudoku

Maglaro tayo ng Sudoku, ang bagong libangan ng bayan! Ayusin lamang ang mga numero simula 1 hanggang 9 para ang bawat numero ay minsan lang magagamit sa bawat row, column at kahon.

3			7					
	8		6					3
	4	7		5				
9	6			3				
		4	7		2	9		
				1			4	2
			6			8	9	
8					1			3
			2					7

- Very Easy
- Easy
- Medium
- Hard

3	4	1	5	8	2	7	9	6
9	8	5	1	6	7	4	2	3
6	7	2	9	4	3	5	1	8
4	3	9	7	1	8	6	5	2
7	2	8	4	5	6	1	3	9
5	1	6	2	3	9	8	4	7
8	6	4	3	2	1	9	7	5
1	9	3	6	7	5	2	8	4
2	5	7	8	9	4	3	6	1

Answer to August puzzle

Solution, tips and computer program available at www.sudoku.com

THE countdown to the world's longest Christmas celebration starts as soon as the "brrrrs" make themselves felt. Make Christmas 2007 more meaningful by patronizing the products of the different Lopez Group foundations. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of these items will go toward furthering the worthy advocacies of Bantay Bata, Bantay Kalikasan and Knowledge Channel Foundation Inc.

Here's another good deed idea: pitch in when the country observes International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day at the Bay Walk/Mall of Asia seawall and in Batangas on September 15 (Saturday). The Philippine cleanup effort is spearheaded by First Philippine Conservation Inc.'s Gerry Reyes, so Lopez Group support for the endeavor becomes all the more significant. Read all about the ICC Day and how we're breaking records in the cleanup effort.

Speaking of reading, ABS-CBN Publishing has an irresistible offer for all Kapamilya: a whopping 50% on any of its glossy titles! Have your fill of showbiz tidbits from *StarStudio*, helpful info for corporate and fashionable types from *Metro*, *kikay* fun from *Pink*, recipes and kitchen tips from *FOOD*, and a lot more.

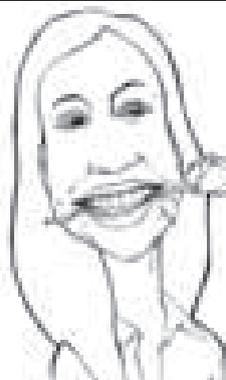
On the business and corporate fronts, the Group is doing extremely well as a whole, with First Gen, Benpres, First Philippine Holdings Corp., Bayan Telecommunications, Meralco and ABS-CBN among the most exceptional performers. Meanwhile, a merger in the offing involving ABS-CBN and SkyCable promises some communication breakthroughs to watch for in the next few months.

LopezLink, as you know, is the group-wide newsletter with the task of uniting all Lopez Group employees and fostering the *Kapamilya* spirit. We continuously strive to make the news and features printed in these 12 pages relevant to your daily lives, and so we come to you with a request for help: Please take the time to fill up the survey form that comes with your copy of *LopezLink* this month. We would like to know which sections hit the spot and why, what works for you and what doesn't. We value your thoughts and ideas and we promise that they will be reflected in future editions of *LopezLink*. Thank you in advance.

ooOoo

How can we avail of the Track Me device? Is it sold on a "retail" basis? Thanks!—Sim

According to Katrina Chua of Webcast Technologies, the company usually starts by discussing the product with the interested party. After



Dear Rosie

that, they will submit a proposal which includes the pricing. Interested parties may contact Chua at 0917-8248327.

ooOoo

I was given a Bayad Center voucher for a certain amount that I used to pay my electric bill. However, the branch I went to said they did not honor such vouchers. Kindly clarify. Thank you.—JJ

CIS Bayad Center Inc. (CBCI) president Manny Tuason personally replies to JJ's concern: "Bayad Center vouchers are the means of redemption by our 500 Bayad Center raffle winners. These BC vouchers have corresponding peso values as approved by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). We also gave out some vouchers during the franchising exhibit for the press and as raffle prizes during event. As stated on the BC vouchers, these may be used "at any Bayad Center except SM Payment Centers." These are not honored at the business centers of our billers (i.e., Meralco branches). They are considered cash payment only in our centers. Upon redemption, all Bayad Centers are instructed to retrieve the fully utilized vouchers and forward these to us.

"Thank you very much for allowing us to clarify the matter. Should there be any problems with the vouchers in our Bayad Centers, please refer them to my office."

ooOoo

Who are the "special members" of Mesala referred to in the article "FAQs about Mesala" that came out in the August issue of LopezLink? Can someone who is not an employee or a relative of an employee join Mesala? Thanks!—Loy

According to Mesala's Ferdie Pabalan, special members are the relatives of the regular members up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity. They are the spouses, parents, children, grandchildren, parents-in-law, siblings and grandparents. They are allowed to open savings and time deposit accounts with the association, but not capital contribution.

ooOoo

If you have questions, comments, opinions, suggestions and reactions about anything and everything about the Lopez Group, please send them to Dear Rosie through fax no. 633-3520 or to DearRosie@benpres-holdings.com. Maraming salamat!

