



News

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The Newsletter of the
Association of Former
Employees of the Asian
Development Bank

Updates

People, Places, and Passages



Chapter News



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Our Cover



Top right: ADB President Asakawa. Left: Noritada Morita wishes us a happy new year. Below: Rajasthan adventurers. Background: Jaisalmer Fort's golden sandstone wall.

AFE–ADB News

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AFE–ADB Updates

AFE Welcomes New ADB President



The 16th of January 2020 marked a special dual occasion for ADB as it bade farewell to **President Takehiko Nakao** and welcomed its newest **President, Masatsugu Asakawa**, who officially began his duties as President of ADB on 17 January.

AFE welcomes President Nakao to our organization, and looks forward to a cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with ADB under President Asakawa.

ADB's 10th President

President Asakawa is ADB's 10th president. "I am honored to assume the role of ADB president and to begin working in close cooperation with our 68 member countries," said Asakawa, 61, in a statement. "I pledge to do my best to achieve a more prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific," he said.

Most notably, the day also marked President Asakawa's return to ADB—as a **long-standing member of the AFE**. He had served as **chief advisor to ADB President Kimimasa Tarumizu** from 1989 to 1992, during which time he spearheaded the creation of a new office focused on strategic planning.

Before returning to ADB, President Asakawa served as **special advisor to Japan's prime minister and minister of finance**, and has a close-to-four decades' career at the Ministry of Finance.

In 2016, in his capacity as vice minister of finance for international affairs, he took on a leading role for the G7 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting in Sendai under the Japanese presidency, where a sustainable and inclusive development agenda was extensively discussed.

Most recently, President Asakawa served as **finance deputy for the G20 meetings** under the Japanese presidency, playing a pivotal role for the success of the G20 Osaka Summit as well as the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' meeting in Fukuoka. Some of his outstanding achievements in Osaka include the endorsement by the G20 Leaders of the "G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment" and the "G20 Shared Understanding on the Importance of UHC Financing in Developing Countries." Earlier, he had occupied various prominent positions within the Finance Ministry, including director positions in charge of development policy issues, foreign exchange markets, and international tax policy.

Mr. Asakawa obtained his BA from the University of Tokyo (Economics Faculty) in 1981, and MPA from Princeton University, US, in 1985.

President and Mrs. Asakawa graced the farewell ceremony of President Nakao, who served ADB from 2013 to 2019.



President Asakawa with the AFE Executive Committee at President Nakao's Farewell Cocktails.



At President Nakao's Farewell Cocktails. Front: President and Mrs. Asakawa with Jill de Villa, Marissa Wenceslao, and Nannette Amorado; behind: Secretary Zhukov and President Nakao.

AFE's New Member

President Nakao, now a new member of AFE, steered ADB through nearly 7 years with several achievements.

His tenure saw an **increase in new lending and grant commitments** to \$22 billion in 2019 from \$14 billion in 2013, while incorporating more advanced technologies into projects. Out of this total, private sector operations increased (lending, equity investment, and guarantee to private companies) to \$3.1 billion with an enhanced system of risk management, from \$670 million.

A notable achievement for ADB under President Nakao was the **merger of ADB's ordinary capital resources and concessional lending operation of the Asian Development Fund (ADF)**. This enabled expansion of ADB operations.

Under President Nakao's tenure, the **ADF 12 replenishment was completed**, which allowed ADB to continue grant operations for the poorest countries. Operations in the social sector such as health and education were strengthened; ADB's climate mitigation and adaptation financing doubled in 5 years; project, result-based, and policy-based loans and grant programs were used to respond to difficulties of countries from external volatilities,



President Takehiko Nakao.

natural disasters, and displaced persons; and local currency bonds increased in funding; and thematic bonds such as green, gender, and water were issued.

Finally, under President Nakao's leadership, ADB's **Strategy 2030** was launched in 2018. Strategy 2030 reiterates ADB's continued efforts to reduce poverty, and with clear targets for climate change, gender, private sector operations, and cofinancing. ■

From the Chairman: Welcome to Incheon

Bong-Suh Lee (ADB 1993–1998)



As Chairman of AFE–ADB and as a citizen of the Republic of Korea, I look forward to welcoming many of our AFE members to Incheon. The Republic of Korea is a founding member of the Asian Development Bank, and, exactly 20 years ago, graduated from being a borrowing member and transitioned to becoming a donor.

My country is very pleased to host the 53rd annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and the 3rd such meeting to be held here. We hosted ADB's 37th Annual Meeting on Jeju Island in 2004 and ADB's 3rd Annual Meeting in Seoul in 1970.

This will also mark AFE–ADB's 34th annual meeting, and the second one to be held in the Republic of Korea.

I welcome you to the AFE activities on 18–21 September, including the meetings and the cocktails in the evening where we enjoy getting together among ourselves and with ADB's new President (and AFE member) Masatsugu Asakawa and other ADB staff members.

In the following days you may take the opportunity to attend some of the many activities around the ADB meeting, including seminars, cocktails, and the opening ceremony. In addition I hope you will enjoy spending some time discovering other parts of our country, which has many scenic areas as well as good shopping. ■

From the AFE President

Hans-Juergen Springer (ADB 1972–2002)



It is never easy to relinquish a position one has held for many years, especially a position in which one has been the *primus inter pares* in a team of dedicated AFE members. But after 12 years, I thought the time had come to turn over the reins. I have no doubt that the next AFE President will effectively

and successfully lead AFE.

Looking back at my three terms as AFE president, I have seen many changes at ADB and I have, of course, also been involved in changes at AFE. The AFE Executive Committee has worked with two ADB Presidents, Haruhiko Kuroda and Takehiko Nakao. AFE is now working since 17 January 2020 with Masatsugu Asakawa who, by the way, has been an AFE member since 1992 after he worked as Personal Assistant for then ADB President Kimimasa Tarumizu. During my time at the helm of AFE, ADB staff have grown from about 2,500 to about 3,300 (increasing by almost a third), and its lending from \$8.7 billion to \$21.6 billion (increasing by about 250%). A third atrium was added to the headquarters building to accommodate ever increasing staff, and numerous policies and procedures were established to adapt to a changing world.

AFE's changes in that period were also significant. Membership grew from about 2,000 to 3,000 (increasing by 50%). AFE management expanded from what was essentially a two-person organization to a five-member Executive Committee. The ADB subsidy to AFE increased somewhat as did our own AFE Resources Budget. On the other hand, AFE made do with the same number of administrative assistants and the same office facilities. AFE, in line with a changing communication environment, has taken significant steps to use social media in its communication with members. The bylaws were amended whenever it became necessary. AFE continues to issue twice a year the approximately 40-page *AFE News*.

AFE has also continued to work with ADB on pension and health insurance matters. It now represents pensioners on two pension committees, one for the Staff Retirement Plan and one for the new Defined Contribution Plan. AFE is also an active participant in the more recently established

GMIP Consultative Forum. AFE promotes its visibility in ADB by making presentations at ADB Retirement Seminars for staff due to retire; through its interactions with current staff and Management; and through its cocktail reception at the annual meeting, to which Board members, Management, and senior staff are invited.

It is my firm conviction that AFE is in good condition, is doing its utmost best to bring members' concerns to ADB's attention, is communicating well with its members within its current staff and facilities' constraints, and is well-placed to adjusting to a changing world as necessary. AFE will, I believe, be able, under its new president, to master the future challenges it will face. ■

From the AFE Vice President

Jill Gale de Villa (ADB 1993–2005)



The AFE Executive Committee continues to meet formally as needed and informally frequently, including virtually. While each of us has our main area(s) of responsibility, many decisions are made as a group, especially matters of importance. As you know, my main focus areas are medical insurance

and communications. I want to especially thank Barbara Palacios for her role as an AFE representative on the GMIP Consultative Forum and her assistance with claims issues, and Marissa Del Castillo, Midi Kawashima, Marissa Wenceslao, and the Editorial Board for their continued and essential assistance with our communications. The insurance will be covered on p. 6–7.

The importance of our **communications** has been underscored by the urgent need to disseminate "real" information on the new corona virus. In this case, Marissa Wenceslao and I attended the ADB briefing on the virus and were then able to send official information to members by e-mail, upload it to the website, and place short info pieces on our Facebook page within 24 hours of the briefing. Included was where to get "real" information—ADB's Dr. Asadang noted at the start of the briefing that fake information about the virus was spreading much faster than the virus.

The **AFE-ADB HQ Facebook page** aims to disseminate "real" information about AFE and matters pertinent to AFE members. The page now has over 700 AFE

members. Because we don't have the people-power needed to moderate comments, we often turn commenting off, but we are happy to note that the comments received have all been complementary.

AFE has many further needs for enhancing our communication and information dissemination abilities. **We welcome volunteers**—including for surveillance of the **website content** to alert us for needs to update it and suggest how to improve it, for starting a **LinkedIn page**, and for creating a section of the website dedicated to **CVs and other information** from members who want an avenue for making known their skills and talents for purposes of increasing contacts for work (for pay or volunteering) and play.

Our twice-annual **AFE-ADB News** is another major undertaking, and credit goes to all who send in news and stories: no content, no newsletter. Please “keep ‘em coming.” The Editorial Board and I really appreciate and enjoy reading the range of articles sent for consideration, a broad variety that appeals to our diverse readership. Editorial Board members read, review the pieces, and suggest and edit to make them more concise and ready for our readership. We owe a major debt of gratitude to Jo Aquino. Jo was a long-time AFE assistant. During that time she learned typesetting and layouting. When she was promoted to a higher-ranking analyst position within ADB, she was able to continue typesetting and laying out our newsletter on overtime. Now she is a national officer—a well-deserved promotion, and we are so happy about this. The downside is she can no longer accept overtime pay, yet she continues to do the newsletter in her free time because she likes it so much. ■

Health Matters

Jill Gale de Villa

The new corona virus episode has heightened our awareness of the need for disease prevention and handling, but also the need for carefully reading the news to determine whether it is “real” (i.e., true) and what is the appropriate reaction. For example: headline: Death Toll Jumps to 304. Later in the story, this turns out to be a 3% mortality. Turn it around, and it means a 97% survival rate—below that of the normal flu (less than 0.2%), but far better than SARS or MERS. What can we learn from this? See the AFE website (www.AFE-ADB.org) for the summary notes on the ADB briefing on the virus.

Meeting with Cigna. On January 21 and 22, Barbara Palacios and I met with five Cigna staff members in Kuala Lumpur (KL), including its director Sook Kuan Leong (SKL), customer service staff, and head medical doctor Sangara Kumari Sangaran Kutty. The aim was to understand Cigna's processes better, and to explain general procedural issues AFE clients experienced, in order to then facilitate our ability to advise members on claims, facilitate members' understanding of and ability to handle claims, and attempt to enhance Cigna's ability to serve our members. All present felt the meetings were productive and useful. The meetings were not for discussion of specific claims except as they pertained to the processes and outcomes of claims.

Main points come from both Cigna's and our experience with claims, and are

1. To avoid communication going astray, clients should **always refer to the contact information on our Cigna cards when contacting Cigna**. About 5–10% of communications are mis-sent and have to be rerouted within the many Cignas, which causes delays.
2. **Calls to Cigna International are covered 24/7** because when it is night in KL, calls will go to Cigna International in Antwerp, Madrid, or Florida.
3. Regionally based teams negotiate and coordinate with providers. Coverage is not necessarily the same in all regions, e.g., traditional Chinese medicine is only covered in the PRC, the Republic of Korea, and the Philippines.
4. Cigna KL is the primary claims processor for ADB, including for ADB claims outside Asia, and for some other clients. **One team processes the incoming claims**, including 3 people dedicated to handling ADB. **This team does not have access to clients' medical information**, for reasons of confidentiality.
5. **Another team handles claims that must be elevated to a medical doctor**. The medical team's responsibilities include prior approvals, guarantees of payment, care coordination, case management, and requests for reconsideration. Requests for reconsideration of denial may initially go back to the same doctor, but a further request will result in another doctor being consulted. For complex cases, Cigna's clinical team can decide to offer an independent second opinion through Advance Medical.
6. **Medical decisions on coverage are based first on plan coverage and then on international**

guidelines pertaining to acceptable courses of action for specific ailments. Proper

documentation includes a medical report that must come from a doctor.

7. **Prior approvals and guarantees of payment can save the client and Cigna from difficulties with claims later.** However, neither warrant that everything will be covered. Cigna notes Cigna's surveys show their satisfaction ratings have increased since the requirement for pre-authorization of hospitalization in the Philippines, with fewer denials after the fact.
8. **Case management** is a service that aims to facilitate coordination between the provider and Cigna and to provide comfort to the patient. Cigna has 80 nurses dedicated to case management, 4 in KL. They can assist a patient/patient's family with determining courses of action, processes regarding claims and the needed information, etc. AFE noted that, to be effective, when contacting clients the nurses must state up front how they can assist or the client may view it as Cigna trying to save money at the client's expense.
9. **Preventive versus Diagnostic:** To be considered diagnostic, a test must be related to symptoms. For example, if a breast lump is removed and shown to be cancer, a future mammogram would be covered, but not if the lump is fibroid tissue.
10. Cigna's Manila rep, **Iris Tria**, can assist with claims filing procedures, but when requesting an appointment, always cc adb@cigna.com so someone else can assist in her absence.
11. Regarding the interface with **Medicare**, Cigna has other clients that require eligible staff to enroll in national health plans. ADB will inform Cigna who is eligible for and enrolled in Medicare, and if such clients send Cigna an invoice that has not been routed through Medicare, Cigna can return the invoice for proper routing.
12. **TeleHealth** gets a 100% satisfaction rating from those who have used it (including me). It can be used for emotional support as well as medical advice. Do get the Cigna Wellbeing app. The current COVID situation is likely to both exemplify how useful this app is, and stress it with an unusual number of calls—response time may be longer than initially advertised.
13. Regarding the breadth of coverage, **robotics and stem cell** treatments are being reviewed to ascertain what is still "experimental."

The draft notes are on the ADB website, members only section.

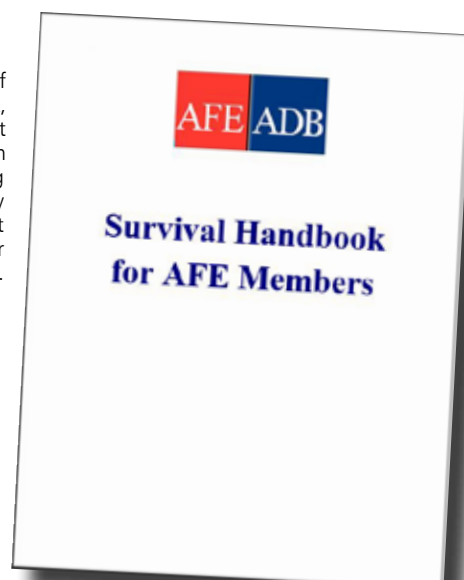
GMIP Consultative Forum. The quarterly GMIP Consultative Forum last met on 18 November. Major points are

1. The Medicare coordination project is moving forward, aiming to save money for members and the PRGMIP.
2. For the first time, BPMSD presented statistics and data regarding how the premium formula indicates what amount ADB pays Cigna as the premium for enrolled staff and retirees. A change in the formula will be done to avoid large, one-time premium increases and move to smaller, more frequent increases.
3. AFE and Staff Council noted concerns with Cigna's service. AFE (a) sought clarification on Cigna's role in determining room rates; (b) asked that Cigna improve communication by specifying reasons for denials, requests for additional information, etc.; (c) noted the need to assist people who have limited resources and may have difficulty paying the up-front costs of enrolling in Medicare, before they are refunded the costs; and (c) noted that the TeleHealth service is very useful.
4. AFE requested copies of the slides explaining the premium formula and the complete graphs Cigna presented at the 11 July meeting.

