

Manila Women's Forum

A Network of Women Professionals

June 2012

"Even if it's a little thing, do something . . . for which you get no pay but the privilege of doing it. . . . For, remember, you don't live in a world all your own. Your brothers are here too. (Albert Schweitzer)

Volunteer Connections

By Golda Poppen



Left: Juliette Kwee and Klaartje Laan. Right: Jonas H. Tetangco, Liliana Marulanda (host), and Myles Liguigan.

The host for the MWF May 21 meeting was Liliana Marulanda, and despite a rainy day women of different nationalities and from all walks of life met at her home in Urdaneta Village. After a great potluck dinner and a round of personal introductions, two groups

that assist foreigners to volunteer in the Philippines explained how their programs work and how local charities can request volunteers.

WorldActivity, Philippines

The first group of speakers was from WorldActivity and JoHo: Ms. Juliette Kwee, a psychologist by profession, and Ms. Klaartje Laan, a communica-

tions manager working for JoHo-Netherlands. Juliette, a very enthusiastic individual with a real passion for her work, founded WorldActivity Philippines in June 2011 to assist Europeans in visiting and volunteering in the Philippines. They have developed a national network of volunteer, internship and TEFL (teach English as a
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June MWF Meeting ■ **When:** Monday, 2012 June 18, 6:30 p.m. ■ **What:** Tes Fajardo-Wilson, a Financial Fitness Coach and Registered Financial Consultant, will speak about financial management for women. She will discuss what every woman needs to know, to do and to have while she is still healthy, working and earning money and/or while her husband is still healthy, working and earning money. ■ **Where:** Home of Cathy Hartigan-Go, 27 Woodpecker Street, Greenmeadows, Quezon City. From Makati turn right on Ortigas Avenue, turn left at Greenmeadows Avenue. Almost at the end of Greenmeadows Avenue, turn right into Gate 5 (there is a Jollibee on the left side). From Gate 5, turn left, then follow Swallow Street until you see Woodpecker Street on your right. You can only turn right from there. The house is almost at the end of Woodpecker Street on the left side. ■ **Bring:** Something to share for the potluck dinner and a notebook and pen/pencil. Also, Circle of Friends will be selling handpainted bags and other handicrafts made by persons with disabilities. ■ **July Meeting:** Monday, 2012 July 16.

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foreign language) placements and can advise volunteers on which regions and placements best fit your needs.

WorldActivity's mission is to be the foremost provider of community-based volunteering and internships, fair travel and support to their clients, with the best environment for a conducive and positive personal and life-changing experience.

WorldActivity Philippines customizes the programs based on the individual's core competencies and interests, provides individual support, coaching and security to the client before, during, and after their trip. They work on community-based projects and believe in cultural exchange and sharing of knowledge.

They strive to have mutual benefits for both the Filipino NGOs and their clients, so that both parties are able to set and reach a development goal. They also give a crash course on Philippine culture.

Klaartje gave the group an introduction to JoHo, which started in the early 90s as a local youth organization focused on study and career. WorldActivity Philippines is a JoHo partner/center and offers discounts to JoHo Members. JoHo has grown into an international organization with a network of worldwide JoHo centers, dealing with international cooperation, personal development, and travel. The main focus is passing on knowledge, promoting international contacts and awareness and giving advice.

Through their existing network, they can arrange everything for visitors--- placement, flights, insurance, travel gear, food and accommodations, and local transportation. JoHo has around 40,000 members all over the world. It introduces its members to local partner organizations where visitors can make new friends and, most importantly, provide visitors with moral and administrative support throughout.

Klaartje further explained that JoHo links people to NGOs so visitors can make a difference through volunteer work during their vacation.

WorldActivity, Philippines is based in Quezon City. Juliette can be contacted at juliette@worldactivity.ph or 0916-643-6082 for any future queries.

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What is JoHo?

JoHo started in the early 90s as a local youth organisation focused on study and career. Today, JoHo has grown into an international organization that aims to set up a network of worldwide centers dealing with international cooperation, personal development, and travel. It focuses on passing on knowledge, promoting international contacts and awareness, and giving advice.

Every year JoHo helps more than: (a) 250 people set up a development project; (b) 500 volunteers protect wild life; (c) 1000 development projects get help; (d) 1500 young people get a job abroad; (e) 2500 entrepreneurs in developing countries; (f) 5000 volunteers; (g) 25000 students with their studies; (h) 50000 youngsters in developing countries; (i) 150000 children in Africa, Asia, and Latin America; (j) 250000 travellers to travel [in a] fair and sustainable [manner].

JoHo is always looking for new partners abroad. If you know of potential partner organizations, great hostels or volunteer projects that you think deserve more support, inform JoHo about those special places that travellers should visit. Send email to: worldsupporter@joho.nl

For more information visit <http://www.johocenters.org/>

What about WorldActivity?

WorldActivity Philippines (Tel +632 622 5688, info@worldactivity.ph) is a JoHo center that offers discounts to JoHo Members. In the Philippines, it works with projects mainly in central Manila, as well as in different parts of the Philippines such as in the mountains of Northern Luzon. Most of the opportunities are in skill areas such as education, child care, health and paramedic, farming or building, organizational development, environmental conservation, sport and development, and others.

In the WorldActivity website, there's a special mention of Harold's Mansion, a hostel in Dumaguete that offers the budget traveler a place to rest and relax. It also offers local tours: trekking, camping, diving, snorkeling, and dolphin and whale watching. Harold, the owner, is a traveler himself and a great source of information about traveling in the Philippines.