GLOBAL WARMING TIPS

Get serious about saving energy

WHEREVER you may be, there's always something you can do to lessen the strain on the Earth's resources and save a little bit of energy:

Be picky with your appliances. Cooking a dish for an hour in an electric oven generates 2.7 pounds of carbon dioxide. The same dish creates only 1.3 pounds of carbon dioxide for 50 minutes

with a toaster oven, 0.9 pounds for seven hours with a slow cooker and 0.5 pounds for 15 minutes in a microwave oven.

Reconsider your screen saver. It takes more energy for your monitor to display a brighter color, so go with darker images, such as sepia portraits, outer space photos or nightscapes. If you'll be

away for a while, switch off the monitor.

Turn off car engine in heavy traffic. If your car will idle for more than 45 seconds, it's more fuel-efficient to turn off the engine and restart the car when you're ready to go.

Halve consumption. Use half the toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, detergent, bleach or fabric

softener that the TV ads urge you to squeeze or pour out, and see how it still does the job. By consuming less, fewer chemicals go into the air and water supply, and less product packaging ends up in landfills.

Take five-minute showers, or even three. About 15% of an average home energy bill goes to heating water. To save hot water,

take five-minute showers. Lower the temperature on your water heater so that you do not have to add cold water to shower.

Go CFL. Replace your five most used light bulbs with compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs. These light bulbs use two-thirds less energy and last up to 10 times longer. (Source: *Live Green*)



REDISCOVER THE NORTH

Road tripto Pampanga's best

food!

LET's take a road trip up North and experience the gastronomical delights of Pampanga province.

First stop is Abe's Farm in Pampanga. It is located at the foot of Mt. Arayat, a 3,000-foot inactive volcano.

Like Provence

The farm is the private rest house of Larry J. Cruz, famously known as "LJC" of the LJC restaurant chain. This is the first time LJC opened his farm to "non-friends." He named the farm for his bon vivant and gastronome father, the late Emilio Aguilar "Abe" Cruz.

The dinner was set up in the lower garden. The blue and green colors reminded me of Provence in France. Must be from LJC's father's influence since he was acknowledged as the first Pinoy Francophile, being the UNESCO ambassador based in Paris in the 1970s.

Birthplace of 'sisig'

I was expecting more exotic and exciting dishes like *betute* (frog), *kamaru* (mole crickets) or *burong talangka* (crablets). We were served instead starters of *sisig*, crispy shrimps and *burol* (fermented shrimp) wrapped in mustard leaves; then *pako* (fiddlehead fern) salad, crispy *pata*, a yummy chicken dish that was



everybody's favorite, seafood *kare-kare* and a stewed vegetable dish. For dessert, we had *maja blanca*, *suman* in sweet condensed milk and fresh fruits. The cost is P1,750 per person for the meal (plus tip).

Renaissance man

Another must-eat "reco" is Claude Tayag's Bale Dutung in Angeles City. Tayag is truly a renaissance man—he is an artist/sculptor, writer and, with his resto, he has proven that

he can also cook! His wife Mary Ann manages the place and is in charge of setting up lunches and retailing "Claude 9" food products.

Lunch costs P1,800 per head and is served buffet style (minimum of 12 persons). The menu is more nouvelle cuisine.

Signature dish

For appetizers, a platter of Kapampangan sushi, *taba ng talangka*, fried catfish with fermented rice and shrimps and *pindang balaw-balaw* (carabeef meat). The main course is quite a spread: *sari-saring prutas* (seasonal fruits in a light Thai dressing), sorbet *sa dayag* and champagne (sherbet), *pako* salad, *lumpiang ubod*, seafood *kare-kare*, "four-way" *lechon* (i.e., crispy skin, fried *lechon* with soft tortilla, *inihaw*, *sinigang*), chicken wrapped in banana leaf and *inasal*, *ilog ng pugo* (quail egg) with mushrooms. Dessert was Tayag's signature dish of "paradiso" (*macapuno*, *ube* and *kamote* balls with cream of carabao's milk). Free flowing soft drinks, *buko* juice, beer and wine.