The draft notes are on the AFE website.

Claims. At the GMIP CF in November, BPMSD and Cigna noted claims have increased. On 1 April 2020, ADB announced that premiums will rise by 2%. This is the same for staff and retirees. ■

Get your copy of The Survival Handbook, for storing important information, from <http://AFE-ADB.org> in the Members Only Section. Download it and tailor it to your needs.



Highlights of 1818 Society and ARAIO Meetings

Jill Gale de Villa

In October 2019, I attended the 2019 annual meeting of the World Bank's retiree association—the 1818 Society—and the meeting of the Association of Retirees Associations of International Organizations.

1818 Society, 23–24 October 2019

The yearly 1818 Society gathering included half-day seminars on health insurance and pension, the actual annual meeting, and a talk on fragile and conflict-affected states.

The 1818 Society Pension Seminar was very comprehensive, with World Bank (WB) and retiree members of the pension committee and the pension finance committee (PFC) providing information and answering queries. The WB has a gross plan and a net one, with about 16,500 participants. Most retired participants are age 65–75, with 20% over 80. The retiree portal is used by 40% of retirees.

Javed Hamid (brother of AFE member Naved Hamid) reported on the governance of the WB plan.

1. The pension fund assets are in a legal trust. Contributions are irrevocable.
2. The plan document is approved by the IDB Board of Directors, which delegates financial responsibilities to the pension committee.
3. The PFC determines the strategic asset allocation and level of sustainable risk and return. The PFC aims to balance contributions with benefits, which is achieved through the funding policy.
4. The real return objective for the past 21 years has been 3.5%, and the nominal return objective has been 6.5%–7.0%. As long as this is achieved, the plan is sustainable.
5. To achieve these objectives, assets are diversified geographically and by type and risk.

6. Since 1991, the real return has been 5.1%, well above the goal.
7. The funded status, present value of future liabilities, is 20%–21%, above the 3.5%.

Other notes include the following: A yearly actuarial exercise determines the WB's contribution. The WB is now handling the yearly Proof-of-Life documentation online for those who have e-mail access. Because the WB's pension fund's assets are in a legal trust, they are in a lower tax bracket for Americans and cannot be touched by the WB.

Questions from attendees included

- How is the WB responding to climate risk? (A: They are trying to identify fund managers who can invest in companies with carbon emissions 70% lower than the market average.)
- Why are more retirees taking annuities? (A: their longer service and inability to find a better plan elsewhere)
- What is the financial health of the WB? (A: Good)

The Health Insurance Seminar included representatives from the vendors—Aetna, Caremark, Cigna, CVS, and SilverScript. The medical plan is self-insured and has about 13,500 members. Aetna administers the plan for the US; Cigna administers for international claims. The WB uses Aetna to administer US-based plan members and Cigna International for the rest. Five major points that might interest insured AFE members are

1. Having a power of attorney is essential for times of incapacitation so that someone can handle decisions and file claims.
2. Transparency and trust is high: retirees helped the WB write their Summary Plan Description.
3. Need to select the right facility for the care needed: urgent care centers for nonlife-threatening issues, emergency rooms (ERs) for life-threatening issues. ERs triage, so a person with a nonlife-threatening issue may find she or he is constantly pushed further back in the queue. Some CVS stores have walk-in clinics.
4. Most questions pertained to Medicare.
5. There was some confusion about when Cigna is used, and when Aetna. Members noted issues with Cigna's



Meeting at IMF.

responsiveness and Aetna's delayed claims processing (note that as the WB is self-insured, Aetna and Cigna are administrators, not the insurers).

The 1818 Society Annual Meeting started with a report by the Society's President Inder Sud. The 1818 Society has 7,600 members, 70% of them in the US, and 3 office staff members provided by the WB. The society functions because of volunteers. Several board vacancies were filled at the meeting.

Next was a brief talk and question and answer session with the US Executive Director David Malpass. Several questions/comments followed, including the need for specialists on staff, and how can the Board live up to its requirement to represent the best interests of the WB, not just of each representative's country?

The Seminar on Fragile and Conflict-Affected States followed, presented by Joel Hillman. The conclusion was that such work cannot be done as business-as-usual and needs flexible approaches and specialized staff on the ground empowered to make rapid decisions, including changing course and procurement. The talk engendered lots of response from the audience.

ARAI Meeting, 25 October 2019

The Association of Retiree Associations of International Organizations (ARAI) meetings allow us to compare benefits actions and policy at our "parent" organizations and to exchange information on how we are handling common issues. Anne Sweetzer also participated in this meeting for AFE. Nine organizations joined this year's meeting of the ARAIO at the International Monetary Fund (IMF):

- 1818 Society;
- Asociacion de Jubilados del Banco Interamericano de Desarrollo (AJ BID);
- Association of Former Employees of the Asian Development Bank (AFE-ADB);
- Association of Former Staff Members of the Pan American Health Organization of the World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO);
- Association of Retirees of the Organization of American States (AROAS);
- European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

(EBRD) Alumni Association;

- Federation of Associations of Former International Civil Servants, New York (FAFICS NY);
- International Monetary Fund Retirees Association (IMFRA); and
- United Nations Association of Foreign International Civil Servants (UN AFICS).

Each organization summarized its status and issues in the morning, and in the afternoon we broke into three groups to discuss three items: updating the 1818 Society's survival handbook, to be shared with ARAIO; communications; and health insurance.

Health Insurance. Given ongoing reviews of medical insurance in most organizations, participants saw a need to exchange information on the status of their health insurance. The matrix of insurance plan descriptions and benefits initiated by AFE several years ago is being revived. Plans varied widely across organizations. Regarding Medicare, views differed on what to require of individuals, which parts of Medicare should be required, and what should be given back to the enrollee for participating in both Medicare and the group medical plan.

Membership. All present noted the need to do better at attracting new retirees to join our organizations, to appeal to those who will have continuing careers. This includes increased social networking through avenues such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Skills Finder, etc. Avenues and challenges with electronic communications were discussed, including the need for outside assistance unless the "parent" organization provides it. We need multiple channels of communication to get messages to our memberships. As "parent" organizations change their recruitment to more short-term employment, our organizations need to anticipate the change to serve our prospective new members. At the same time, service to older retirees has to be maintained and geared to their needs and capacities.

Service. Our alumni organizations also need to actively balance service to members and to the "parent" organization. ■



Second from left is Anne Sweetzer.

AFE Executive Committee and Assistants

Bong-Suh Lee—Chairman
Hans-Juergen Springer—President
Jill Gale de Villa—Vice President
Nannette Guinto-Amorado—Treasurer
Marissa Wenceslao—Secretary

Malou Magalued and Manilen Pana—Administrative Assistants

Chapter Coordinators

Australia—Paul Turner
Canada—Bruce Murray
Ottawa Area—John Rive
Toronto Area—Nida Rodrigo
Vancouver Island—Alex Jorgensen
China, People’s Republic of—Min Tang
Europe—Günter Hecker
India—Shiladitya Chatterjee
Indonesia—Putu Kamayana
Japan—Kazu Sakai
Korea, Republic of—Meeja Hamm
New Zealand—Gordon Fox
Pakistan—Shahida Jaffrey
Philippines—Gamaliel de Armas, Jr.
East Group—Mayette Domingo, Midi Kawashima
North Group—Sally Baeza, Maria Luisa Baleva, Luz Tolarbas
South Group—Carmen Bontia, Ofelia Sta Ana, Baby Girl Cruz, Tek Ablaza
West Group—Rory Aragon, Nanette Amorado, Monina de Guzman
Singapore—Claire Wee
Sri Lanka—Athukorala Lakshman
United States: New York–New Jersey—Lorna del Rosario
United States: Southern California—Letty Gomez
United States: Washington, DC—Frederick Roche

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Standing Committees

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Ted Breckner	Albertine Santi
Bernard Donge	Anne Sweetser
Julia Holz	Axel Weber
Fred Mesch	Clay Wescott

Pension Council

Eveline Fischer	<i>Ex officio</i>
Nick Llave	Hans-Juergen Springer
Graham Walter	Jill Gale de Villa

Publications Committee

Jill Gale de Villa—Head	Anna Juico
Steve Banta	David Parker
Gamaliel de Armas, Jr.	Hans-Juergen Springer
Guia Estabillo	Marissa Wenceslao
Nannette Guinto-Amorado	Judy Yniguez
Julia Holz	Wickie Zveglich

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For additional information, guarantee of payment, and precertification, go to <https://www.cignahealthbenefits.com/en/plan-members> log in, go to “Contacts”

Chapter News

Australia: 2019 Annual Reunion

Paul Turner (ADB 1991–2007)



Paul Turner with Cristina Fergusson and Diana Rockett.

The Australia Chapter's 14th annual reunion, hosted by Wouter and Monique Vochteloo and Andrew Proctor, was held in the ski resort of Jindabyne, within the Snowy Mountains, in late October. With the ski season only having officially finished a few weeks earlier, the higher parts of the range were still snow covered, though the weather was mild and sunny. (Probably a good outcome for the comfort of the Manila-based contingent that had joined the reunion again.)

Barefoot Bowls.

Preceding the welcoming drinks and BBQ on the first night was an afternoon of barefoot bowls at the Cooma Bowling Club, with state-based teams (essentially New South Wales versus Queensland) competing for the "Founders Trophy."



Captains for the Founders Trophy for Lawn Bowls: Phil Young and Peter Carroll.

I have become a passionate lawn bowler in recent years, and organized the bowls' two teams of eight—many of whom were bowling for the first time. They displayed considerable potential and had a great time, particularly those representing NSW who had a comfortable win.

Kosciusko and Sustenance. All 35 participants enjoyed an informative and scenic bus tour on the following day through part of the Kosciusko National Park, with a running commentary provided by two National Parks rangers joining the bus for a trip up to Charlotte's Pass, which provided spectacular views, on a very clear day, of the main range and Mount Kosciusko, Australia's highest point. (Yes, yes, we know, it's only a bit over 2,000 meters but it's the best



At Charlotte's Pass in the Snowy Mountains: L-r: Viv Vivekananda, Keith Leonard, Paul Turner, Monique Vochteloo, Con Pappas, Anne Whittle, Sue Young, Park Ranger, Andrew Proctor, Phil Young, Beverley Baker, Doug Ferguson, Anne Willoughby, Wouter Vochteloo, Sue Rutland, Peter McCawley, Cristina Ferguson, Neil Collier, John Ling, Beth Hilton-Thorp, John Thorp, Diana Rockett, Arnie and David Parker, Jim Rockett, Chan Carroll, John Whittle, Margaret Weir, Hans Springer, Roger Weir, Peter Carroll.



Schnapps tasting at Wildbrumby Distillery.

we've got.) Lunch at the Wildbrumby restaurant and distillery was followed by schnapps tasting before we headed to the nearby trout hatchery for a tour of that facility.

Water and Power. In the early evening, the group reconvened for a presentation on the so-called "Snowy 2.0"—a recently commenced extension to the famous Snowy Mountains Scheme that was constructed in the 1950s. The original scheme diverted the water from a number of rivers—among them the legendary Snowy River—flowing east from the Great Dividing Range to rivers flowing west so that the extra water could be used for irrigation on the fertile lands west of the Divide.

A subsidiary benefit from the original agriculture-based scheme was the hydroelectric power generated, which has become increasingly important. Snowy 2.0 is a pumped hydroelectric scheme extending the generation capacity of the existing scheme by 50%. The main works include about 30 kilometers of tunnelling and the construction of a power station some 900 meters below the surface. With several retired power engineers and a sprinkling of former project economists in the audience, the presenters faced a barrage of technical questions which, by general agreement, were handled satisfactorily, adding a few more advocates for what has, at times, been a controversial project.

Chapter Meeting and Briefing. The chapter's annual general meeting on the final day was well attended (21 members including the AFE-ADB President, Hans Springer) with reports by chapter office bearers and Hans being well received, and Stephen Baker's offer to host the 2020 reunion in Adelaide being gratefully accepted.

Birds Nest and Golf. Principal activities in the afternoon were a tour of the Birds Nest, a remarkably large on-line women's fashion business now employing 150, which has been built up in Cooma, a small country town (population less than 7,000), and the annual golf tournament for the Peter Pattison Golf Trophy. Competitors for the latter event were few and far between this year, with only five showing up; it is hoped that additional recruitment efforts and a possibly changed format for next year will yield a larger number of starters in Adelaide. Not for the first time, Ann Proctor was part of the winning pairing, this time with Stephen Baker.

Trivia to a Tune. The reunion concluded with the Annual Dinner (held at Rydges Hotel in Jindabyne, where attendees were staying) and incorporated a team-based trivia competition. This hotly contested event, originally introduced some years ago by John Thorp and Beth Hilton-Thorp, was again presented by Andrew Proctor who even sang some of the musical questions: a replacement has been suggested for next year. Prior to the trivia, Anne Willoughby gave a very interesting and amusing recollection of what it was like to be an ADB spouse, which began, in her case, in 1992 when her husband, Peter McCawley, moved to Manila to become the Australian executive director.

2020 Event. The chapter will reassemble in Adelaide in late October 2020 and we look forward to welcoming Australian and other members at that time. ■



Some of the barefoot bowls participants.



John Thorp in action.

Canada

Bruce Murray (ADB 1980–2007)

Ed: We hope you enjoyed Marilyn Colette's article on the Mercy Ships in the last AFE News. Bruce asked her to write it for us, and now has joined the Mercy Ships board of directors. Congratulations, Bruce.



An end-of-year newsletter was sent to all members of the Canadian AFE chapter covering: (1) President Nakao's retirement and major achievements; (2) the election of Masatsugu Asakawa as the next ADB President; (3) pension funding and issues; (4) health insurance issues; (5) the beginning of Asian Development Fund (ADF)13 replenishment discussions; (6) the on-going ADB benefits review and human resource management issues; (7) AFE matters related to elections, AFE membership, and the legal registry of AFE; and (8) a list of AFE members who passed away in 2019, including three members of the AFE Canada chapter. In November, at Barbara Ejercito-Palacios's suggestion, the *Survival Handbook for AFE Retiree Members* was circulated to all AFE Canada members.

