



RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD FOUNDATION

The Asia Forum “Changing Asia: Forging Partnerships, Building Sustainability” An International Conference

Philippine International Convention Center, Manila, Philippines
29-30 August 2008

ADMINISTRATIVE AND TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR PARTICIPANTS

Overview of the Conference

The conference aims to bring together the collective, on-the-ground experiences of Ramon Magsaysay laureates, leaders of business, civil society, media, academe, multilateral institutions, and international development assistance organizations which will hopefully yield powerful insights on the conference themes of poverty and inequality, environmental degradation, and social conflict, and trigger partnerships for greater impact.

Dubbed “**Changing Asia: Forging Partnerships, Building Sustainability**”, The Asia Forum will be a unique and groundbreaking event in at least three significant ways: (1) this is the first time that Magsaysay laureates, as a community of respected Asian leaders from twenty-one Asian societies covered by the Award, will meet with like-spirited representatives from other sectors in a dialogue about the future of Asia; (2) unlike other conferences, “**Changing Asia...**” will focus on on-the-ground solutions to Asia's key issues and how these solutions can be further improved and replicated; and (3) an important outcome which is targeted by the Conference is the identification of concrete partnership opportunities between and among the participants.

Participants

The Magsaysay laureates will be joined by senior business leaders, and representatives of international development assistance organizations, multilateral institutions, development NGOs, research and academic institutions, government, and media. Corporate entities and private organizations with long-standing commitments to, and involvement in, social programs in the region and in their host communities will play a major role in this conference.

Date and Venue

The conference will be held on August 29 to 30, 2008 at the Philippine International Convention Center, Roxas Blvd., Manila, Philippines. Asia's first international convention center, PICC is strategically located at the heart of Manila, a few minutes drive from Ninoy Aquino International Airport, and close to major hotels. The state-of-the-art facility has been the host of numerous local and foreign conventions, meetings, fairs, and social events.



Accommodation

Participants are advised to make their own accommodation arrangements. Participants are encouraged to book their accommodations at any of the hotels listed below, given their proximity to the conference venue and the preferred rates offered to conference participants. Complimentary and scheduled shuttle service to and from the conference venue will be provided (morning and afternoon) by Sofitel Philippine Plaza, The Heritage Hotel Manila, and Traders Hotel. Airport transfers are also available upon request with applicable hotel tariffs. Participants are advised to inform the hotel representative/s that they are making the subject booking in connection with the conference, to avail of the special rates.

For hotel bookings, please contact:

Hotel	Rates (Per Room Per Day)	Contact Person
Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	(Subject to prevailing forex - \$1=P43) De Luxe Room: USD 169.77 net (PhP 7,300) Club Sofitel: USD 238.14 net (PhP 10,240) Airport transfer – (depends on type of vehicle) Regular Car: PhP 875, one way Van: PhP 2,115, one way BMW: PhP 1,750 to P3,650 one way	Lala Quilantang, Senior Sales Manager Conventions & Associations Tel. No. (632) 832 6922 Fax: +63 2 832 6923 Email: smconvention@sofitelmanila.com
http://www.sofitel.com/asia		
Diamond Hotel Philippines Roxas Boulevard cor. Dr. J. Quintos St., Manila	(Subject to posting rate \$1=P43) De Luxe Room: USD175.00net (PhP7,500.00 net) Executive Suite: USD280.00net (PhP12,000.00 net) Airport transfer (one way) Toyota Vios: USD30.00 Toyota Camry: USD45.00	Shiela M. Manansala Account Manager Tel. No. (632) 528-3000 local 1138 E-mail: smagbiray@diamonddhotel.com
http://www.diamonddhotel.com/		
The Heritage Hotel Manila Roxas Blvd., corner EDSA, Pasay City	(Subject to posting rate \$1=P43) De Luxe Room: USD152 net P6,500 net, subject to prevailing forex with free shuttle to PICC Airport transfer (one way / subject to change) Car: USD 16 (P650.00net) Van: USD 32 (P1,350.00net)	Marvi S. delos Santos Account Manager - Corporate Tel. No. (632) 854-8888 local 7124 Fax:: (632)8548608 Email: msanchez@heritagehotelmanila.com Cell : (63 920-9519721)
www.heritagehotelmanila.com		

