



PASUGUAN NG PILIPINAS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES

MESSAGE

I extend my warmest felicitations and congratulations to the honorees and organizers of the Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA).

Since 1990, TOFA has recognized 380 Filipinos from around the world for their contributions to raising the level of awareness on and deepening appreciation for the Philippines, our people and heritage.

Through excellence in their respective professions, the arts, the academe, sports, skills and through strong sense of civic mindedness, these TOFA awardees serve to inspire many to achieve greater things for the global Filipino nation.

I commend the organizers for your sustained commitment to highlight the best in the Filipino character.


I laud this year's awardees for your demonstrated commitment to excellence and service as I enjoin everyone to draw lessons from your lives.

Yet even as we join in this year's celebrations for the awardees, we should take the occasion to remember that there are many among us who work tirelessly and with the same vigor for the causes and values our forebears fought for and we now espouse.

It is in this spirit that I urge everyone to never grow weary of admiring those who – in their work – are recognized and to always have the resolve to continue discovering in others - and in ourselves - the will to excel and serve a higher calling.

This is the spirit that moved our people to establish our nation, This is the spirit that animates our Republic's onward march towards greater and fuller peace, progress and prosperity.

Mabuhay ang Pilipinas! Mabuhay ang sambayanang Pilipino!


WILLY C. GAA
Ambassador

27 August 2009 Washington, DC