Vancouver. The AFE Vancouver group had its annual dinner at the River Rock buffet on 16 November. A total of 23 AFE Canada members, spouses, and guests attended and signed the guest book handed down by previous AFE Canada Coordinators, Mo Bauche and John Cole. Everyone enjoyed the food although, unlike past years, the fare did not include unlimited amounts of Alaskan crab legs. Such is life. Everyone enjoyed renewing friendships and reminiscing about "the good old days" in ADB and our time in Manila. Richard Bolt brought some

of us up-to-date on his time as the Philippine country director, including ADB's significant increase in lending to the Philippines, especially for infrastructure, and the challenges that he faced in overseeing ADB's support to help address the widespread devastation caused by Typhoon Haiyan.

The highlight of the evening was the two John Cole Memorial quizzes, one related to Christmas and one about the questions on the Canadian citizenship tests. While the winning scores on the Christmas quiz were impressive, the same could not be said for the citizenship quiz. More study is needed by the Vancouver AFEers. Fortunately, we have obtained our citizenship either by birth or long ago when the testing was not so rigorous.

Bruce brought the attendees up to date on developments at ADB and AFE, the loss of three members of the AFE Canada family, the location of the 2020 annual meeting in Incheon, and the timing of the European and New Zealand chapter 2020 get togethers. Bruce's reward for organizing the event was that he had a captive market to talk to about his work as a board member of the charity, Mercy Ships Canada (mercyships.ca).

A November event in Vancouver was significant for those of us whose kids were brought up in Manila. The film *Empty by Design* was shown at the Vancouver Asian Film Festival. The film is set in the Philippines and is the story about two young adults who find themselves back in the Philippines after years of being away. During a night out, they have a brief encounter and the two discover a new found meaning of what it means to be "home." The film was written and directed by Andrea Walter. She is the daughter of Graham Walter, a long-time ADB staff member and an AFEer. Graham was in the Vanuatu ADB office with Vancouver AFEers Lew Hayashi, Chris Wensley, and the late John Cole. When the notice of the film showing to AFE Canada members was circulated, several commented that they watched Andrea grow up.

Vancouver AFE at the River Rock: L-r: Jay Dimailig, John Kuiper, Emma Murray, Richard Bolt, Loi Dimailig, Masami Bolt, Lenn Castro, Grace Alindogan and son Franco, Rey Castro (kneeling), Barbara Ejercito-Palacios, Fremma Esquejo, Jenny Palmiano Majarreis, Nemy Esquejo (kneeling), Aigek Beh, Wesam Mostadi, Carman Fernando Lanzador, Tony Telan, Dolores Telan, Vir Majarreis, Bruce Murray.





John Rive, Ottawa area coordinator (ADB 1978–2002)

Ottawa. 6 December was a typical Canadian winter night with temperatures below freezing. The Ottawa–Montreal AFE group braved the cold and assembled at the RamKrishna Indian Restaurant, one of Ottawa’s best Indian restaurants. A total of 15 AFE members and spouses attended—Judy Banning, Allan Barry, Marilyn and Robert Collette, Sharon Henry, Sue Hooper, Jak and Vicky Jabes, Farrokh and Rita Kapadia, Claire Lewis and spouse Jean Duquet, John and Jeanette Rive, and Ian Wright. The general consensus was that the food, North Indian cuisine, was awesome. Favorites included the fresh, crispy naan, the vegetable korma, the dal makhana—actually everything from appetizers to desserts. Everyone appreciated Farrokh Kapadia’s culinary expertise in selecting the restaurant. In addition to enjoying the food, the group renewed friendships and shared fond memories of ADB. Fittingly for a group of seniors, no one remembered to take a picture of the get together.



Nida Rodrigo, Toronto area coordinator (ADB 1976–1996)

Toronto. The highlight of the year for the Toronto AFE group was the AFE–ADB Toronto Gatsby Night gala at the Old Mill Hotel on 27 October with the theme “A little party never killed anybody.” That theme clearly applies to the Toronto AFEers, as parties and pot lucks are the group’s middle name. The Old Mill Hotel is a luxury hotel nestled in the beautiful Humber Valley and adjacent to the Parkland and Toronto Bike and Walking Trail System. It has a historic ambience and hosts thematic events with guests dressed in period costumes (e.g., Great Gatsby Night, Victorian teas). Needless to say, there is also fine dining. The food was scrumptious and included delicious pastas, poultry, meat, an array of seafood specialties, cheeses, salad, vegetables, and rice. That was followed by decadent cakes, tortes, mousses, pastries, and coffee and tea. No one had time to count calories. We were too busy chatting and laughing. A fun time was had by all and the ladies looked stunning in their period costumes.

During the second half of 2019, the Toronto AFE group continued its tradition of having get togethers to celebrate the birthdays. On 7 September Lindy and Mike Trabulsi opened up their beautiful home to host the “oldies” end of summer potluck to celebrate Lindy’s



AFE Toronto’s Gatsby Night at the Old Mill Hotel. Front (l-r): Nida Rodrigo-Jugo, Lindy Trabulsi, Mila Narciso (Melbourne), Guia Estabillo, Lea Gojo, Eden Santiago; back (l-r): Mike Trabulsi, Tito Jugo, Dean Santiago, Paz and Ed Ravadilla.

76th birthday. Fortunately, the weather cooperated with warm temperatures. As usual, there was lots of traditional Filipino food, resulting in “to-go” packages for everybody including a bouquet of mint and tarragon. In between the fun, laughter, and chatting, the group watched Toronto’s own Bianca Andreescu win the US Open Championship. A TV was brought up from the basement and set up in the living room for the “oldies” to watch. All you could hear was “YES!” or “OH NO!” and tennis terms like ace, deuce, love, etc. Although the tennis terms were not familiar to everyone in the group, they joined the rest of Canada in cheering on the Canadian teen’s magical tennis season. Bianca is another example of how immigrants and their children enrich Canadian culture. Rolly Dueña’s candid photos recorded the event for posterity.

On 30 November Lea Gojo, or Mama Lei as she is fondly called, hosted a thanksgiving banquet at the WIMC Church Hall in Mississauga to celebrate her 80th birthday. In addition to Toronto AFE members, the event was attended by Lea’s daughters from the Philippines and Canada, family, friends, and her church community. Everyone enjoyed listening to stories of Mama Lei’s journey through life, the great food, and the music. Mama Lei was the unquestioned star of the show. She and her guest partner delighted the crowd with their beautiful ballroom dances. She wowed the crowd with her prowess on the dance floor. Lea and her late husband, PAL Captain Tom Gojo, graced the ballrooms of Manila during their heyday. GO GIRL—MAMA LEI!! ■



Celebrating Lea Gojo’s 80th.

India: Delhi and Rajasthan

Shiladitya Chatterjee (ADB 1994–2011) and Jill Gale de Villa



AFE India Meeting in Delhi

The 25th Annual Meeting of the AFE–ADB India Chapter was held on 30 October 2019 at the India International Centre, New Delhi. There was a good gathering (55 participants).

Prateep Lahiri, president of the AFE–ADB (India) Chapter, chaired the meeting while India Chapter Coordinator Shiladitya Chatterjee provided updates on the activities of the Chapter. Hans Springer and Jill Gale de Villa, AFE president and vice president, provided participants with updates on the pension fund, group health insurance, and recent developments at ADB Headquarters including the announcement of a new president of ADB, Masatsugu Asakawa, who was expected to take over from the current President Takehiko Nakao in January 2020. Kenichi Yokoyama, country director, India Resident Mission joined the meeting, provided updates on ADB's India operations, and thanked chapter members for support for the resident mission's work.

The meeting marked important organizational changes for the India Chapter. Mr. Lahiri announced at the meeting that he would demit office as president



Haveli.

of the India Chapter, and proposed Dr. Barin Ganguli as his replacement, which was duly endorsed by the participants.

Rajasthan

Jaisalmer. Rawal Jaisal established this medieval trading town in 1156, and built his fort on Meru hill. Hence it was named "Jaisalmer." Jaisalmer is called the "Golden City" because it is built of golden sandstone, and it is surrounded by the golden sand of the Thar Desert. Jaisalmer has some of India's oldest libraries, containing rare manuscripts and artefacts of the Jain tradition.

In the afternoon, some of us went to the government museum, then to the manmade **Gadi Sagar Lake**, which used to be this arid town's sole water supply until the government built the Indira Gandhi canal that brought

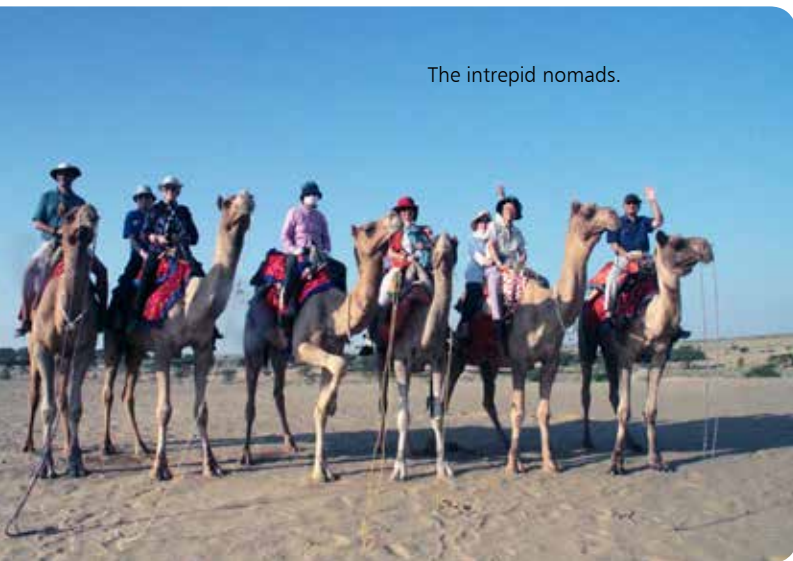


Jaisalmer Fort and surrounds.



Villagers selling lovely quilts and scarves at a haveli.

The intrepid nomads.



water from the Punjab rivers to Rajasthan. We enjoyed sunset at a viewpoint where we could see the fort and the city surrounding it. In the evening we were treated to singing, dancing (participatory), a balancing act by a woman who stood on swords and walked on broken glass, and a puppet show.

The next morning, we went to **Jaisalmer Fort**, the world's oldest "living fort," with over 5,000 people inhabiting it. Seven Jain temples are within the fort, built during the 12th–15th centuries. One is open to visitors. The temples are known for their exquisite art and architecture.

Then we went for a view from a cannon on the ramparts, where a man was playing a harmonium and singing and his dog was singing when the man paused!

Next was a ***haveli*** (a term originally applied to a merchant's home, now also applied to traditional townhouses or mansions). Here the 7th generation owners were selling beautiful items in an effort to keep the house up. At the next *haveli*, we were treated to lovely quilting and scarves made by villagers. The salesman said the women get 70+% of the purchase price.

Our afternoon activity was a camel ride in the desert—the **Dunes of Sam**. Mercifully, a good wind kept the temperature comfortable. Later, we stopped to see a beautiful sunset over the dunes and behind windmills for generating electricity.



Elephant at the entrance to a *haveli*.

Sculpture at the Jain Temple.

Jodhpur. En route, we stopped at the war museum, which includes a portrait of Arjun Thapan's father. Outside, was a wonderful camel statue made of machine parts. Next stop was to buy dates, then lunch in **Pokhran**, a market

town with unpaved streets and a rundown medieval palace fort that is now partly renovated for a hotel-restaurant.



L-r: Anil Terway, Manju Senapaty, Kazu Sakai, Kai Watanabe, Makiko Sakai, Eichi Watanabe, Sangita Terway, Gopa and Shilo Chatterjee, Swaminathan, Liz Reyes, Hans Springer, Mano Senapaty, Jill de Villa.



Rao Jodha.



Manju and Mano Senapaty relaxing in Fort Pokhran, a 14th century citadel also known as "Balagarh."

Jodhpur City was founded in 1459 by Rao Jodha, a Rajput chief of the Rathore clan. Jodhpur was historically the capital of the Kingdom of Marwar, which is now part of Rajasthan. Jodhpur's many palaces, forts, and temples are set in the stark landscape of the Thar Desert. It is popularly known as the "Blue City" and "Sun City."

In the late 15th century, Marwar became a Mughal vassal. Jodhpur and its people benefited as new styles of art and architecture appeared and opportunities opened up for local tradesmen to make their mark across northern India. During the early 19th century, Marwar became a princely state of the British Raj. It now has flourishing handicrafts and cottage industries. Tourism is Jodhpur's second largest industry. Jodhpur's most notable attractions include the Mehrangarh Fort, Umaid Bhawan Palace, and Jaswant Thada.

We arrived at the Taj Hari Mahal hotel in Jodhpur at about 5:30 then went for dinner hosted by **Barin and Shipra Ganguli** at a traditional Rajasthani restaurant, a nice meal with lots of speeches. After dinner, Barin's classic Ambassador car was much admired.



Eichi Watanabe and Barin Ganguli beside Barin's venerable Ambassador car.

Mehrangarh Fort was built in 1459, 410 feet above the city. The vast, walled grounds includes the **Jodhpur Museum** with an extensive and impressive collection of palanquins, miniature paintings, royal cradles, etc. . The building is made of red sandstone and dates from the 14th century but was constructed progressively over 300 years. Especially intricate are the sandstone screens that allowed the women to see out without being seen.

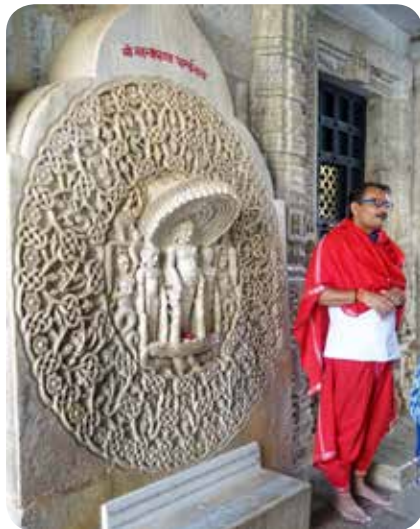


Miniature images on a large canvas of miniatures at the museum.

From the fort we could well appreciate why Jodhpur is called the "Blue City," as many buildings are painted with a wash of lime and indigo. Beyond the fort is the **Jaswant Thada**, a cremation *ghat* for the former princely family, built by the widow of Jaswant Singh as a memorial to her husband.

Evening cocktails were graciously hosted by the Indian contingent, followed by dinner at the Taj.

To Udaipur. En route, we stopped for lunch in **Ranakpur** at Fatehbagh Palace then proceeded to the **Chaturmukha Darana Vihara Jain Shrine**. Constructed starting in the mid-15th century, the white marble temple complex is built in a forest and is one of India's five holiest Jain shrines. Its 1,444 marble pillars are carved in exquisite detail, each different. The beautifully carved image of Parshvanatha is made of a single marble slab. We were fortunate to be given a tour by the head priest, who briefly explained the high points.



The head priest explains Parshvanatha with serpent heads.

At Udaipur, we entered the impressive gates of the City Palace Hotel, which is part of the huge **City Palace** complex—the largest palace complex in Rajasthan. Also known as the “City of Lakes,” Udaipur was founded in 1558 by Maharana Udai Singh II, and remained the capital city until 1818, when it became a British princely

state. Dubbed “the most romantic spot on the continent of India” by British administrator James Tod (1782–1835), Udaipur has numerous scenic and historic locations.

