



MESSAGE

Mga Kababayan,

I have recently arrived in Berlin to assume my new task as the 16th Ambassador of the Philippines to the Federal Republic of Germany at this auspicious juncture of the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Philippine-German bilateral relations.

The presence of Filipinos in Germany is reflective of the special and unique bond of relations between the Philippines and Germany that dates back to the mid 19th century and which has flourished to this very day. It is therefore a welcome challenge to all of us to work together and contribute toward the fulfillment of the continued and strong relations between the Philippines and Germany. For this reason, I wish to invite you to document your contribution in developing this relationship.

On a cheerful note, this is the time of the year when Filipinos, wherever they are around the world, observe both in solemn and festive mood our unique and distinctive Christmas traditions. Let us showcase to our friends and our host country our rich cultural heritage by participating actively in the celebration of this special event.

May I take this opportunity to greet you all a "Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon!"

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

DELIA DOMINGO-ALBERT
Ambassador



Ambassador Delia Domingo-Albert is welcomed by ASEAN ambassadors at the Otto-Lilienthal airport Berlin-Tegel: (left to right) Mr. Leslie J. Baja (partly hidden), Ambassador Albert, Myanmar Ambassador & Mme Tin Win, and Malaysian Ambassador Kamal Ismaun

Curriculum Vitae



Delia Domingo-Albert

Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the
Philippines to the Federal Republic of
Germany
Presidential Adviser and Special Envoy
for Mining

Diplomatic Career:

- 2003-2004 - First Woman Secretary (Minister) of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines and in the ASEAN region
- June 2004 - Chairman, United Nations Security Council
- 2002-2003 - Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs for International Economic Relations
 - APEC Senior Official
- 1995-2002 - Ambassador to the Commonwealth of Australia with concurrent accreditation to Nauru, Tuvalu and Vanuatu
- 1990-1995 - Director General of the ASEAN National Secretariat, Department of Foreign Affairs
- 1982-1990 - Deputy Chief of Mission, Philippine Embassy, Bonn Federal Republic of Germany
- 1980-1982 - Director of Protocol for Privileges and Immunities, Department of Foreign Affairs
- 1975-1980 - First Secretary and Consul General, Philippine Embassy, Romania with concurrent accreditation to Hungary and the German Democratic Republic
- 1969-1975 - Attaché, Philippine Mission to the United Nations and Other International Organizations, Geneva, Switzerland
- 1967-1969 - Assistant to the Secretary (Minister) of Foreign Affairs Affairs

Education:

- Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
- Public Administration Institute, London
- Boston University Overseas, Bonn
- Diplomatic Institute, Salzburg, Austria
- Institute for International Studies, Geneva, Switzerland
- University of the Philippines, Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service

Languages:

Filipino, English, French, German, Spanish, Japanese, Romanian

Awards:

- Bundesverdienstkreuz mit Stern – Germany
- Order of Sikatuna, rank of Datu – Philippines
- Outstanding Woman in Public Service – National Council of Women in the Philippines
- Royal Title, "Bai -a - Rawatun sa Pilimpinas" by Royal Houses of Lanao, Mindanao, Philippines
- Doctor of Humanities, honoris causa – Philippine Women's University

Personal:

Married to Hans Albert
Daughter: Joy Angelika Ines Albert

FORMER PRESIDENT RAMOS VISITS BERLIN

Former President Fidel V. Ramos was in Berlin from 2-5 October 2005 as part of his speaking tour of Germany under the auspices of the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSS).

He was accompanied in his trip by Mr. Paul Schäfer of HSS, Mr. Arturo Valdez, former DOTC Undersecretary and Atty. Frumencio Lagustan, Executive Director of the Ramos Peace and Development Foundation (RPDEV).

The main thrust of his visit was to inform the audience of the current political situation in the Philippines. Specifically, he briefed them on the moves to reform the constitution and with that, the political system of the country. He expressed the belief that once the constitution is revised, the Philippines could move forward. He specified four areas of change in the constitution which he said are vital:

- 1) system of government from presidential to parliamentary form;
- 2) electoral reforms including that of the Comelec;
- 3) political party reform to ban turncoatism among others; and
- 4) judicial reform seeking to shorten dispensation of justice.

