

TJIC DIALOGUE

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Aquino Fellows Recognized at February 5 Ceremony

Journalist Eileen G. Mangubat and interfaith dialogue leader Taha M. Basman received the Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. Fellowships for Professional Development during a February 5 ceremony at the U.S. Ambassador's residence. Over 70 former IV grantees, former Aquino fellows, media representatives and members of interfaith dialogue groups attended. Former President Corazon Aquino and U.S. Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone presented the awards. The Director of the State Department's Office of International Visitors, W. Charles Moore II, traveled to Manila for this occasion and delivered remarks congratulating the recipients and commending the U.S. Embassy for establishing the fellowships.

Eileen Mangubat is a dynamic leader of the community press corps. Currently publisher of *Cebu Daily News* and two other papers owned by Inquirer Publications, Inc., she is a driving force behind the the Cebu Citizens Press Council.

Taha Basman is a leading advocate for Muslim-Christian dialogue and conflict resolution in the Philippines. He is conducting several national campaigns to



U.S. Ambassador Francis Ricciardone (left) and former President Corazon Aquino presented to journalist Eileen G. Mangubat (center), publisher of *Cebu Daily News*, the 2003 Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. Fellowships for Professional Development.

foster greater understanding between Muslims and Christians. Well respected by Muslims and Christians alike, he has

earned the title of "Bishop Basman" from his Christian counterparts.

The U.S. Embassy established the Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. Fellowships for Professional Development in 1988 as part of its International Visitor Program. Awardees receive an individual International Visitor grant as well as national recognition for excellence in the fields of journalism or public service, two areas in which Ninoy Aquino distinguished himself.

Director of the Office of International Visitors Visits RP

The director of the State Department's Office of International Visitors, W. Charles Moore II, was in the Philippines from February 4-9. He spoke at the third annual meeting of the International Visitor Program-Philippines (IVP-Phils) Alumni Foundation, participated in the 14th annual Aquino Awards Ceremony, met former IVs and consulted with the Board of Directors

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In commemoration of Black History Month, the American Studies Resource Center in Ateneo de Davao exhibited the work of contemporary African-American artists.

Program News

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learned from the past and developing workable alternatives to new challenges.

Black History Month Observed at American Studies Resource Centers

During the month of February, the African-American experience was acknowledged at ASRCs in Davao, Iloilo, Bacolod, Baguio, Manila and Batac. Each center mounted paper shows celebrating African-American literature, art, music, and leadership in science, business and government. Cultural Affairs Officer Thomas J. Kral was present for the inauguration of a two-week exhibit of the paper show "New Visions: 10 African-American Artists" at Ateneo de Davao. After he spoke about African-American contributions to American society and culture, students put on a cultural program of music and poetry inspired by the images of the African-American artists.

CSB Students Prepare for Exchange Program for Hearing-Impaired

Dr. Sidney McQuay of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) at Rochester Institute of Technology and students and teachers from the College of St. Benilde of De La Salle University visited the Cultural Affairs Office in preparation for their upcoming travel to Rochester, New York where they will participate in a symposium for the hearing-impaired.



Dr. Sidney McQuay (right) together with CAO Thomas J. Kral talk with the students and teachers from the College of Saint Benilde during their visit to the TJIC.

hear." The focus of their education is information technology and engineering.

PAO Co-sponsors National Museum's Exhibit on Rice and the Filipino

The Public Affairs Section made a small grant to the National Museum to assist them in mounting what will be a two-year long exhibition on Rice and the Filipino. Patterned after the Smithsonian Institution exhibit "Seeds of Change," which attracted millions of viewers during its two-year showing a decade ago, the National Museum has gathered materials from archaeology, anthropology, sociology, history, biotechnology, literature, musicology, botany, zoology, art history and food sciences to present a portrait of rice and the Filipino. CAO Thomas Kral delivered remarks at the opening ceremony. He noted that this exhibit plays an advocacy role in publicizing the Banaue Rice Terraces and the urgent need for local and international support to keep this World Heritage site from deteriorating.

PAO Speaks in U.E. Forum

The College of Arts and Sciences of the University of the East (U.E.) hosted a forum on "The Crisis in Iraq: U.S. Policy and the Implications for the Philippines" on March 6. The seventh of the college's lecture series on contemporary issues, the forum featured PAO Ronald J. Post, Mr. Victoriano M. Lecaros, spokesperson of the

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W. Charles Moore II, Director of the Office of International Visitors represented the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs at the third annual meeting of the IVP-Phils.