Udaipur has a fascinating history. In November 1567, the Mughal emperor Akbar laid siege to Chittor Fort. To protect Udaipur from external attacks, the maharana built a 6-kilometer-long city wall, with seven gates. Udaipur remained the capital of the state, which became a princely state of British India in 1818. The present Maharana Mahendra Singh Mewar is the 76th custodian of the Mewar dynasty, which is the world’s oldest ruling dynasty.

Udaipur has a diversified economic base and is well known for paintings, marble articles, silver arts, and terracotta. Marble is extensively mined, processed, and exported.

Our next day started with a tour of the extensive **City Palace Museum** of the Maharana of Mewar. We filtered past the stables with a few of the majarana’s magnificent Marwari horses, on to the rooms of silver, cribs, mirrored rooms, simpler rooms—seemingly endless displays in an area that is about a third of this fort-palace.



Musician at our lunch stop.



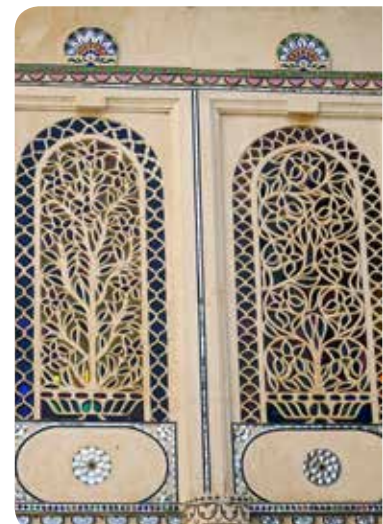
Detail of mosaics in the Palace Museum.



Columns inside the temple.



Entrance to the City Palace (including our hotel).



Windows in the Museum.



Safely on board as we head for sunset on Pichola Lake.

Then we visited *Sahelion ki Bari*—the Garden of the Maids of Honor—with its elephant statues. The guide had us stand on the bridge over the lotus pond and clap loudly, then the fountain grew taller...greeting us he said, but later admitted he could see a flag indicating when the water sculptures would spurt higher, and we all had a good laugh. Lunch was overlooking Fatehsagar Lake. Next we were off for a boat ride on Pichola Lake to Jagmandir, a garden island, for a glorious sunset, reflected in the waters around us. Dinner was at a restaurant by the lake, with farewells to Swami and Padma Swaminathan, Manju and Mano Senapaty, and Snimer Sahni, leaving the Chatterjees, Sakais, Springers, Terways, Watanabes, and Jill de Villa to continue.

After dinner, some of us attended the sound and light show, a 1-hour epic about the house of Mewar. The narrative is introduced and closed by the voice of the 72-year-old current Majarana Shriji Arvind Singh Mewar. The dramatic and moving narrative traces the history of the Mewars, and its many struggles.

To Pushkar. With a few enjoyable stops en route, we arrived just in time to visit the shrine of the revered 13th century **Sufi Saint Moinuddin Chishti** in **Ajmer**. We were fortunate to be guided (and blessed) by a *khadim* (priest) throughout the visit, as about 150,000 pilgrims throng to the shrine daily. In the mid-1500s, Mughal Emperor Akhbar and his wife walked here barefoot from Agra (about 370 kilometers) to pray for a son.

We then checked into the Pratap Mahal Hotel and in the evening celebrated Gopa's birthday.

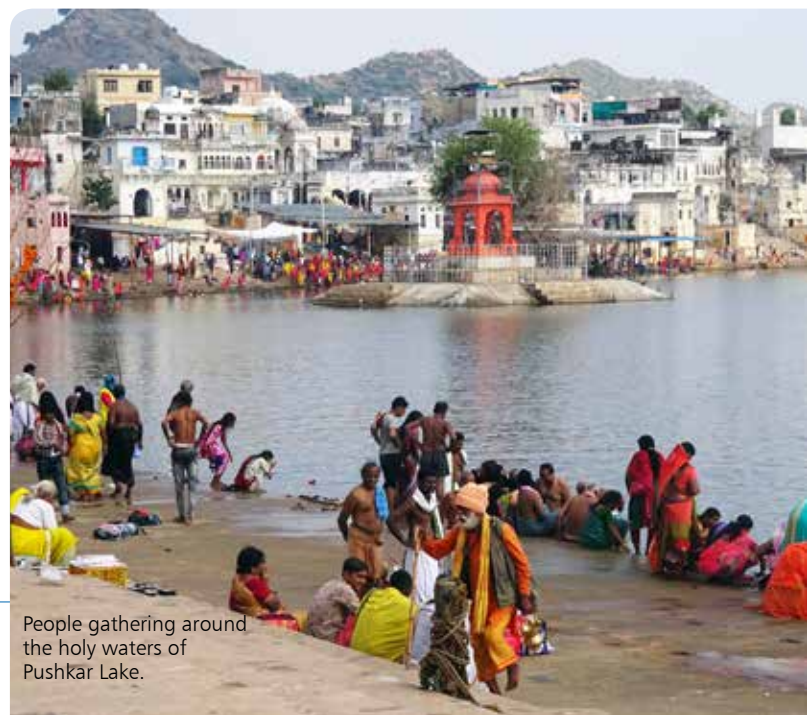
In the morning we visited the tail end of the 2-week-long **Camel Fair** and were treated to sights of numerous camels and beautiful Marwari horses with their distinctive long inward pointing ears—this year one beautiful white mare was sold for Rs1.5 million (over \$21,000). While we were admiring a little girl's tightrope walking act, a camel cart bumped one of us, so we were off to the first aid station for treatment and bandaging.



Marwari stallion and his handler.

We continued to Pushkar's most famous temple—the red-spined **Brahma Temple**, Jagatpita Brahma Mandir. It is one of very few temples in India dedicated to the Hindu creator-god Brahma. The 14th century structure is made of marble and stone slabs. The temple sanctum sanctorum holds the image of four-headed Brahma and his consort Gayatri (goddess of milk). Then we visited the sacred **Pushkar Lake**, where pilgrims bathed, a colorful sight with many women in saris.

En route to Jaipur, we stopped while our injured party was checked up by a doctor—arranged by AFE member **Sekhar Bonu**, who had worked in Rajasthan as a member of the Indian Administrative Service. The AFE network is far and wide, and very helpful.



People gathering around the holy waters of Pushkar Lake.



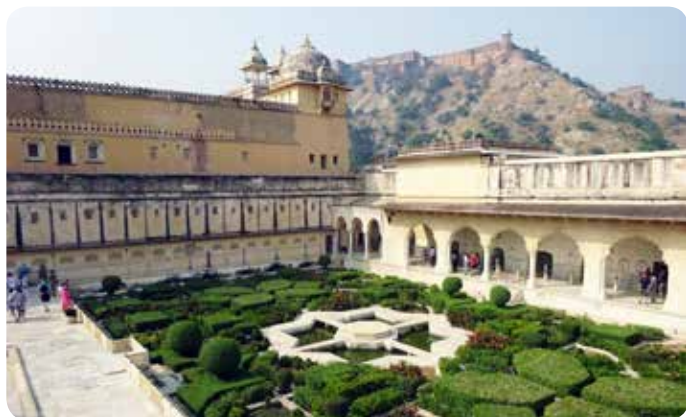
Hawa Mahal Palace Winds, Jaipur.

Jaipur is the capital and the largest city of Rajasthan. Jaipur is also known as the “Pink City,” due to the dominant color scheme (actually ochre) of its buildings. Jaipur was founded in 1727 by the Rajput ruler Jai Singh II, after whom the city is named. He initiated the construction of the city in 1726. In just 4 years, the major roads, offices, and palaces were completed with regular streets along a grid. Nahargarh Fort, which was the residence of King Sawai

Jai Singh II, crowns the hill in the northwest corner of the old city. Rulers of Jaipur patronized arts and crafts, inviting invited skilled artisans, artists, and craftsmen from India and abroad to settle in the city. Now it is a major hub for arts and crafts, including hand-knotted rugs.

After independence in 1947, Jaipur was made the capital of the newly-formed state of Rajasthan. On 6 July 2019, it became a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The city also contains two prominent UNESCO World Heritage Sites—the Amber Fort and Jantar Mantar.

The **Jaipur Leg**, a prosthesis for amputees, was designed and is produced in Jaipur. It is a global charity founded by D.R. Mehta, an amputee who, realizing the hardship faced by poor amputees, determined to provide them with limbs so they could walk. His brother, V.R. Mehta, is our member and the executive president of the charity. The charity has provided over 1.83 million prosthetics free of charge, mostly in India but also in 33 other countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.



Interior garden of the Amber Fort.



The Chatterjees arrive in style at the Amber Fort.

First on our itinerary was the massive **Amber Fort** with extensive walling. Many of us rode up to the fort in grand (but not necessarily comfortable) style—on elephants. After the fort we had a brief look at the Hawa Mahal Summer Palace of Winds in the lake, then continued to the **Jantar Mantar** astrological observatory, with the world’s largest and most accurate sundial. Some of us continued to the **Palace Museum** while others enjoyed a peaceful time in the shade.



Detail, Amber Fort.

Next was a handicrafts shop with demonstrations of block printing and carpet weaving and finishing. Upon reaching the hotel, a further shopping expedition was proposed, and five of us went for last minute purchases. Our final evening was on the hotel rooftop and we had a most enjoyable time, extending well-deserved congratulations to Shilo and Gopa Chatterjee and the providers from Avani Travel Services/Kaziranga Tours, Sudarshan and Madhusmita Khound. ■

Indonesia

Putu Kamayana (ADB 1995–2014)



The Indonesia Chapter held its 2019 year-end get together on 8 December in Jakarta hosted by Zsizi Rachman and Philip Daltrop. We were very pleased that Said Zaidansyah, deputy country director of the Indonesia Resident Mission and Ibu Muna were able

to join us, along with AFE–ADB President Hans-Juergen Springer and Elizabeth Reyes from Manila.

Pak Said provided us a briefing on Indonesia's development context and ADB's partnership with the government and other development actors. Hans also provided an overview of the retirees association's activities and changes in ADB human resources policies affecting ADB retirees as well as employment conditions of current and new ADB staff. The occasion was also an opportunity for Indonesia Chapter members to bid a fond farewell to Zsizi and Philip, as they are relocating to London, UK in early 2020.

With the departure of Zsizi, who has served on the Indonesia Chapter coordinating committee since 2014 concurrently with Kinan Bhinekawati and Putu Kamayana, the chapter committee proposed to step down after 5 years and invited other members, especially



L-r: Philip Daltrop, Liz Reyes, and Wati and Putu Kamayana.

newly retired Indonesian staff members, to step up and volunteer to serve the Indonesia Chapter.

The Indonesia Chapter held an earlier reunion gathering in August 2019 in Jakarta, which was also attended by Country Director Winfried Wicklein and Mrs. Irene Wicklein. That gathering also served as a Halal bi Halal to observe the recent end of the Ramadan Muslim fasting month and the Idul Adha holiday that month.

Unfortunately, a proposed 2019 Chapter outing to Banyuwangi, East Java, coinciding with the famous Gandrung Sewu festival, did not materialize as the cost was higher than most members found interesting. In 2020, the Indonesia Chapter proposes to organize an outing to Central Java traveling by bus from Jakarta to visit historical sites in Yogyakarta and Solo cities; it is currently proposed to take place in October 2020. We warmly welcome participation of AFE members from other chapters to participate in that outing. ■



NY/NJ: Fascinating October

Lorna Del Rosario (ADB 1994–2000)



Lorna del Rosario with Jill de Villa.

The Ballroom tradition continued in 2019 for the New York/New Jersey Chapter's annual reunion. The Chapter was so pleased when Emma Dumalag accepted to chair the event

with some able assistance from Chat Cortes and of course, the ADBarkads and close friends helping as well.

This year's annual reunion took place on 13 October 2019 in one of the spacious ballrooms at the Royal Regency Hotel in Yonkers, New York. Dubbed "Fascinating October," our theme was 1920s Black and/or White Fashion plus a "fascinator" (a formal headpiece) for ladies.

Don O'Buckley sans Chato (who was in Manila) paired with Annie Romero Jameson were the emcees for the night. And this was the second year in a row that we had the pleasure of having a member of the AFE–ADB ExCom in the person of Jill Gale de Villa, who gave us a short inspirational talk and AFE–ADB related updates. Last year, Julia Holz attended the affair.

Each of the attendees dressed in their 1920s black-and-white attire (and interesting fascinators for the ladies) had a "catwalk" turn around the ballroom center



space. A few really came dressed to the nines party theme to impress the judges (Jill and Don). Top winners were Shirley Castro and Ralph Cortes.

What is so interesting about these AFE–ADB reunions is the fact that attendance is not limited within the Chapter's geographical locations. As in the past years, we had the participation of ex-ADB staff from neighboring states or even from other countries such as Canada and the Philippines, or at times, Europe as the invite is always kept open to all AFE–ADB members. The NY/NJ Chapter seems to have close ties with AFE–ADB members from the Washington area and from whom we always seek participation in the Chapter's entertainment program. The Washington area group—Diane Venegas, Lena Chanchu, Gilda Ordoñez-Baric, and Tonette Guico-Sanchez—danced to the tune of *Mambo No. 5* while the NY/NJ Chapter's Barkada (Nena Villena-Tañedo, Chat Cortes, Mila Simolde, Florence Rafulowitz, Juliet Capati, Lorna del Rosario, and Mary Ann Domingo) swayed their hips to the youthful tune of *Girl in the Mirror*. Dinner was served with a bountiful spread as Vivian Villanueva and Joven Villestas showcased their melodious singing voices. Dancing and games completed the night.

An annual reunion with former ADB colleagues truly does give us the chance to rebuild any connections that may have faded over time and randomly chat and laugh about anything! ■



L-r, seated: Oscar Colmenar, Mila Simolde, Florence Rafulowitz, Lorna del Rosario, Jill Gale de Villa, Chat Cortes, Anisa Romero Jameson, Bess Icasiano, Ruth Esmilio, Lourdes de le Cruz; On the floor: Diane Venegas and Nena Villena-Tañedo; standing: Frank Berena, Rey Ballares, Meditte Ulnagan, Juliet Capati, Lita Aquilisan, Ellen Ballares, Liz Juan, Doris Bohun, Vivian Villanueva, Don O'Buckley, Gilda Ordonez-Baric, Tonette Guico-Sanchez, Lena Chanchu, Marissa Ayento, Kathy de Vera, Lisa Lacerona, Tito Molina, Chona Molina, Mary Anne Domingo, Ruby de Vera Portnoy, Totie Santiago, Angel Calilap.

Philippines Goes Hollywood

Gam de Armas (ADB 1981–2000)



Taking a cue from the Oscar Awards, the Philippines Chapter adopted the theme “AFE–ADB Philippines Chapter Goes Hollywood” for its Annual Get-Together and Business Meeting held at the EDR, ADB Headquarters on 21 November 2019.