Traders Hotel Manila 3001 Roxas Blvd.Pasay City	De Luxe Cityview: USD110 (Php 4,914 net) Traders Club Room: USD151 (Php 6,756.75 nett) Airport transfer (one way) Car: USD15 (Php680 net) Van: USD20 (Php890net) (*based on forex USD1=PhP45 - subject to change) www.tradershotels.com	Ms. Kristine Capunitan-Rivera Sales Manager Tel. No.: (63 2) 5279120 Mobile No.0917 8061992 Fax: (63 2) 5279188 Email:kristine.capunitan@shangri-la.com
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*Rates are inclusive of buffet breakfast and are subject to change without prior notice.

Conference participants are advised to make their reservations as early as possible to be assured of room availability. Participants are also advised to inform the Conference Management Secretariat, Attention: Betty del Castillo, through e-mail address asia.conference@rmaf.org.ph or through fax number (632) 404-0926, upon confirmation of their booking arrangements so we can re-confirm the reservations before arrival in Manila.

Travel / Entry Arrangements

Conference delegates are expected to make their own flight arrangements.

Except for stateless persons and those from countries with which the Philippines has no diplomatic relations, or nationals listed below, visitors are generally allowed to enter the country without visas for a stay not exceeding twenty-one (21) days, provided that they hold tickets for their return journey and passports valid for at least six (6) months beyond the period of stay. For visits longer than 21 days, a temporary visitor's visa must be secured from the Philippine embassy or consulate in your country.

Nationals of the People's Republic of China, North Korea, Tonga, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq, Palestinians, and holders of Belize passports need to secure appropriate visas. Holders of Hong Kong or Macao Special Administrative Region passports, British National Overseas passports, and Portuguese passports issued in Macao are allowed to enter the Philippines without a visa for a stay of not exceeding seven (7) days. Holders of Taipei passports need to secure special entry permits. Visas and special permits may be obtained from the appropriate Philippine embassies or consulates, and in the case of Taiwan, from the Manila Economic and Cultural Office. A directory of Philippine embassies and consulates may be accessed at www.dfa.gov.ph

For more information on Philippine visa requirements and other general information on the Philippines, please visit:

<http://www.dfa.gov.ph/consular/visa.htm> or <http://www.gov.ph/aboutphil/vinfo.asp>

Airport Arrival and Departure Information

Participants arriving through the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Terminal 1, are advised to proceed to the Public Assistance Counter at the Arrival lobby of the Terminal 1 Building, for advisory assistance on transportation services.

Participants arriving via Philippine Airlines flights will be deplaning at the Centennial Terminal or Terminal 2 of the international airport. A Public Affairs Assistance Counter is available at the Arrival Lobby for Transportation Advisory Assistance.

For airport transfers, metered or accredited fixed rates taxi services are available at the International Airport. The conference venue and the hotels listed above are located along Roxas Blvd., Manila, which is approximately 7 kilometers from the international airport.

Conference participants are advised to reserve Php 750 (approx. USD 18) for the terminal fee at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport upon departure.

All arriving passengers will be subjected to immigration and customs screening. Please consult the www.immigration.gov.ph for details on immigration and customs regulations.

Identification Document and Security

Participants are requested to bring **Photo Identification Document (With Photo)**, such as driver's license, passport, etc. for security check and validation of identity as a requirement prior to issuance of the conference identification card. The conference identification cards will be issued upon validation of identity at the designated registration sites. Security measures shall be strictly enforced; thus, only conference participants with identification cards issued by the conference secretariat will be allowed entry at the conference venue. Participants are advised to also carry photo identification documents at all times.