He informed his various audiences that the Philippine economy is the main concern of the government at present and not the political intramurals. He noted that if the Filipinos unite as a nation, that we can overcome the challenges confronting us.

Former President Ramos launched formally on Sunday, 2 October 2005, the Overseas Absentee Voting (OAV) Registration/Certification in Berlin with the issuance of the Receipt of Acknowledgment of Application Form to Mr. Abelardo Galang II. Mr. Galang is the first applicant for this year's OAV registration in Berlin. He is an accomplished piano recital and recording artist and is currently pursuing his doctoral studies in music at the Technische Universität Berlin.

The OAV launching formed part of a program with Mr. Ramos as keynote speaker. The members of the Filipino community, officials and staff from the Embassy, the Consulate-General in Hamburg and the Honorary Consulate in Potsdam attended the event held at the Embassy's Bulwagang Bagumbayan.



Former President Fidel V. Ramos with officers and staff of the Philippine Embassy in Berlin, the Philippine Consulate General in Hamburg, and the Philippine Trade and Investment Center.

MAJOR GERMAN INVESTMENT SHOWS CONTINUED CONFIDENCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Philippine Ambassador to Germany Delia Domingo-Albert met with STEAG AG in November on the occasion of the visit of Dr. Washington SyCip to Berlin from 25 to 26 November 2005. Dr. SyCip is Chairman of the board of STEAG State Power Inc (SPI), the company involved in the construction of

a power plant in Mindanao. STEAG AG, the fifth largest German power power generator, owns 89% of the capital stock of SPI while State Investment Trust Inc (SITI) owns the remaining 11 %. A major German investment, the USD 305 million STEAG project involves the construction of a 210mw coal-fired power plant in the PHIVIDEC Industrial Estate in Villanueva, Misamis Oriental covering an area of 55.42 hectares. The plant is expected to be commercially operational by December 2006. This is the third STEAG power plant built abroad, after Turkey and Colombia.

A total of USD 201 million in primary loans is being made available for the Mindanao power plant project by an international banking consortium led by the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) along with HypoVereinsbank AG. The long-term loans are covered against political risks for the borrowed capital by the German Garantie für Kapitalanlagen im Ausland (GKA) (USD 100 million), JBIC (USD 60.6 million) and Japan's Nippon Export and Investment Insurance (NEXI) (USD 40.4 million). In the Philippines, Banco de Oro provided a local peso loan of up to PHP 880 million (USD 15.8 million)..

There are currently about 2,700 workers employed on the site, part of them experts of the contractor Kawasaki Heavy Industries, but the overwhelming majority of the workers come from the region. The project includes social and environmental dimensions as well, with SPI involved in the construction of housing, reforestation and vocational training for villages around the area.

The project is one of the biggest direct foreign investments in the region and a crucial energy infrastructure project for economic growth in Mindanao. Ambassador Albert expressed optimism that the project will spur further investments in Mindanao, including in mining and its related industries.



Ambassador Albert with STEAG officials (from left to right): Dr.-Ing. Heinz Scholtholt, Member of the Management Board Dr. Washington SyCip, Chairman of the Board of SPI and Mr. Claus-Peter Bell, Executive Vice President, Project Realization/Power Plant International.

“PHILIPPINE CRAFTSMANSHIP PLUS GERMAN TECHNOLOGY EQUALS AN IDEAL CREATIVE PARTNERSHIP”

“Without Cebu, DEDON is nothing” says Bobby Dekeyser, once admired soccer goalkeeper of Bayern München, turned CEO of DEDON GmbH during the visit of the Philippine Ambassador to Germany, Delia Domingo-Albert to the company in an industrial suburb of Lüneburg, a picturesque city in Northern Germany.

...../In the summer....

In the summer of 2001, DEDON GmbH established its aluminum furniture manufacturing facilities in Cebu with an initial capital investment of PHP14.3 million. "Sir Bobby," as the Cebu team calls him, travels around the world with his award-winning international designers to realize new ideas and flies to Cebu regularly, which he cited as the "Mecca" of the traditional art of basket weaving.