During the business meeting portion, Chapter Coordinator Gam de Armas called on the lead coordinator of each area group to give a summary of their activities/projects with pictures flashed on the screen, highlighted by the East Group’s outreach to Blue Whale Mission of Our Lady Incorporated, a temporary home for abandoned female elderly, in Binangonan, Rizal (see pp. 31–32).

President Hans-Juergen Springer gave an update on the latest pension and benefits matters and focused on the new parking procedures to affect retirees effective 1 December 2019 drawing oohs and sighs from the members. Retirees will no longer be allowed to park inside the ADB Headquarters due to shortage of parking space for staff. However, free parking will be available



One of six Coordinators’ Meetings for 2019 Philippine Chapter Get-together.

at the Podium parking where an area has been reserved for ADB staff and retirees. Hans also introduced the new Treasurer, Nannette Guinto-Amorado. Relevant health coverage updates and important developments were also presented by AFE–ADB Vice President, Jill de Villa. Group picture taking and buffet dinner followed.

Most members and guests including those from other chapters came in their Hollywood inspired attire. Adjudged best in costume, female, went to Edna Villareal, and male went to Jake Sta. Ana. The Star of the Night award went to Malu Baleva.

The group presentations were partially revived with the South and East Groups trying to outdo each other performing marvelous and courageous dance steps, considering their ages. The East Group came out on top. Thanks to generous donors, many went home with prizes and gift items. Dancing followed with many staying on until closing time. ■



Pakistan

M.E. Tusneem (ADB 1975–2005)



AFE Pakistan Chapter, Islamabad Group met on Sunday, 10 November 2019 in the open lawns of Islamabad Club to review chapter activities of 2019 and plans for the coming year, 2020. It was a bright sunny day with gentle breeze. The lush green lawns were enhanced with beautiful seasonal

flowers of all sorts.

The group comprised 14 persons including members and their spouses. It reviewed chapter activities for 2019 and discussed plans for the coming year 2020, which will be further refined by a group of ladies comprising Amna Chaudhry, Shahida Jaffrey, and Mahjabeen Mirza.

During brunch, the participants exchanged pleasantries, shared experiences of all sorts, and discussed health and medical insurance related experiences and issues.

The Lahore Group might organize its meeting in December, as some of its members are currently out of country.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to M.E. Tusneem and complemented him for reviving and promoting AFE-Pakistan Chapter activities.

Ed. M.E. Tusneem has informed AFE HQ that he is stepping down and will be succeeded by Shahida Jaffrey. ■



L-r, standing: Mosin Hafeez, Shahid Mirza, Masud Mufti, Naseer Ahmad, M. E. Tusneem, Asad Ali Shah, Latif Chaudhry, Kh. Zaheer Ahmad; sitting: Ms. Nighat Shah, Bushra Mufti, Amna Chaudhry, Mahjabeen Mirza, Yasmin Hafeez, and Shahida Jaffrey.

Europe: War and Peace in Normandy

Elizabeth V. Reyes (spouse of Hans-Juergen Springer)



The AFE European Chapter held its 22nd reunion in Deauville, Normandy, France, gathering a group of more than 60 participants—all ready to visit olden resort towns and World War II memorials along the coastline. The host of the reunion was Guy de Bouboulon, a genteel gentleman

who let the French landscape and the history tour-guides do the speaking.



Gunter Hecker, Guy de Bouboulon, and Jean-Francois Lombard, the reunion organizers

And speak they did. We rendezvoused in Hotel La Cloiserie in Deauville, an old seaside resort town still bearing the elite airs of 19th century villas, the harbor and yacht marina, the casino, and the race course. Deauville is where the rich and fashionable from Paris flocked to spend time and money. By the 1920s–1930s, celebrities came to Deauville for the Royal Casino. Names like Marguerite Deuras, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ian Fleming, Agatha Christie, and Coco Chanel all lent the resort town a glitzy patina. By the 1950s–1960s, there arrived the cinema. In 1966, the filming of Claude Lelouch's *A Man and a Woman* launched Deauville as a getaway place for secret romances. Then since 1975, Deauville evolved a Cannes-like air for the international American Film Festival.

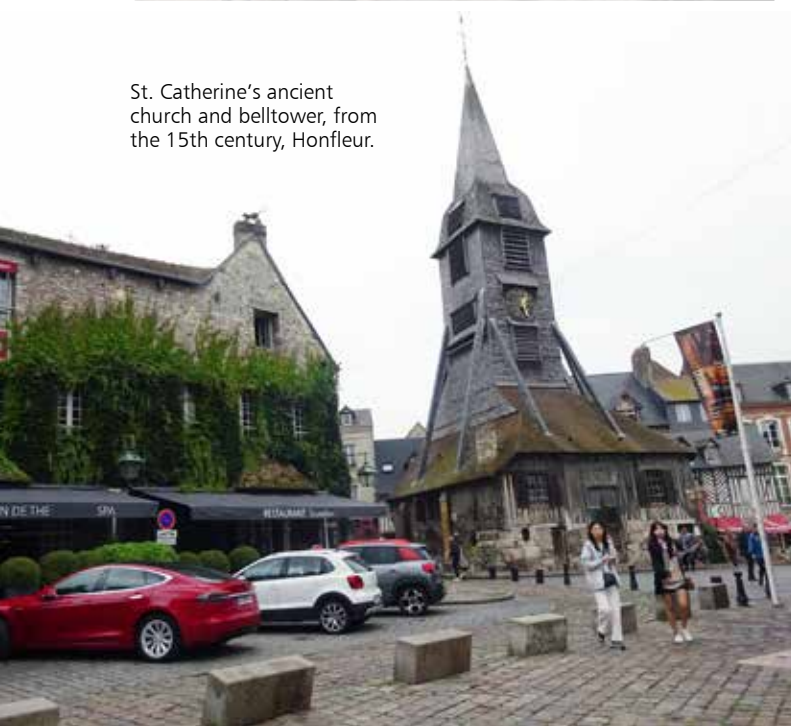
On the morning of the Chapter meeting, we AFE spouses unfurled rain jackets and umbrellas for a rainy walk around Deauville's rustic sibling town, Trouville sur Mer. We took shelter off the plaza under the awnings of an open-air fish market and were stunned by the varied array of seafood, from fish and cockles to lobsters, prawns, and massive orange *oursins* (sea urchins)!

Our tour guide turned literary: We heard of the 19th century artists who thrived in Trouville's laidback and scruffy ambiance. On these boardwalks, the art of painting *en plein air* was born—artists' breakout from the academic salon to the open air. Here in Trouville was birthed the first vision of *Impressionism*—as wielded by the brushes of Monet, Broussard, and Le Moussin. We could imagine these well-known artists sitting by their easels with tubes of oil paints, dotting colors on canvas. But I was still lost in the background music of Lelouche, imagining Anouk Aimee and Jean Louis Trintignant falling in love in Deauville.



Half-timbered buildings, Honfleur.

St. Catherine's ancient church and belltower, from the 15th century, Honfleur.



Enjoying Calvados.

There were unexpected boons in this 4-day visit to Normandy, beyond the landing beaches of World War II—like our stopover in the photogenic shipping port of Honfleur in the valley of the Seine River. Honfleur is a picturesque town hugging the inlet called the *Vieux Bassin*. Many galleries and painters live in this little city where the early French impressionists came during summer to paint the special light. We found a *vieux café* for a French espresso, just across the water from the old-fashioned merry-go-round of Honfleur's *bassin*.

While some of the AFE group joined the boat ride to see the magnificent modern Seine Bridge, others opted for the bus ride to the old distillery town of Calvados. Here, 300 varieties of small French apples and modern technology are combined to make the unique golden brew called Calvados Brandy. The distillery offered a modern sound-and-light tour amid their museum rooms, displaying large photographs interwoven with voice-over narrations. After the tour came a brandy-tasting experience that left all AFE guests with a golden glow!

Meanwhile, the boating group was treated to a passage through the locks at the end of the Seine, into the wider Seine estuary. We progressed along the shoreline beaches to the magnificent bridge, and under its impressive span before returning to the locks.



Part of le Pont de Normandie over the Seine.



Gold Beach landing site, Normandy.



German WWII Cemetery.



American WWII Cemetery.

The happy glow continued into the reunion's gala dinner, held during Normandy's golden sunset hour. AFE guests were welcomed at the Casino dining hall by a jovial troupe of elders dressed in Normandy's folkloric costumes—comprising starched vintage headpieces and layers of bloomers and petticoats. What a warm and vibrant program of folkloric dances we watched—and joined—late into the night.

Days 2 and 4 were spent along the WWII landing beaches and within the impressive Memorial de Caen, an international museum built 30 years ago to commemorate World War II, called the "Center of History and Peace" covering 1914–1991. We were struck by the emotive photographs, the passionate texts, and a multimedia video experience of the horrors of war. We revisited the most turbulent wars of the 20th century and appreciated mankind's long battle to keep the fragile peace.

Outside, through our petite guide Sylvie, we relearned WWII history: 75 years ago the Allied Forces of Britain, the US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand landed troops in Normandy. D-Day—June 6, 1944—was the most crucial time and the turning point in the European theater of WWII. 156,000 Allied troops stormed five Normandy beaches, encountered tough German resistance, and bore great losses from the start. On the first day, the allies lost 4,413 men.

We visited the now-bare beaches and two serene memorial cemeteries, one for Americans and one for Germans, some unnamed but yet remembered. The white marble American military cemetery reminded us much of the stately American Memorial Cemetery in Fort Bonifacio, Manila, while the German Memorial was more solemn, as it featured gravestones imbedded in the grass and grey crosses standing in groups of three under trees.

An unexpected bonus was a visit to Bayeux's Notre Dame Cathedral, which houses a unique historical art piece: the Bayeux Tapestry (that I had studied in college Fine Arts History 101!). In the museum, we shuffled alongside the magnificent 1,200-year-old, 65-meter long, hand-sewn tapestry that comprises a seamless depiction of the blow-by-blow conquest of England by William the Conqueror, ending with the Battle of Hastings.



Lita Bildstein discussing history with a mannequin in the display about the Bayeux tapestry.



Detail of the Bayeux Tapestry.

The last, surprising fillip in the program was a day-trip to the medieval monastery of Mont St. Michel, standing staunchly amid the sand flats off the southern coast of Normandy. Our fellow traveler Alain Dick commented, "I have very mystic memories of this monastery, as I was first here at age 10." Today the old Benedictine monastery is a UN Cultural Heritage site that annually draws 2.5 million tourists across its modern causeway.

First built as a fortification in the 8th century, the monastery was redesigned in the 11th century by William of Volpiano into a glorious Romanesque church with elegant late-Gothic towers. The medieval Mont St. Michel was fought over by the Normans and the English in the 100 Years' War; was converted into a priests' prison in the 17th century; and was finally restored as a national architectural treasure in 1874.

But the most intriguing stories of Mont St. Michel lie outside the soaring walls and hoary profile: on the wide bare stretch of grey sand separating the monastery from the neighboring coast. There, the changing tides have commanded the Mont's history and driven its mystique. Once a month the high tides, which vary by 14 meters between highest and lowest marks, rush in at high speeds that endanger pilgrims walking on the sand (rather than the causeway). Stories are whispered of horsemen once racing the incoming tides of Mont St. Michel, while courting ladies, legends, and danger for sport and romance.

Between our recall of the "Man and a Woman" tryst in Deauville and imaginations of the Norman horsemen racing the tides of Mont St. Michel, the coast of Normandy gave us much memorable romance for the 22nd AFE reunion. ■



Window in St. Etienne Abbey, Caen.



Most of the group at St. Etienne Abbey, Caen.

Washington DC

Frederick Roche (ADB 1992–2007)



L-r: Chapter Coordinator Fred Roche with Bill Silverman, Thelma Diaz, Kowsar Chowdhury, Jill de Villa, and Fei Yue.

Fall 2018. In October 2018, about 20 AFE Washington DC members attended a cocktail party in honor of AFE Treasurer Julia Holz. Beside Julia's detailed update on developments at AFE-Manila, a highlight of the evening was a wonderful Tai Chi demonstration by Bernard Donge, together with his reflections on how Tai Chi has improved his health and well-being over many years.

Just before Christmas, about 15 members of the DC group were extremely fortunate to receive a briefing on health insurance issues for US-based AFE members by Bill Silverman, a BPMSD Principal Human Resources Specialist. The briefing covered recent changes in the Post-Retirement Group Medical Insurance Plan (PRGMIP), particularly Cigna's new insurance co-pay arrangement, and supplemental Medicare coverage. AFE members were very happy to learn that, while Medicare enrollment will become a requirement for eligible US-based members in 2020, ADB will reimburse the cost of Medicare Part A and B. Detailed minutes of the discussion are available and we are happy to share these with any interested AFE members.

Fall 2019. About 20 AFE DC members attended a cocktail party at the home of Emmi and Fred

Roche in late October. Our special guests included Deputy representative Fei Yu of ADB's North America Representative Office (NARO), AFE's Vice President Jill Gale de Villa, and BPMSD's Bill Silverman. Fei provided a detailed update on NARO's work and recent developments in ADB as a whole, focusing on the implementation of Strategy 2030. Jill briefed us on AFE's work in Manila, recent staff changes in the AFE office, recent and upcoming AFE elections, and other matters.

Health insurance was the main focus of the discussion. High and rapidly rising health care costs, and gaps in PRGMIP coverage, are major concerns for most US-based AFE members. Our insurance policy provides global coverage, while the costs of health care in the US are very high. An overall financial balance is needed for the PRGMIP to be sustainable. In 2017, only 5% of current ADB staff and retirees had medical claims for US care, but these accounted for 33% of total ADB health insurance claims. US claims for intensive medical services and hospitalization can at times total hundreds of thousands of dollars, and if there are several of these claims in a year, the entire plan is financially stressed.

We greatly appreciate that Jill has for many years been very proactive in tracking PRGMIP developments for all AFE members. Since late 2018, AFE members in the DC area have been fortunate to have had considerable interaction with Bill Silverman in 2018 and 2019. At this meeting, AFE members were very happy to learn that, starting in 2020, ADB will reimburse the cost of Medicare enrollment, which is now required for eligible US-based members. Medicare fills some significant gaps in our present Cigna coverage. Our enrollment should be a win-win situation that both improves overall coverage for US-based retirees while containing the total cost of health claims borne by the PRGMIP. Bill noted that ADB had engaged a consultant (Allsup) to facilitate Medicare enrollment by all potentially Medicare-eligible AFE members. So far, it appears that enrollment has gone very smoothly.

Minutes of our discussions with Bill are available for any interested AFE members—contact Chapter Coordinator Fred Roche (frederick_roche@hotmail.com). ■



Washington DC 2018 gathering.

People, Places, and Passages

Taal Blows

Ed: At least two AFE members are directly affected by Taal's eruption of 12 January 2020. Guy and Millet Sacerdoti live in Tagaytay, about a kilometer down on the "safe" side of the ridge, and are prepared for some eventualities. Guy relates their experience of seeing and responding to the eruption. Edith Okada's ancestral family home is a listed historic house in Taal town. The town's historic basilica, many ancestral houses, and other points of interest are in danger from the volcanic activity. At the time of writing, a month since the eruption started, people are returning to areas within 7 kilometers of the volcano. However, the volcano is still restive.