Both places need prior reservations. Book in advance! Contact Merle (LJC) at 0917-8997731 and Mary Ann (Claude) at (045) at 888-5163. Happy road trip! (RKC)

What's new

from ABS-CBN Publishing this September

By Joseph Uy

'Metro' presents newest 'kapamilya' Angel Locsin

Showbiz's most controversial actress is a fashionista too, and Angel Locsin bares plans for her latest venture, a self-named women's sportswear line. Of course, talk about her shift from one TV station to another cannot be avoided, and Locsin addresses the issue, as well as her immediate projects with the Kapamilya network. Also in this issue, *Metro* reveals the products that made this year's Beauty Awards, fashion from the recent Metrowear, trends in cleansing diets and what the men of Maxim define as "beautiful."

Ai-Ai talks about being a single mom in 'WM'

Ai-Ai delas Alas graces the cover with her three kids in the family's five-bedroom house, and talks about the difficulties of raising them alone and the reason she's happier now without a man in her life. Plus, "MWM"

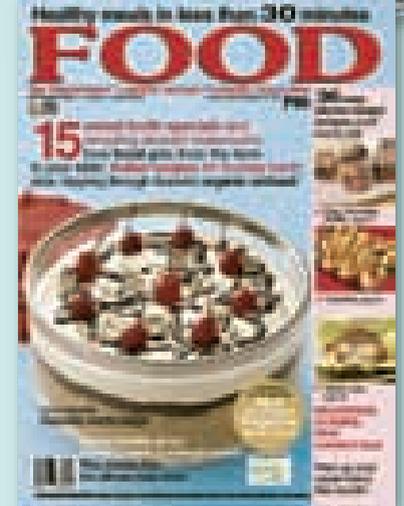
features a mom's fight for her special child; dealing with inheritance rights; easy solutions to toy clutter, kitchen dirt and faster dinners; tiangge ideas starting at P5,000; and no more overtime with one simple rule.

Young entrepreneurs, new love, new lives in 'Chalk'

Finally, Toni Gonzaga is in—love with hunky director Paul Soriano. We got their love story exclusive in *Chalk*. Plus a double cover bonus—"Pinoy Big Brother" Big Winner Bea Saw shares her life after the reality show. Maximize your style power with the hottest accessories and find out new ways to wear black. Learn from young entrepreneurs. Bianca Gonzalez gets close and personal with a drug user that became a youth leader. Do you have the EQ to keep a guy? Find out in *Chalk's* September issue!

'FOOD' unveils sweet-tooth specials

FOOD Magazine presents dazzling desserts to end a perfect meal or make a special occasion extra special. From the Choco Mocha Delight, the Fruit and Coconut Cream Cake in the cover story to the Chocolate Truffles and Lamington Cake featured in the menu guide—these desserts will leave you craving for more. Also in this issue, throw a Sunday Indian lunch, get an awesome view of an organic orchard in Aurora, find out what happened at the Kiddie Cuisine Cookbook launch, and the ultimate trade show featuring the merging of Creative Programs Inc. and ABS-CBN Publishing Inc.



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POWER PLANT FINDS

Auspicious additions



By Luis Reyes

EXPLORING new possibilities can yield surprising results. Such is the case in Power Plant mall's newest ventures in the opening of its hottest stores and the renovation of its already sizzling line-up of shops and establishments.

Moana is conveniently located at the R1 level, below the Archaeology wing. For inquiries, call 756-0055. Vertex

Coupled with its dazzling collection of light-clothed fabrics and summer-themed wear, this quaint store resonates a vibe that is strong enough to make you get those beach balls out of the storage and into your car for a spontaneous beach trip!

Moana is conveniently located at the R1 level, below the Archaeology wing. For inquiries, call 756-0055.

Vertex The future is within reach with the introduction of Power Plant mall's newest tech-savvy store, Vertex. It boasts of gadgets like the latest mobile phones from Samsung, Nokia, Sony Ericsson, and Motorola. Its assortment of accessories makes dressing up one's ever-reliable handy companion a treat.

Vertex is located at the R3 level. For inquiries, call 728-9540.

Levi's Premium Store There is only one difference between a museum and the Levi's Premium Store: your ability to buy the items displayed in the store's walls and its center aisles. This recent addition to the mall is such eye candy that people can't help but step inside its glass-encased spot. And with the introduction of Levi's line of Copper denim bottoms, a trip inside this impressive depot of denims is sure to make your day!

The Levi's Premium Store is located at the R2 level of the mall. For inquiries, call 898-1087.

Sabater Optical Sabater Optical does not seem to stop amazing its avid customers. With the reopening of its newly renovated and relocated store, Sabater now shines in the R3 level, where its minimalist mix of glass and wood illuminate its collections of sunglasses and prescription lenses from brands like Lacoste, Guess, Nike, and Rudy Project.

You may contact Sabater Optical at 898-0924 for further inquiries.

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