Registration Procedures

Participants who have pre-registered with the conference secretariat shall receive an acknowledgement letter from the Conference Director. Pre-registered participants are assured of a participation slot in the conference. Pre-registered participants may secure their conference identification cards and conference packets/bag on the dates and registration centers listed below:

28 August 2008, 9:00am-6:00 pm	:	Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel
29 August 2008, 7:30am-11:00 am	:	Philippine International Convention Center

For additional information, please get in touch with the Conference Secretariat.

Conference Rooms

The opening session, plenary sessions, and the closing session of The Asia Forum will be held at Meeting Room 5 of the Philippine International Convention Center.

Breakout Sessions will be held in the following rooms:

- Meeting Room 8 : Poverty and Inequality
- Meeting Room 7 : Poverty and Inequality
- Meeting Room 6 : Cooperation in Diversity
- Summit Hall E : Environmental Sustainability
- Summit Hall F : Environmental Sustainability

Conference Resource Center

A Conference Resource Center will be set up at the conference venue to serve as repository of materials that may be shared with the conference delegates. A viewing facility and internet services will also be available in the resource center for the conference delegates. The resource center will be situated at Meeting Room 2, beside the Secretariat Room.

Meals

Snacks and coffee will be served in the foyer outside Meeting Room 5 during plenary sessions and in the designated meeting rooms for the breakout sessions. Lunches will be served at the Banquet Hall on the second floor.

Social Program

A reception will be hosted by the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation for the conference delegates on 29 August 2008 at the Ramon Magsaysay Center along Roxas Boulevard, Manila. Dress code is business attire. All conference attendees are invited to attend the reception.

Medical Services

Emergency medical services will be made available in the conference venue. Request for medical services may be done through the conference secretariat located at meeting room 1.

Basic Facts about Manila

Manila is the capital city of the Philippines. As an international gateway city, it is served by more than 30 airlines, which fly to different cities throughout the world. Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific, among other domestic airlines, link Manila to 26 cities in 19 countries and ply the air routes of principal cities and towns all over the country.

Climate. Based on the average of all weather stations in the Philippines the mean annual temperature is 26.6° C. March to May is hot and dry, with temperatures ranging from 22 to 32 Celsius. June to October is rainy. November to February is cool; temperatures range from 22 to 28 degrees Celsius. Average humidity year-round is 77 percent.

People. The Filipino is basically of Malay stock with a sprinkling of Chinese, American, Spanish and Arab blood. The Philippines has a population of about 90 million as of 2007 estimates.

Language. There are two official languages – Filipino and English. English is both spoken and understood throughout the country, especially in business negotiations and in the government.

Tourist Destinations. Philippine boasts of magnificent churches, museums and theatres of impressive architectural proportions with their interiors testifying to the centuries-old tradition of the Filipinos. There are malls, boutiques, flea markets and antique shops which offer endless surprises for shoppers and souvenir-hunters.

In Manila, tourist attractions include the Malacanang Palace, official residence of the Philippine heads of state. There are numerous historical and cultural spots in Manila which include Intramuros, the historical walled city; Cultural Center of the Philippines; San Agustin Church and Museum; Metropolitan Museum; Quiapo; Chinatown; among others. There are also sunset cruises around Manila Bay and open-air cultural events held at Paco Park, Puerta Real in Intramuros and Rizal Park.

Metro Manila has a cosmopolitan range of cuisine. Filipino specialty restaurants abound, along busy restaurant rows in Ermita, Malate and Roxas Boulevard (Manila), on Makati Avenue, Jupiter Street, Pasong Tamo and Pasay Road (Makati), Serendra at The Fort (Taguig) and on Timog, West and Quezon Avenues (Quezon City).

Timezone. GMT + 8 hours

For all inquiries and correspondence, please contact:

The Conference Management Secretariat
Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation
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mpalileo@rmf.org.ph; bdelcastillo@rmf.org.ph
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