Taal Blows, 12 January 2020. Left and center, the view from Tagaytay Ridge; right: Nearly identical shot from Sacerdoti's backyard.

The View from Tagaytay

Guy Sacerdoti (spouse of Millet Galeos Sacerdoti, ADB 2004–2010)



Millet's eye allergies were getting bad so we booked two nights 1 kilometer away from our house and up on Tagaytay ridge beginning Sunday, 12 January. She was already checked in and setting up her in-room studio for her artwork. My son Roland came back

to pick me up. But once at the Tagaytay radar station we saw the plume develop. White steam at first, then it became darker...much darker...reaching for the sky.

About 5 minutes later at the hotel I started hearing grit hitting the entrance awning. I darted out to collect some ash from the rooftop of our car. Slight earthquakes began when we were in the room, so we decided to go down and watch the spectacle from the parking lot. We were not expecting a Pinatubo-scale eruption, but it was worrying nonetheless. After 30 minutes and some neat photos, we decided to head back home.

Having designed and built our Tagaytay house with typhoons, earthquakes, and a possible eruption in mind, we knew it would be safer there. The tremors began to pick up in frequency and strength. Our 11-year-old son Santino was initially scared, but, surprisingly, he got used to it and into the science. We are off-grid with Meralco for backup power, so our solar panels and batteries kept us powered, and ultimately saved us through 4 days with the grid down. Cabinet and barn-door



Sacerdoti's solar paneling on the roof.

rattling earthquakes continued at least hourly through Wednesday. Some were pretty strong. It's amazing how humans can get used to things.



Car plus ash.

We ventured out for supplies amid the quakes on Monday the 14th, masks on after the mud rain overnight. Success. But Robinson's Twin Lakes had to shut down their generator as fuel ran out. Evacuation centers were already being set up around us and in Alfonso, but the real momentum began toward the end of the week. Aside from increasing the population in our area by at least half, we found a nearby empty "future" subdivision with at least 50 horses and livestock refugees as well.

While Millet and I know real dangers remain and may perhaps be imminent (even where the new fissures are), we're safer and more productive here than in Manila. That's why we call this place "The Last Resort."

From Taal Town

Editha Okada (ADB 1969–2004)

Ed: When I asked Edith how she was faring shortly after the eruption, she responded quickly.

Thanks for thinking of me and my ancestral house. I am good—able to cope with anxiety about what could happen any time over the next six months, per PHIVOLCS (the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology), with reference to the 1754 eruption documentation.

Thank God I did not visit Taal last Sunday. The return trip to Manila with the driver and only my helper (*kasambahay*) would have been a nightmare. *Indeed some people were on the road for over 8 hours trying to escape the eruption while dealing with slippery gooey ash fall that left the roads dangerous.*

My caretaker and family evacuated to Batangas City on early Monday morning due to tremors



and ash fall. Later that day, the town mayor ordered a total lockdown for residents, some of whom continue to be defiant. My caretaker reports that so far, except for ash fall, my heirloom house appears okay and the interior intact. I am also relieved that our street, F. Agoncillo, has no cracks. But the rest of this main thoroughfare past the Basilica, plaza and municipal hall, and other historical landmarks leading down to Lemery town has cracked due to the drying up of Pansipit River directly connected to Taal Lake.

The river is underneath the bridge connecting Taal town to Lemery which is now impassable. Due to changes in the floor of the big lake in Taal, the level of the water in the lake has dropped and no longer feeds the Pansipit.



Stairways to Edith's ancestral heaven."

Ed: Edith's house, on F. Agoncillo St, is the Barrion family ancestral home, and was built in 1906. In 1990, the J.M. Barrion foundation was registered, and aims to perpetuate the legacy of the founders, maintain the family ties, and support worthy charities in Taal. Hopefully, the house and its legacy will be another story for the AFE News.

I visited Taal recently, admired the house from the outside and the good clean-up job Taal town is doing. En route from Tagaytay to Taal, I drove over many uneven areas in the road, resulting from the magma below moving the Earth's crust. ■



Okada-Salazar-Barrion ancestral house.

Outreach to the Blue Whale

Irish De Guzman (ADB 1995–2018)



I received an email on 21 May 2019: *Dear Iris, Please see our activity/ outreach invitation for 2nd quarter 2019. Hope you can join. Thanks and regards. Yoly*

My heart skipped a beat. It was an invitation from the AFE–ADB East Sector Group for their second quarter activity. Hope I can join? I retired precisely to do stuff like this!

The AFE–ADB East Group (composed of retirees from Pasig and Cainta) planned to visit the Blue Whale Mission of Our Lady Inc., a temporary home for abandoned elderly women, in Binangonan, Rizal. There are currently nine residents.

At 7:30 in the morning of Saturday, 15 June, I was waiting at the Petron gas station along Ortigas Avenue Extension. It was my first outreach! I was excited, while admittedly also nervous as I tried to stay cool in my required pink shirt (I do not normally wear pink but would have happily worn anything to join!)

At around 8:00 am, we were off! It was a merry ride going to the Blue Whale Mission, which more than made up for the 2-hour trip. There was lots of catching up and I learned that the East Group has been going on various quarterly outreach activities for quite some time now.

When we arrived at the Blue Whale Mission, I was amazed at how many retirees had responded to the invitation. I knew we occupied three or four vehicles, but still I was surprised to see that there were 31 of us! It was very heartwarming to see so much love, camaraderie, and support, and I felt proud to be a part of this incredible group.

After a short walk down a tree-lined pathway, we came upon a shaded gazebo where five elderly ladies were seated. We were greeted with big smiles and hugs, and it was a blessing to behold their lit up faces.

Logee Tiamson kindly brought with him the Pamana Singers, a group of three musicians who showcased Philippine heritage songs. Some of our lovely *lolas* were so taken by the music and the singing that they insisted on standing up and dancing! At one point of the program, our entire group got up and cha-chaed as one with the *lolas*, who gamely participated. It was so much fun!

The founder of the Blue Whale Mission is Ms. Terry Planta, a third order Dominican sister (a lay organization), mother of three, and former chemical engineer who had studied and worked in the United States. When the company she was working for closed, she went into real estate and was able to buy six homes which she rented out. She also went into stocks so that she was earning very well.

In 1983, Terry had surgery that went wrong—she almost bled to death. She was declared brain dead but miraculously—the word used by her doctors—survived. During her coma, she had a vision of the Virgin Mary standing on top of a huge blue whale (seemingly in reference to Biblical story of the big fish that swallowed Jonah).



AFE–ADB East Group of Pasig and Cainta, with Terry Planta (seated, wearing a blue t-shirt), Blue Whale Mission founder and owner.

In 1992, when she was 60 years old, Terry gave up her life in the US to come back to the Philippines to do what she could to help. Inspired by her vision, she put up the Blue Whale Mission using her own funds to purchase a lot in Binangonan and built a home for abandoned elderly ladies.

Terry is now 87 years old.

The AFE–ADB group donated various food and toiletry items, as well as a total of P37,000. It was a lovely morning well spent!



Chowing down. All smiles at *Kainan sa Tabing Lawa* in Tanay.

For lunch, the group headed to *Kainan sa Tabing Lawa* in Tanay where we enjoyed native Filipino dishes like grilled pork, squid, and tilapia; pansit; kare-kare; and pinakbet, drowning it all with fresh coconut juice. Yum! The restaurant has a relaxing, scenic view of Laguna de Bay, and its interior was cool as its walls and high ceilings are covered in *banig*, the hand-woven sleeping mat.

After the sumptuous lunch, we visited the wind farm in Pililla, Rizal—which actually benefitted from an ADB technical assistance! It is the first Luzon-based wind farm outside of Ilocos Norte, with 27 towering wind turbine generators (125 meters tall) that provide 150 giga-watt hours of electricity every year for Pililla and other nearby towns. Of course we had picture-taking and selfies galore!

We proceeded to Baras Church, built in 1595. Upon entering its gates, we were greeted by a serene, well-shaded grand courtyard with a statue of Jesus

on one side with open arms, as if joyously welcoming parishioners who come to hear mass. The church's façade itself is reverently old, and the same awe held me as I entered its timeworn doors. I could only imagine the generations and generations who have heard mass there, since the time of Spain's occupation of the Philippines.

Our final stop for the day was Morong Church. The town dates from 1578; however, it and its first church burned in 1612. Shortly after, the present church was constructed. Its majestic façade reminded me of similar churches in Europe that I have seen in pictures. Unfortunately, it started to shower a bit and we retreated, leaving not much time for picture taking!

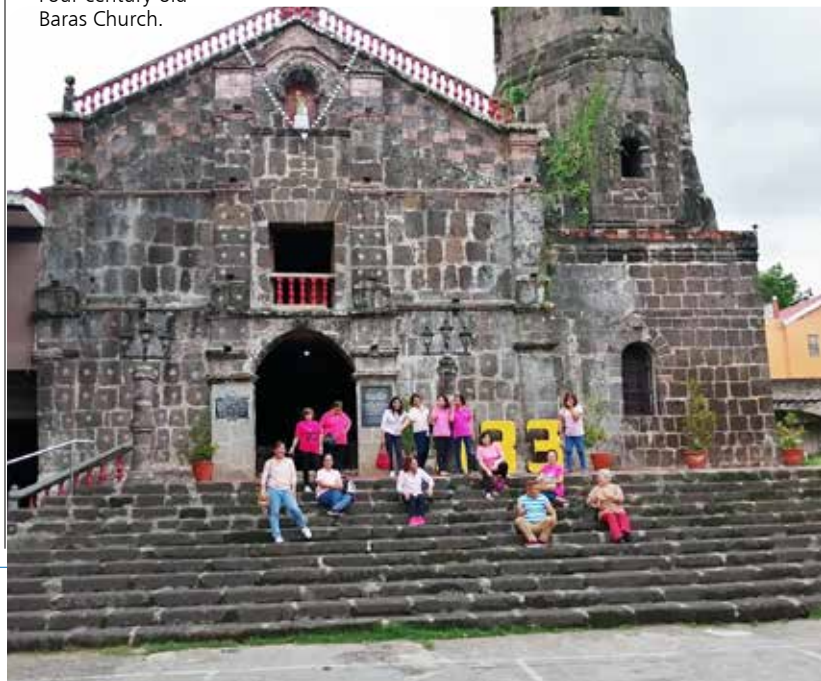
What a glorious day that was! And I am so glad to learn that ADB's focus on helping the poor has certainly not been lost among former employees who live in Pasig and Cainta.

Note: The Blue Whale Foundation needs rice, laundry soap (bar/powder), bath soap, face masks, gloves, and toiletries. To donate, please e-mail AFE member Lina Ledesma at ledesma_857@yahoo.com. ■



One of 27 giant windmills at the Pililla Wind Farm, an ADB-assisted project.

Four-century-old Baras Church.



Alice Reyes: 50-Year Dance Legacy

Elizabeth V. Reyes (spouse of Hans-Juergen Springer)

Ed: Elizabeth Reyes describes her latest book project, the 50-year legacy of danceuse Alice Reyes and Ballet Philippines.



Elizabeth V. Reyes with Alice Reyes.

It's neither a memoir, nor a biography, nor just another photo book to display on a coffee table. This book is a visual compendium of a National Artist's legacy in dance: a legacy that was started by Alice G. Reyes, the folk and jazz dancer of the sixties who emerged as the pioneer choreographer and dance company founder in the "golden" seventies. Her high values and aspirations for the emergent art of dance were planted in the new Cultural Center in 1969, where they bloomed and were carried forth by the versatile Ballet Philippines (BP) dance company for 50 years on the global stage. This compendium of an artist's life and work takes BP's finest dance works from the stage to the pages of a grand new book: *Alice Reyes+Ballet Philippines: A 50-Year Legacy in Dance*.

A Legacy in Print. The legacy book was born as a collaborative work about Alice Reyes, proclaimed National Artist for Dance in 2016. With that title came a grant from the National Commission for Culture and the Arts to enable her to create a work to uplift and demonstrate this particular art. From the outset, Alice Reyes envisioned a large format book, composed by the hands of veteran BP dancers and loyal followers



Cover of Alice Reyes & Ballet Philippines: A 50-Year Legacy.

of Ballet Philippines. To start, Reyes chose the various BP veterans who she felt knew her best to be the main writers—to portray her as a real person and a lifetime artist. Each of the contributors (four former dancers, two journalists, and one tour manager) started writing from their own grounded experiences with Reyes and the early BP dance company. As collaborators, AR invited Margie Moran Floirendo—the avid President of Ballet Philippines (2009–2017) turned Chair of the Cultural Center of the Philippines—and myself, freelance author of multiple style and design books (and a dancer in a previous life).

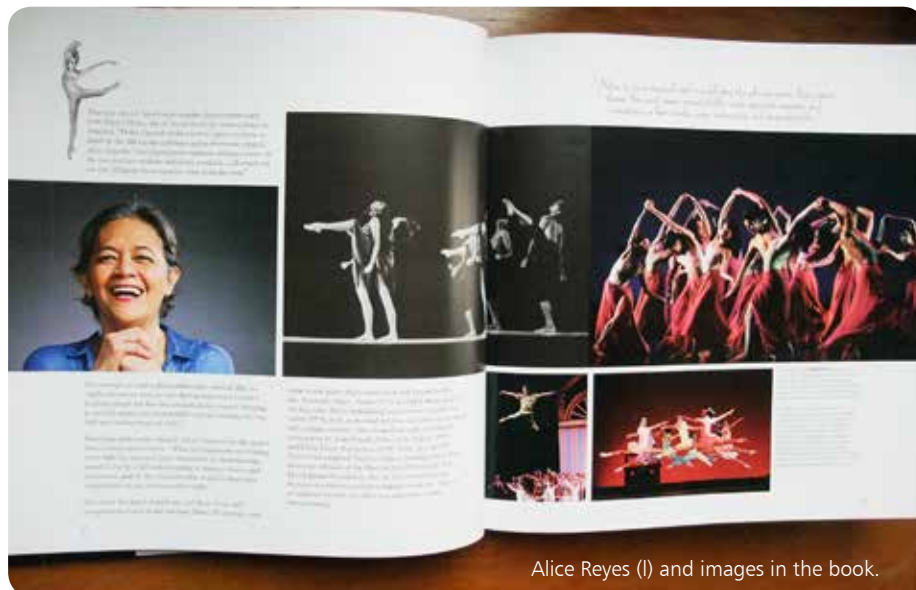
The project kicked off in January 2019, but only 5 months into the process would the first essays trickle in from the contributors. Only then could the "non-BP" editors begin to stitch together the diverse texts and stir



Concertino by Pauline Koner.

in personal memories or vivid quotes from the main subject, Alice Reyes herself. The manuscript editor Randy Bustamante had to choose only the most relevant incidents, the most resonating experiences, and the most colorful quotes, while avoiding overlap and redundancy. By the 6th month, the professional editors gave shape to Alice Reyes's legacy through a chorus of many creative voices.

