

Successful 3-day event feted Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA) at Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 15 (PinoyGlobal) - Twenty prominent Filipino high achievers were feted and inducted in the **Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA)**. The 3-day 15th annual event started 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 where the awardees briefly each delivered remarks. In the evening, a VIP dinner reception at the Philippine Embassy with Philippine Ambassador to the United States, Willy Gaa, officially welcomed the 2008 TOFA awardees and their guests. The following morning, Saturday, a **VIP Photo Op** at various historical monuments in the Nation's Capital, capped by an authentic Dim Sum luncheon for the awardees and their guests. In the evening was the formal prestigious gala Banquet and Ball Award Ceremony attended by the cream of the crop of the Filipino community from across the nation. After the ball, an authentic Filipino **noche buena** (breakfast) feted the 2008 TOFA Awardees and their guests at the Nonoy and Aida Mendoza's VIP suite at the Marriott Hotel. The honorees were Guests of Honor (**gratis**) to all the planned activities. "The TOFA event is an incomparable



Bob Dacanay
 I.T. Entrepreneurship



Dr. Victor Lorica
 Community Activist



Dr. Jun Anthony Quio
 Community Leadership

experience. I have received awards and have been attending award presentations, but the TOFA function is an experience of a lifetime. Class. Unique and just plain fantastic. To be included in the "Circle of Leaders" is a distinct honor ever bestowed to a Filipino achiever," commented Ms. Dolores "Dolly" Ortal of Honolulu, one of the 2008 awardees. "The only goal of the TOFA project is to highlight positive Filipino image, and to discourage the practice of the "crab mentality" attitude, more specially among our Filipino community leaders," explained Nonoy Mendoza, originator of the TOFA project which started in 1990. "I have no hidden agenda, but to highlight positive Filipino image among our achievers."

Three local Filipino positive image highlighters were among the 2008 awardees. **Bob Dacanay** of Falls Church, Virginia; **Victor Lorica** of Potomac, Maryland; and **Jun Anthony Quion** of McLean, Virginia. 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.#

The 2008 TOFA Awardees at the Philippine Embassy • Friday, Sept. 12, 2008



The "Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad (TOFA)" awardees shown here at last Friday, Sept. 12, 2008, at the Philippine Embassy VIP Dinner reception welcoming and honoring awardees and their guests. The event is an annual tradition for the TOFA awardees. Seated from left: Rozita V. Lee, Dely Villalon, Elvira F. Phelps, Menchee Quezada Fulgado, Mrs. Aida Mendoza of *FILIM & PGON*, Philippine Ambassador to the U.S. Willy Gaa; Nonoy Mendoza of *FILIM & PGON*; Nena M. Nera; and Levy Mendoza Paler. Standing from left: Chuck Castro, Past TOFA Awardee; Emilie G. Dearing, Past TOFA Awardee; Debra Aguinaldo Nakama; Bob Dacanay; Jun Anthony Quion; Will Grant; Peter L. Yu; Sonny Ungco; Eusebio Kho, Edmundo Relucio, Francis Talangbayan; Dante Raul (DR) Q. Teodoro, Mark Asperilla, Zeny F. Kharroubi, Victor G. Lorica; Jun Pedery Past TOFA Awardee; Rhonda Mendoza of *FILIM* and *PGON*, Rochelle Mendoza Ashana of *FILIM & PGON*. (Photo by *PinoyGlobal* Manny Lopez).



With the Philippine Ambassador at the TOFA VIP Dinner Reception
From left: Dr. Francis Talangbayan, Dr. Eusebio Kho, Ambassador Willy Gaa, Dr. Peter Yu and Sonny Ungco