

# Diaspora philanthropy: New Zealand Filipino Experience

By

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Albert Einstein  
Immigrant and Princeton University Professor

# Key messages

- ◆ Diaspora philanthropy
- ◆ New Zealand Filipino experience
- ◆ How effective is diaspora philanthropy as an instrument of community development?

# Filipino Fast Facts

- ◆ Population: 89 million Filipinos (July 2006)
- ◆ Diaspora Filipino: 7.5 million globally
- ◆ In 193 countries worldwide
- ◆ Filipino remittance: \$US 11.6 billion (2005)
- ◆ 219 million \$US gifts and donations (2003)
- ◆ 50% unaccounted through informal channels (World Bank estimate 2005)

# Diaspora Philanthropy

Process through which migrants:

1. forge and sustain social relations with their home communities
2. allocate resources to fund development programs in their communities of origin
3. build transnational social relations that link together origin and settlement societies  
(Opiniano: 2002:2)

# Philippine Experience

- ◆ Bayanihan community spirit heroism
- ◆ ADB 2004 National survey of Filipinos interest in contribution to community development
  - ◆ 41% interested;
  - ◆ 20% very interested (ADB 2004)
- ◆ 12,000 Filipino Associations Overseas (DOLE)
  - ◆ 4,000 recorded as engaged in diaspora philanthropy (CFO)
  - ◆ Between 1990 -2003 about US\$75 billion (Linkapil)

# Filipino Diaspora Philanthropy in New Zealand

- ◆ 8 Filipinos -1951 NZ census
- ◆ 11,137 -2001 NZ census
- ◆ 17,051 – 2003 Phil CFO data
- ◆ 30,000 -2006 estimate by the  
Philippine Ambassador to New Zealand
- ◆ 16,938 -2006 NZ census

# Dynamics of NZ Filipino community

- ◆ Two umbrella organisations
  - ◆ 40 Filipino organizations
  - ◆ 5 Home town associations
- ◆ 1 HTA every other month since April 2006
  - ◆ 10 HTAs at the end of 2006

# Diaspora philanthropy actors

- ◆ 30,000 Filipinos
- ◆ Filipino personal networks
- ◆ Filipino organisations
- ◆ Filipino Church groups
- ◆ Philippine Embassy
- ◆ Filipino media both print and broadcast
- ◆ Filipino entertainment groups
- ◆ Non Filipino entities

# Manifestations

- ◆ Annual National Filipino Labour Weekend – Pagpaunlad (Enrichment) Scholarship recipient
- ◆ Quick response to distress call from the Philippines for calamity relief operations.
- ◆ Paglaum (Hope) Trust for 40 orphans of Leyte mudslide in the Philippines in February, 2006
- ◆ Auckland Catholic Filipino Chaplaincy does a special collection for relief operations in the Philippines

# Manifestations

- ◆ New Life Churches of New Zealand organized a free multi cultural concert for the benefit of the proposed orphanage in Sorsogon, Philippines
- ◆ Filipino media has been playing an active role in diaspora philanthropy
- ◆ Personal networks help tap resources of diaspora philanthropy in the Philippines
- ◆ Reborn band concert and CD sale for GK777 projects
- ◆ Gawad Kalinga 777 -700,000 houses for 7,000 villages in 7 years.

# Role of Diaspora philanthropy in community development

- ◆ Tap resources for development projects in the Philippines
- ◆ Partner in joint ventures in infrastructure projects and micro financing in rural areas.

# Hindrances and opportunities

- ◆ Apprehension about the organizers of events and pooling of resources for Philippine community development activities.
- ◆ Does not want the government, if possible to get involve in diaspora philanthropy
- ◆ Gawad Kalinga is a good vehicle in rallying HTAs in New Zealand to recapture the Filipino nationhood and cultivate hope to beneficiaries back home.
- ◆ Filipinos integrated well in New Zealand which is good for networking and leg working for diaspora philanthropy

# Slum in Towerville, Bulacan before GK 777



# Towerville, Bulacan New Zealand GK Village





# The first completed duplex at the New Zealand Village



Figure 5 The first completed duplex at the New Zealand Village


# Before GK



# After GK



# Conclusion

- ◆ Diaspora philanthropy has been a practice of Filipinos worldwide.
  - ◆ It provides an avenue for bringing resources from Filipinos living overseas to enhance community development at local village level.
  - ◆ It also enhances democratic participation through civic activism by migrants.
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Why are these Filipino kids smiling?