Artistic Vision. The editors sought to capture the essence of Alice Reyes's artistic vision in words, as developed in the golden 70s... and then to merge the vision with the stunning photo-visuals and spirit of the BP company today, 50 years after she started a modern dance group. Alice Reyes' legacy-in-dance is recounted in the first third of the book, the "Legacy" section. Its seven text-driven chapters array Alice's personal history (before she started dancing on the CCP stage): the hard-work to establish a modern dance company in the 70s; the foundational influences of 15 foreign dance masters; the new artist-collaborators in theater-arts (Lucrecia Kasilag, Salvador Bernal, Teddy Hilado, etc.); and individual choreographers (Edna Vida,



Alice Reyes (l) and images in the book.

Denisa Reyes, Agnes Locsin, Bam Damian et al.) who were developed with experience and exposure; and finally, the growth of the BP School of Dance, which has taken Alice Reyes + BP spirit and principles to new generations of dancers and artists.

The dancer Alice's life is followed by the dance works themselves. The second part, "Repertoire," is a photo section comprising two thirds of the book—about 140 pages of over 250 photographs of Ballet Philippines' 45 best dance works created over 50 years. The editors had over 2,500 photos or digital files of BP dance productions to cull for the book. The editors were supported by book designer Dopy Doplon, cinematographer Boy Yniguez, and photographers including Justin Alonte, Tony Ganai, Jojo Mamangun, Mark Nicdao, Victor Ursabia, Rudy Vidad, and Jaime Zobel.



Te Deum by Denisa Reyes.

The message in the book? The significant dance works in Repertoire are the timeless and enduring artworks that have emerged from Alice Reyes's legacy—from her artistic vision and values put in place 5 decades ago. The book is available at Ballet Philippines in the CCP (Call Carrie at 63-2-8525-1770), in the CCP Bookshop of the CCP Little Theater lobby, and at Bookmark and Fully Booked. ■

Pickleball Anyone?

Anne Schelzig (spouse of Werner Schelzig
ADB 1985–2000)



Get out of the kitchen," came a shout from behind me. I backpedaled with quick baby steps, gripped my red rectangle of a paddle, and with a satisfying *thwack*, volleyed the plastic whiffle ball, headed straight for my left breast, back over the net. Another *thwack*, and the ball whizzed right back toward us, my partner-in-pickleball and me.

Kitchens and pickles, as culinary as the words may sound, have nothing to do with canning lessons at the Sarasota, Florida extension service. They are the curious terms used in a game that is gaining such popularity it could one day rival golf.

What's That Again? There's only one problem. No one's heard of it.

"Pickleball? You must be kidding," said my sister when I mentioned it to her.

I first read about the game some 5 years ago in the local newspaper. The article said it was like tennis, badminton, and ping pong. But different. Slower. There were designated courts at a park on the other side of Route 41 Bypass where new picklers were welcome.

Sounds stupid, I thought, and forgot about it. A few months later I was over by the park and decided to stop

and see just what this stupid game was all about. No one was around, pickling or otherwise.

Many moons rose and set over my winter life in Florida on the Gulf Coast. But something was missing in my otherwise idyllic life in paradise. My only regular exercise was walking around the neighborhood, craning my neck to peer at people's yards and into their windows. Even though Fitbit the step tracker was my constant companion, our conversations were kind of one-sided.

By now, pickleball had niggled its way into my head. I watched a piece about it on the local TV station. It actually looked fun. The whiffle ball thwackers seemed fairly normal. They were not dressed all in white, like the required garb at the croquet club, nor were they wearing psychedelic spandex. They donned regular duds. Maybe I was one of those old folks who would enjoy a game that was less strenuous than tennis but still required some skill. Pickleball was perhaps not quite as stupid as I thought.

Where, though, were all those picklers hiding? Blank stares, shrugged shoulders or birdlike titters were some of the more polite responses to my queries about pickleball. Clearly I was asking the wrong people. Google came to the rescue. I discovered that there was a beginners' group right up the street in the gym of the Venice Community Center. But still I hesitated.

First Steps. Not until my sister came here on her spring escape from Syracuse did I drag her with me to the center. Do not ask me why I didn't go alone. Wouldn't you think a woman with seventy plus years under her belt, many spent living in developing countries with civil unrest, who dealt with water shortages, power outages, four children, let alone foreign languages to master, could have simply marched into the place and inquired about a silly game?

One Monday morning we followed the strange thwacking sounds into the center's gym and sat down in chairs on the sidelines to watch. Blue tape delineated four courts, each about a quarter the size of a tennis court.



There were low nets across the middle, two players on each side.

"Seven, four, on the two." The server yelled out the score before hitting the ball diagonally across the court. It would take weeks before I understood those numbers.

The receiver returned it and the players moved up toward the net to volley the ball in quick hits back and forth until someone missed. They took care not to volley from inside a designated zone close to the net called the kitchen. Or they gently dinked the ball and it landed just barely over the net. Occasionally someone would lob the ball right over an opponent's head, or make a long deep shot to the back corner.

For a win, 11 was the magic number to reach. Game over, the players walked up to the net, and in proper pickleballer etiquette, reached over it and tapped paddle handles all around.

Not a stupid game. Definitely worth a try.

Getting Pickled. Over the next few weeks I played in a beginners group with others who seemed so much better than I. They patiently explained the rules, including when you were allowed to step into the kitchen. They helped me learn to score. The humiliating swishes my paddle made when I completely missed the ball, were all mine.

Eventually my serves stopped landing out of bounds and I felt less like an elephant at ballet practice. No longer the worst player of the bunch, I began to have fun and get some exercise too. That must have been what the guy who set up a makeshift net in his backyard back in 1965 had in mind. His dog, who kept stealing the ball, was also having fun. He probably never imagined he would become famous, long after he could chase after whiffle balls. Pickles was his name.

I'm off to the community center now, where I'll keep out of the kitchen unless the ball bounces in there and try my best not to lose, zero to 11. The sour expression for that? Getting pickled. ■



Join the AFE-ADB HQ Facebook page for timely news about AFE and ADB.

Karuizawa

George C. J. Chou (1970–1998)



George and Ruby Chou at Shiraito Waterfall.

During the fourth week of October 2019, my wife Ruby, my daughter, my son-in-law, one of my granddaughters, and I went to Karuizawa by Shinkansen (Bullet Train) from Tokyo (about 1 hour and 10 minutes). Karuizawa has been known as a summer resort for wealthy Tokyo residents for many decades and is renowned as a popular holiday town in Japan. In the winter, it becomes a popular destination for skiing and other winter sports. Karuizawa is also where former Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko fell in love during a tennis match.



Karuizawa Kogen Church.



Kumbo pond.



Four Chous at Kumbo Pond.

During our 3-night, 4-day stay, we visited the Shiraito waterfalls, two museums (the Hiroshi Senju Museum and Sezon Museum of Modern Art), two churches (Karuizawa Kogen Church and Uchimura Kanzo Memorial Stone Church); walked in Karuizawa old Ginza Street; appreciated the colorful maple trees by the Kumoba pond; took lunch in a Japanese restaurant at Harunire Terrace; and had an onsen bath at Hoshino Onsen. We also spent a day in the Karuizawa Prince Shopping Plaza outlet mall and had lunch at its food court.

The Karuizawa Shiraito waterfall (the waterfall of white threads) is a popular tourist destination. It is 3 meters high and 70 meters wide. The unique feature of the waterfall is that no river flows into it, because the mountain slopes above it contain a volcanic stratum through which groundwater flows before surfacing at the falls. Due to its impressive 70 meter arc, Karuizawa Shiraito is one of Japan's most unique waterfalls.

Kumoba Pond, another Karuizawa attraction, has beautiful yellow and red autumn leaves. It is also called the Pond of Swans. At the pond, we took a leisurely walk, enjoying its great natural beauty.

The Harunire Terrace was developed by Hoshino Resort Company as a compound consisting of restaurants, cafes, and gift shops. After resting, visitors can take a short walk on the trails near the bird sanctuary and outdoor skating rink and enjoy the greenery and fresh air.

We took a leisurely stroll on Karuizawa Ginza Street one late afternoon. The street is lined with shops selling souvenirs and local products, and a large number of restaurants and cafes. At the end of the street we looked at the former Mikasa Hotel, which was very famous in the old days, as only the rich could afford to stay in it.

While in Karuizawa, we were fortunate to stay at Shishi-Iwa House, a boutique hotel designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Shigeru Ban. The hotel nestles in a forest just outside town. It offers just 10 guest rooms divided among three clusters, each overlooking



Ruby and George Chou practicing Tai Chi Chuan at Shishi-Iwa House.

woods and some have scenic views of Mount Asama, an active volcano. Shishi-Iwa House is deliberately designed to allow for fluidity from one place to another. After stepping through the timber-framed glass doors, said to be the largest of their kind in Japan, you find yourself in the library and reception room for check-in, with views of the garden where more than 250 trees have been planted, from cherry trees to Japanese maples. The south-facing deck is a perfect place for meditation, morning Tai Chi, or yoga. One of the guests described Shishi-Iwa House as a piece of art in itself, and I totally agree with her view.

It was a wonderful trip and every one of us enjoyed it very much. We will come back for sure as there are so many things to see and do. ■

Cruising Down the River Murray

David Parker (ADB 1980–2004)



Shortly before the AFE Australian Chapter reunion last October, my wife Arnie and I joined a memorable cruise on the paddle-steamer *Emmylou* along the River Murray, which forms much of the border between the Australian states of New South Wales and Victoria.

The *Emmylou*, built in the early 1980s, is a throwback to the old paddle steamers that chugged up and down the Murray and Darling rivers in long-gone years, carrying passengers, and towing logs and other cargo.

On our cruise were about 20 others, most of them retirees. Shortly after the cruise began, the captain of the paddle steamer invited us all to prepare a poem about the cruise, as part of our activities. We were to read our poems out after dinner on the final night. Seven of us took part in the challenge, and each spent a late night or two preparing what hopefully would be the winning poem. I prepared mine during different stages of the cruise, and finished it on the final night, not long before judging time.

When the time came, the seven of us who participated read our poems. Then the captain, who was the master of ceremonies, went into the kitchen pretending to be “consulting with the crew” to choose the winner. In reality he had a good and sensible plan



The *Emmylou*.



Arnie and David Parker on board the *Emmylou*.



Sitting around the fire.

to keep everyone happy. When he returned, he announced that all seven of us had won a prize for our efforts—a fridge magnet. My poem follows.

Cruising on the *Emmylou*

I strolled along St Kilda Road one cold and sunny day last June,
And as I strolled, I thought of many things I could be doing soon.
I came at last to Princes Bridge, where far below the Yarra flowed,
While up above, the cars and trams all hurried on along the road.
Upon the Yarra banks tall buildings standing side-by-side looked down
Like mighty eucalyptus trees that overlook some tiny town
Or stand along a river bank like stately statues tall and old.
Such scenes as that along a river soon I wished I could behold.
And then I had an inspiration – sudden thoughts that crossed my mind:
A Murray River cruise by paddle-steamer I must quickly find!

So here we are a few months later all aboard the *Emmylou*.
The steamer's been around for years, but still it feels like new.
The rooms are comfy, nice and clean, and windows let in cool fresh air.
While on the deck we look for birds and things at which we love to stare.
We photograph them all, or maybe sit and talk with new-found friends,
And just enjoy the sunshine there before the night on us descends.
The *Emmylou* chugs quietly on, its speed at all times nice and slow,
As big tall red gums on the banks look down on us below.

And sometimes too we leave the boat for things on land to see or do.
Among these is a picnic lunch and, still to come, a barbecue.
The second day, at Restdown Farm, while shown around the dry land there,
We saw first-hand the harsh effect the drought is having everywhere,
We also saw Torrumbarry Weir, a dam that stems the Murray's flow.
The *Emmylou* there turned around, for back upstream we had to go.
Today we toured some wetlands, spotting birds that in the trees abound,
Some large, some small, such pretty birds, each sending out a different sound.

And now for one last time we see out west the Murray's setting sun.
The *Emmylou* then draws ashore three hours before the day is done.
The barbecue this final night will be a highlight of the cruise.
We mill around the fire to get our food and hear of any news
Of how the lively night that lies ahead is going to unfold,
Each member of the cruise sits quietly down, rugged up against the cold.
Our captain too is there, with drink in hand, and plucks his fine guitar.
He starts to sing, amazing all with both his voice and repertoire.

And so, we all enjoy the night, while listening to his many songs.
Then some join in or tell great jokes. To all of us this night belongs!
Now I can really tell you all, before this happy story ends,
That I will recommend this cruise to all my relatives and friends.
For all the things we have enjoyed we thank the crew of *Emmylou*.
And so, I wish you all the best, good health and joy to all of you,
While some of you have come from far, and others of you live quite near,
May all of you in future years still feel as if you are right here,
Cruising on the *Emmylou*. ■

AQ and Age

Shamshad A. Khan (ADB 1969–1991)



We all know about IQ (intelligence quotient), which measures memory retention, analytical thinking and mathematical ability of a person. Now to cope with the new technology of artificial intelligence (AI) and robotic processing automation (RPA), the ability to learn and to use this advanced technology

has become important and to some extent essential for many jobs. This adaptability to change is termed AQ (adaptability quotient).

Consumer-related electronic gadgets such as mobile/cell phones and global positioning systems (GPSs) in cars to find directions to the desired destination are now commonly used with much ease. However, the use of AI and RPA in the work place requires training. Humans and robots working side by side is a new feature of the work place. Recently, ADB installed a “bot” called “Mari” for processing job applications. Hence persons of working age have to adapt themselves to new changes or some may lose their job.

The adaptability to acquire or accept change is not limited to technology fields. Many other changes in businesses are being adopted. The concept of open office area without rooms is one example. Video conferences and learning another language for international trade also needs high AQ in employees.

Old-aged persons are normally not directly involved in technological changes but indirectly it is affecting them also. For example, till recently we would be greeted by a receptionist when visiting a lab for a blood test. But now a computer screen in the reception area welcomes us. It requires us to touch the screen and furnish the required information: name, date of birth, phone number, purpose of visit, etc. by typing on the touch screen. Then you wait for your turn. Similarly if you call your bank, instead of a human being, a bot voice will welcome you and ask you questions according to its menu. Only if your query is not covered will it refer you to an agent. Then you may still have to wait for your turn.

Older persons need to have a high AQ to adapt to changes needed in their food habits, living abode, and social contacts. A low-sodium, low-sugar, and less oily diet is essential for almost all older persons. There may also be special dietary restrictions for some ailments.

Death of a spouse or infirm health may require the elderly to live in “assisted living” homes. There you have to change many die hard habits and conform to the disciplined and regimented routine of waking up, eating times, and food choices. Living with a son or daughter may also need some adjustment to your daily routine. Loneliness after a spouse’s death often results in depression, and doctors recommend social contacts to counteract it. To make new friends needs special effort for many older persons. Their own children or grandchildren may have no spare time, and are busy on their cell phones with their own chats, entertainment, or music. So my advice for my old-age group is to adopt the habit of reading and writing.