What else is special about Harold's Mansion? Respect for nature. Harold runs his hostel as green as possible. He provides bicycles for guests to use to get around the city, especially since biking is a fun way to see the sites and a green alternative to renting a motorcycle. The hostel also recycles all glass, plastic, paper, and aluminum and uses compact florescent light bulbs. On the roof deck there are solar water heaters and water free urinals that conserve tremendous amounts of freshwater and create more hygienic, odor free restrooms.

That's not all. Harold also has an Eco Lodge out of town not too far from Dumaguete where they compost waste and use it as fertilizer in the organic vegetable garden. And, there's also a boat with solar panels that power the lights.

Another place cited by WorldActivity Philippines is People's Global Exchange or PGX, a guesthouse and resource and service center at Kalayaan, QC. It promotes international partnership for development and people's empowerment through people's exchange, and works alongside people's organizations and social movements in building channels for international cooperation and solidarity. Its programs include exchange visits, development education, information sharing, dialogues, and joint projects. Its Alternative Trading Program "Fairmark" assists in the promotion and marketing of indigenous products of tribes, communities, and other peripheral groups and people's organizations. PGX also has a restaurant, TriMona, where one can eat delicious fair-trade vegetarian food.



Group photo of MWF members and friends at the May 2012 meeting. MWF Chair Lisa Lumbao is at the back, extreme right.

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The second speaker, Jonas H. Tetangco, is the CEO of DevConcepts PH, a project management company established in 2007 with a core purpose to help organizations grow. He spoke about the Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) Program, which is one of his company's current professional engagements.

The AVID Program is funded by the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) and supports skilled Australians aged 18-upwards who want to live and work in a developing country setting. An Australian Government initiative, the

AVID Program aims to strengthen mutual understanding between Australia and its partner countries and make a positive contribution to development.

The AVID Program places around 900 Australians in developing countries in Asia-Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Australian Volunteers work with local counterparts in partner host organizations to achieve sustainable development outcomes through capacity building, skills transfer and institutional strengthening.

AVID assignments cover a diverse range of sectors including education, environment, gender, governance, health, infrastructure, rural development and trade. The overall goal is to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Jonas explained that the volunteers are placed in host organizations, which include nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), local government units, educational institutions or community organizations. The program aims for volunteers to undertake mutual capacity development and cultural exchange, enhance personal and professional linkages, connect to the community and increase diplomatic relations.

There are two volunteer program streams. One stream is Australian Volunteers for International Development: (a) skilled, business stream; (b) 18 yrs old and above; (c) 1 to 36 months duration; (d) open to permanent residents and Australian/New Zealand citizens. The other stream is Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development: (a) youth stream; (b) 18-30 yrs old;

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(c) 3 to 12 months duration; (d) open to Australian citizens only.

The program provides the following support to volunteers: (a) Travel arrangements to and from Australia; (b) Allowances (cost of living, accommodation, settlement, resettlement); (c) Insurance (medical, travel-accident); (d) Training in Australia and in-country; (e) Leave entitlements

(recreation, sick, compassionate); (f) Counseling; (g) Emergency assistance; (g) In-country support (welfare and assignments).

Jonas also discussed the host organization's responsibilities: (a) A meaningful assignment that addresses current host organization or community needs; (b) A supervisor who provides guidance; (c) Counterpart staff to work closely with the volun-

teer; (d) Safe and secure working environment; (e) Commitment to sustainable development and capacity building.

Jonas ended the session by mentioning the priority sectors in the Philippines for the period 2012-2016: (a) Education; (b) Governance; (c) Community development and social services; (d) Disaster risk reduction and climate change; (e) Peace building and human rights.

Jonas can be reached at jonas.tetangco@austraining.com.au or at Tel. No. +63 9285043490 ■

Aussie Volunteers Lend Expertise to the Philippines

Tuesday, May 29, 2012

A secondary school teacher, a chartered accountant, and a business management specialist are among the nine passionate young Australians who will begin working with local organizations this month through the Australian Youth Ambassadors for Development (AYAD) Program.

The AYAD Program is the youth stream of the Australian Volunteers for International Development program, an initiative of the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) that deploys skilled volunteers to live and work in developing countries as part of the Australian Government's overseas aid program.

*** For the past 12 years, over 200 Australian volunteers have

worked with Filipino organizations in the areas of sustainable agriculture, community development and sustainable livelihoods, education, youth development, persons with disabilities, environmental sustainability, governance, and human trafficking.

*** Newly arrived Australian volunteer Marie-Louise Batenburg is a secondary school teacher who has started work as a Community Education Project Officer based with the Department of Education (DepED) in Tiagon, Camarines Sur. She will be involved in monitoring and evaluating a pilot program that is designed to support people of all ages in experiencing learning outside the formal education system.

(From Manila Times.net /
Written by Random Jottings)

Manila Women's Forum

Manila Women's Forum (MWF) is a cross-cultural network for women. It provides opportunities to build friendships, talk to women of various cultures, and share information about resources. Our meetings are intended to provide intellectual stimulation and lead to personal and professional development. All women are welcome to join.

The current officers are: **Lisa Lumbao**, Chair; **Julia Holz**, Treasurer and Membership; **Beulah P. Taguiwalo**, Newsletter; **Lisa Stuart**, Message Board Moderator; **Evelyn Mendiola**, Membership; **Shari Virjee Tañada**, Message Board; **Caroline Wright**, Message Board; **Camille Dalmacio**, Message Board.

Cost of membership is P300 per year. Members receive a copy of the current mailing list in addition to the newsletter, which is also sent to non-members. A contribution is collected at each monthly meeting: P20 for members, and P50 for non-members. For more information about MWF, please contact Lisa Lumbao at Tel. 813-0168, or at lumbao@mozcom.com.

MWF Newsletter

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