



Philippine Ambassadors to the U.S. and Canada and consuls general in North America extol Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA) project at Washington, D.C. on Sept. 13, 2008

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 4 (PinoyGlobal) - Philippine Ambassador to the United States Willy Gaa and Philippine Ambassador to Canada Jose S. Brillantes, highly commend the ***Filipino Image Magazine (FILIM)*** and ***Pinoy Global Online News (PGON)*** in a "Special Message" to the ***Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad*** who will receive the coveted award on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2008, at the J.W. Marriott Hotel of this city. This was announced today by the ***FILIM*** and ***PGON***. The ***TOFA*** project was launched in 1990. The bio-data of the 2008 honorees and the 280 Past TOFA Awardees are found in the 24/7 worldwide ***PGON*** web site: ***WWW.FILAMIMAGE.COM***. The web site is viewed by Filipinos globally in the ***Americas***, particularly in the United States and Canada; ***Asia***, including the Philippines; the ***Middle East***; and the ***European*** countries.

The TOFA 2008 Awardees are **Mark Asperilla** of Port Charlotte, Florida; **Bob Dacanay** of Falls Church, Virginia; **Carmencita Quesada Fulgado** of Jamaica Estates, New York; **Will Grant** of San Diego, California; **Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi** of Montreal, Quebec, Canada; **Eusebio C. Kho** of Scottsburg, Indiana; **Rozita V. Lee** of Las Vegas, Nevada; **Victor Lorica** of Potomac, Maryland; **Debra Aguinaldo Nakama** of Maui, Hawaii; **Nena M. Nera** of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; **Dolores "Dolly" Ortal** of Honolulu, Hawaii; **Levy Mendoza Paler** of Norfolk, Virginia; **Elvira G. Phelps** of Reno, Nevada; **Jun Anthony Quion** of McLean, Virginia; **Edmundo F. Relucio** of Coal City, Illinois; **Francis V. Talangbayan** of Penn Valley, Pennsylvania; **Dante Raul (DR) Teodoro** of New York, New York; **Sonny Ungco** of Jersey City, New Jersey; **Dalisay "Dely" Villalon** of Northbrook, Illinois; **Peter Legaspi Yu** of Granger, Indiana.

Philippine Ambassadors Gaa and Brillantes, and Consuls General from several North America Region also sent congratulatory messages extolling the TOFA project for spearheading in highlighting positive Filipino image. Among the consuls general are from New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Hawaii, Chicago, Toronto (Canada), Vancouver (Canada), and Ottawa (Canada).

The 3-day 15th annual event starts on Thursday, Sept. 11, 2008 with an informal get-together for the 2008 awardees; followed on Friday with a VIP Luncheon at J.W. Marriott Hotel and in the evening a Courtesy Call Dinner Reception at the Philippine Embassy. The following Saturday morning, a ***VIP Photo Opps*** at various historical monuments in the Nation's Capital. Saturday evening is the formal prestigious gala Banquet and Ball Award Ceremony; capped by the traditional Filipino breakfast immediately after the ball. 2008 TOFA Awardees are Special Guests of Honor (***gratis***) to all the planned activities.

The proposed planned activity of the event traditionally at the J.W. Marriott Hotel, a stone's throw from the White House, is headlined with the video filming of the 3-day planned activity, to be globally known as the "***TOFA Documentary***" film. The film will showcase the ***TOFA Past Awardees*** as ***role models*** and ***inspirations*** to the Filipinos, with the intention of widely showing the video film to areas where Filipinos are concentrated. The video filming will be handled by ***Rochelle (Mendoza) Ashana*** and ***June Daguiso***, both professional and seasoned Hollywood film producers doing the narrations. The gala night will also present the Past TOFA Awardees in a "***Parade of Lights***" participated by Past TOFA Awardees. The "***Parade of Lights***" will be led by an ***Honor Guard*** also composed of Past TOFA Awardees. #