Design begins with the material, the Hularo fiber, developed and produced by the DEDON Lüneberg Team. Hularo is a synthetic material. It is extremely tear-proof, colorfast, weatherproof, resistant to UV light, and environmentally friendly, while tremendously versatile in color and shape. The Hularo fibers are then hand-woven into unique furniture by a creative team in Cebu. DEDON furniture is always greeted with enthusiasm and sets international standards. The company has been awarded prizes by trade associations and today employs more than 2,800 people in over 16 countries with showrooms in Austria, Spain and Germany. Over 2,000 creative Filipinos are employed in DEDON's Cebu plant.

Barely two weeks in Berlin, Ambassador Albert started opening new windows of trade and investment opportunities to German companies like that of DEDON.

Showcasing Filipino ingenuity and innovative products in an ultra-modern city like Berlin is one of the Ambassador's dreams. She is convincing Bobby Dekeyser to look at what other places in the Philippines can offer.

A rare collection of unique baskets from all over the Philippines is waiting to be explored, where ethnic designed ancient baskets and excellent German ultra modern technology can once more be merged to produce a unique product



From left to right: Commercial Attaché Rosalie R. Evangelista, G. Nicolas Thomkins, Dedon's CEO Bobby Dekeyser, Ambassador Delia Domingo-Albert, Harald Aichinger and Cultural Officer Milagros Antonio-Kropp.

JOINT STATEMENT

Honorable Edsel Custodio, Undersecretary for International Economic Relations and H. E. Peter Beckingham, Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador representing the Presidency of the European Union FOLLOWING THE EU-DFA HEADS OF MISSION INFORMAL DIALOGUE (DFA-EU HoMs) ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

1 December 2005

"Our discussions underlined the close economic ties between the Philippines and the European Union. Both sides agreed that, given the growing links, the relationship can only benefit from such a dialogue.

Our discussions followed intensive preparatory work by representatives of EU Member States and the European Commission and officials from a wide range of Philippine Departments and Agencies. Groups met in October and November to consider employment opportunities in the EU, fiscal and economic reforms in the Philippines, trade policy,

and investment and mining in the Philippines. "We noted the increasing of OFWs in the EU, especially in the UK, Ireland, Italy and Spain, as well as the employment opportunities generated by further EU investment through outsourcing in the Philippines. The EU welcomed the Philippines' economic reform programme and progress on fiscal consolidation and anti-money laundering legislation.

"We also agreed that there should be greater opportunities for further investment from the EU into the Philippines as a result of the Supreme Court decision on mining. With regard to the ongoing discussions on Charter Change primarily focussed on the form of government, the EU noted that the process of constitutional change in the Philippines could represent an important opportunity to open the Philippines to greater investment from Europe. The EU stressed the importance of a reliable legal and judicial framework for international investors and the respect for the sanctity of contracts, particularly long-term Build Operate Transfer (BOT) agreements. The Philippine side assured that the Government is committed to observing and enforcing the rule of law in this country.

"We agreed about the importance of the forthcoming WTO meeting in Hong Kong. The EU re-iterated that the Doha Round is a development Round and should be a comprehensive Single undertaking. EU took note of the Philippines' wish to see progress on market access and domestic support. The Philippines presented to the EU a note on its Debt for Millennium Development Goal Initiatives.

"We look forward to continuing our Dialogue with the Hon. Alberto Romulo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and EU Heads of Mission on 19 December, followed by further talks in the New Year focussing on social and political issues of mutual interest."

RP Voted World's Best Site For Mining

(Source: Department of Environment and Natural Resources)

Besting 119 other countries, the Philippines has been adjudged as the world's most attractive site for mining investors.

Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor, who flew to London to receive the award from Mining Communications, publisher of Mining Journal, the world-leading and most authoritative weekly mining newspaper, said the country award was the best proof that the administration of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was on the right track in pursuing mineral resource development as a key to economic revival. The award was given during the Mines and Money World Congress held at the Hilton London Metropole Hotel last November 23, 2005.

Defensor said the distinction not only put the Philippines on the world mining map but also would result to more investors checking out their prospects here.

He added that the Mining Journal Outstanding Achievement Award came as a pleasant surprise for the Philippine government, which had expected stiff competition from other countries which had their own world-class mining sectors. The award is the first for the Philippines.

The Secretary attributed the success to wide-ranging and ongoing policy reforms, support from the mining sector, and the many mining roadshows around the world where the government worked hand in hand with