In conclusion, older people should accept the universal truth: Change is a natural phenomenon; let’s be adaptable to it in order to pass our final days peacefully. ■

New Members

AFE–ADB extends a warm welcome to the following new members of the Association (country of residence is indicated in parentheses):

June 2019

Widowati, Sri (Indonesia)

July 2019

Bird, Jeremy D. (United Kingdom)
Carreon, Teresa Nadal (Philippines)
de Sousa, Brigido (Timor-Leste)
Diaz, Noel Hernandez (Philippines)
Gerobin, Jeffrey M. (Philippines)
Ibaviosa, Mary Joyce Umali (Philippines)
Kamo, Shigeaki (Japan)
Macaísa-Viray, Joy (Philippines)
Soriano, Maria Socorro Zalamea (Philippines)

August 2019

Conrad, Jurgen (Austria)
Kanai, Tatsuya (Japan)
Miravalles, Myrna Palma (Philippines)
Santiago, Paulino Jr. (Philippines)
Stephens, Christopher H. (United States)
Tang, Dingding (China, People’s Republic of)

September 2019

Abeleda-Milward, Marichu (Philippines)
De Guzman, Irish (Philippines)
De Mesa, Mitchell Anthony M. (Philippines)
Tanyag, Mercedita S. (Philippines)
Thukral, Kapil (India)

October 2019

Ahmed, Farzana (Australia)
 Ariffin, Anuar Bin (Malaysia)
 Atkinson, Albert Dean (United States)
 Danao, Lalaine B. (Philippines)
 Falcutila, Laura O. (Philippines)
 Mangun, Coleen (Philippines)
 Nakao, Takehiko (Japan)
 Van Klaveren, Paulus (Philippines)

November 2019

Ahmad, Nessim Jamil (United States)
 Alindogan, Mary Grace (Canada)
 Bustamante, Nancy C. (Philippines)
 Hoelscher, Bosco (Spain)
 Leonido, Jay (Philippines)
 Momand, Habibullah (Afghanistan)
 Ortega, Marites M. (Philippines)

December 2019

Fukukawa, Hiroshi (Japan)
 Jha, Shikha (India)
 Sarvi, Jouko Ensio (Zambia)
 Sunico-Bautista, Andrea Solidium (Canada)

January 2020

Aquino, Sundre Chetandas (Philippines)
 Dole, David D. (United States)
 Dy, Nightingale Sinsioco (Philippines)
 Francisco, Cynthia Lizzette Bautista (United States)
 Fukuda, Shintaro (Japan)
 Hakim, Januar (Indonesia)
 Handayani, Sri Wening (Indonesia)
 Hartel, Rainer A. (Philippines)
 Howe, Melendres A. (Philippines)
 Kim, Dae Kyeong (Korea, Republic of)
 Kim, Hun (Korea, Republic of)
 Leung, Amy S. P. (Canada)
 Menon, Jayant (Australia)
 Shakil, Sofia (Pakistan)
 Villamin, Genevieve Ruth Refalda (Philippines)

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Please send, by June, articles, photos, updates, or comments for publication in our next newsletter.

Annual Association Dues

Members who have not yet settled their annual Association dues are requested to do so.

Senior Appointments at ADB

AFE-ADB congratulates the following staff members on their new appointments.

Takeo Konishi—Director, Public Management, Financial Sector, & Trade Division (SAPF), South Asia Department (SARD), assumed office on 26 June 2019.

Jose Antonio Tan III—Director, Public Management, Financial Sector, & Trade Division (SEPF), Southeast Asia Department (SERD), assumed office on 8 July 2019.

Norio Saito—Director, Urban Development and Water Division (SAUW), SARD, assumed office on 9 July 2019.

Jingmin Huang—Director, Urban Development, Water Supply and Sanitation Division (PAUW), Pacific Department (PARD), assumed office on 9 July 2019.

Siddhartha Shah—Director, Advisory Division 2 (OPA2), Office of the Public-Private Partnership (OPPP), assumed office on 24 July 2019.

Ying Qian—Advisor, Office of the Director General, East Asia Department (EARD), assumed office on 29 July 2019.

Xiaoqin Fan—Director, Public Management, Financial Sector, and Regional Cooperation Division, EARD, assumed office on 29 July 2019.

Chang Ching Yu—Country Director, Turkmenistan Resident Mission (TKRM) Central and West Asia Department (CWRD), assumed office on 1 August 2019.

Claus Astrup—Director, Strategic Partnerships Division (SPSP), Strategy, Policy and Partnerships Department (SPD), assumed office on 5 August 2019.

Anna Charlotte Schou-Zibell—Regional Director, Pacific Liaison and Coordination Office (PLCO), PARP, assumed office on 5 August 2019.

Craig Roberts—Senior Advisor, Office of the Director General, Private Sector Operations Department (PSOD), assumed office on 7 August 2019.

Yesim Elhan-Kayalar—Advisor, Office of the Chief Economist and Director General, Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department (ERCD), effective upon assumption of office.

Jesper Petersen—Advisor and Head, Portfolio, Results, Safeguards and Gender Unit (CWOD-PSG), CWRD, assumed office on 23 August 2019.

Yolanda Fernandez Lommen—Country Director, PRC Resident Mission (PRCM), EARD, assumed office on 26 August 2019.

Narendra Singru—Country Director, Afghanistan Resident Mission (AFRM), CWRD, assumed office on 1 September 2019.

Samuel Tumiwa—Advisor, Conflict-Affected Situations, Office of the Cluster Head (SDTC), Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC), assumed office on 7 August 2019.

Asif Cheema—Deputy Country Director, Pakistan Resident Mission (PRM), CWRD, assumed office on 16 September 2019.

Shane Rosenthal—Country Director, Georgia Resident Mission (GRM), CWRD, assumed office on 25 September 2019.

Rajesh Poddar—Advisor and Head of Treasury Quantitative Analysis Unit, (TDOT-QAU), Treasury Department (TD), assumed office on 25 September 2019.

Paolo Spantigati—Country Director, Armenia Resident Mission (ARRM), CWRD, assumed office on 2 October 2019.

Junkyu Lee—Chief of Finance Sector Group, Finance SG, SDSC (SDSC-FIN), SDCC, assumed office on 7 October 2019.

Marife V. Apilado—Director, Portfolio Management Division (PSPM), PSOD, effective 31 January 2020.

Ameen Joudah—Director, Facilities Administration Division (OAFA), Office of Administrative Services (OAS), assumed office on 1 August 2019.

Pavit Ramachandran—Country Director, Mongolia Resident Mission (MNRM), EARD, assumed office on 8 November 2019.

Rawnak-ul Islam—Advisor and Head of Investment and Liability Management Unit (BPOD-ILM), Budget, Personnel and Management Systems Department (BPMSD), assumed office on 13 November 2019.

Sunil Mitra—Country Director, Timor-Leste Resident Mission (TLRM), SERD, assumed office on 18 November 2019.

Elisea G. Gozun—Chair, Compliance Review Panel – Designate (CRPN), Office of the Compliance Review Panel (OCRP), assumed office on 25 November 2019.

Sonali Tang—Regional Director, ADB Singapore Office (SGO), PSOD, effective upon assumption of office.

Keiju Mitsuhashi—Deputy Country Director, Viet Nam Resident Mission (VRM), SERD, effective upon assumption of office.

Peter Marro—Advisor, Office of the Director General, CWRD, assumed office on 18 December 2019.

Ma. Carmela Locsin—Special Senior Advisor to the President, Office of the President (OPR), effective upon assumption of office.

James Patrick Lynch—Director General, EARD, effective upon assumption of office.

Kenichi Yokoyama—Director General, SARD, effective upon assumption of office.

Leah Gutierrez—Director General, PARD, effective upon assumption of office.

Chen Chen—Country Director, Sri Lanka Resident Mission (SLRM), SARD, effective upon assumption of office.

Elaine Swee Khian Tan—Advisor and Head of Statistics and Data Innovation Unit (EROD-SDI), ERCD, effective 3 February 2020.

Suzanne Dee Pedersen—Director, HR Policy and Program (BPPP), BPMSD, assumed office on 20 January 2020.

Makoto Kubota—Advisor (Data Management), Office of the Director General (ITOD), Information Technology Department (ITD), effective upon assumption of office.



Obituaries

With deep regret and sorrow we announce the death of the following AFE members. Our heartfelt and sincere condolences to their families.

Anthony Tan Song Chuan, former Executive Director, passed away on 23 January 2020 at the age of 89. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Magdalen Low at magdalenlow@chijsec.edu.sg, mobile number +65 913 86 820.

Margono Halimoen, former Project Engineer, who passed away on 23 January 2020 at the age of 86. Condolences may be sent to his granddaughter, Nurul Rahmah, at nurulrahmah13@gmail.com, mobile number +62 812 180 80499.

Oscar A Gendrano, former Forestry Specialist, passed away on 18 January 2020 at the age of 80.

Condolences may be sent to his son Alfred Oscar Gendrano at fred.gendrano@gmail.com, mobile number +63 920 973 3212.

Lorenzo D. Ramos, former Laboratory Technician, passed away on 3 January 2020 at the age of 79. Condolences may be sent to his son Conrad Ramos at mobile no. +63 966 887 8893.

Zenaida Zamora, former Senior Executive Assistant, passed away on 11 December 2019 at the age of 72. Condolences may be sent to her nephew Enrique "Bong" Zamora at mobile no. +63 928 356 0987.

Mazhar Ali Khan, former Manager, passed away on 26 November 2019 at the age of 89. Condolences may be sent to his daughter Sabiha Imran Khan at sabiha5577@outlook.com.

Krishna Venkatanarayanan, wife of R. Venkatanarayanan, Senior Executive Officer, passed away on 20 November 2019. Condolences may be sent to her husband R. Venkatanarayanan at r.venkatanarayanan@gmail.com.

Bong Hyuk Kay, former Executive Director, passed away on 21 November 2019 at the age of 94.

Jocelyn T. Arana, former Senior Executive Assistant, passed away on 21 October 2019 at the age of 67. Condolences may be sent to her husband Antonio Arana at 160 9th Avenue Riverside Village, Ortigas Avenue Extension, Pasig City.

P.S. Hariharan, former Chief Information Officer, passed away on 12 October 2019 at the age of 93. Condolences may be sent to his wife Saradha Hariharan Iyer at Geddaalahalli, Off Hennur Main Road Block A No. 103 First Floor Elegant Aster Apartments, Dr. Shivaram Karanth Nagar Post Bangalore 560077 India.

Kenneth McNeely, former Senior Programs Officer, passed away on 12 September 2019 at the age of 86.

Jungsoo Lee, former Resident Director General, passed away on 27 August 2019 at the age of 75. Condolences may be sent to his wife Seungrye Kim at jungsoolee7@gmail.com.

Jane Hourihan, wife of Ed Hourihan, Senior Investment Officer, passed away on 27 August 2019.

Exequiel Cunanan, Jr., former Communication Assistant, passed away on 30 June 2019 at the age of 78. Condolences may be sent to his wife Julieta Cunanan at telephone no. +63 2 477 9220.

**For information
on membership contact
afe-adb@adb.org**

AFE-ADB News is published twice annually under the auspices of the AFE Publications Committee. The views expressed in the articles are those of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of AFE-ADB, its officers, or its Publications Committee; or of ADB or its Board of Governors. AFE-ADB does not guarantee the accuracy of information or data presented or accept any responsibility for any consequences of their use.

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- (2) Articles that are accepted will be edited for language, content, and length that the Publications Committee deems appropriate for the readership. Images must be of print quality (at least 280 kb or 600 dpi is preferred).
- (3) Any photograph that was not taken by the sender should be sent with the photographer's permission for AFE-ADB to publish it. Please identify all people shown in photographs so we can include adequate captions.
- (4) Authors and photographers will be acknowledged and retain ownership of any material submitted for publication.

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Articles for publication may be sent in MS Word as e-mail attachments to afe-adb@adb.org. Articles will preferably be 250–750 words. Please send images in a separate file. Comments that will help improve *AFE-ADB News* are most welcome.

Acknowledgements

Josephine C. Jacinto, AFE-ADB's able former assistant, provided invaluable help, including typesetting and layout. Steve Banta, Julia Holz, David Parker, Jill Gale de Villa, and Wickie Zveglic copy edited. They also proofread, as did Malou Magalued and Manilyn Pana. AFE sincerely appreciates ADB's Department of Communications and the Printing Unit for assistance with finalizing the magazine.

Announcements



2020 ADB Annual Meeting and AFE Annual General Meeting

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and travel restrictions, the **2020 Annual Meeting of the ADB Board of Governors** will be held in two parts. (1) A meeting on 22 May 2020 at ADB Headquarters in Manila will only be for Governors through their designated representatives based in Manila. (2) A full scale Annual Meeting will be held on 18–21 September in Incheon, Republic of Korea and will be open to participants.

Invitations to register and confirmation of registration issued prior to April are no longer valid. ADB will send out new invitations and registration details. ADB and the Government of the Republic of Korea prioritize the safety of participants, will continue to monitor developments, and will provide updates on any changes on the above. For queries, please email annualmeeting@adb.org.

AFE's 2020 AGM is on 22 May, virtually, with meetings and cocktails in Incheon in September to coincide with ADB's activities there.

Chapter Events

The **Canada** Chapter's groups gatherings will be: 1. Vancouver: October/November; 2. Vancouver Island: July/August; 3. Ottawa: November/December; and 4. Toronto: Fourth quarter. For details, contact Bruce Murray at bmurray.xadb@gmail.com.

The **New Zealand** Chapter will hold its 2020 reunion in Blenheim, Marlborough on 2–5 March 2020. Contact Ron Hamilton at atsteamloco@xtra.co.nz for details.

The **Pakistan** Chapter is planning its first reunion meeting around mid-March 2020. Contact M.E. Tusneem at mtusneem@gmail.com or Shahida Jaffrey shahida.jaffrey@gmail.com for details.

The **Europe** Chapter will hold its 23rd Annual Reunion on 10–14 September 2020 in Belfast, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom. Contact Gunter Hecker at ghecker1@t-online.de for details.

The **India** Chapter is planning an annual meeting and reunion tour of North India in late September 2020. Contact Shiladitya Chatterjee at shilochatterjee@gmail.com for details.

The **Washington DC** group usually meets in late October. Contact Fred Roche at frederick_roche@hotmail.com.

The **Indonesia** Chapter plans to hold a reunion in Yogyakarta, Central Java, tentatively scheduled for 8–11 October 2020 including sightseeing in the Yogyakarta–Solo region. We warmly welcome all AFE members. For details, contact Putu Kamayana at putu_kamayana@yahoo.com.

The **New York/New Jersey** Chapter invites all AFE members to a grand reunion on 10.10.2020. For details, contact Doris Pangilinan Bohun: doris.afe.adb.ny.101020@gmail.com.

The **Australia** Chapter will meet in Adelaide on 20–23 October. The program will include the AGM, lawn bowling, a trip to the Coorong, the famous Cube, and exploring aboriginal art. Contact Stephen Baker at sandbbaker@internode.on.net for details. All AFE members are welcome.

The **Philippines** Chapter will hold its Annual Get-together and Business Meeting on 19 November 2020 at the EDR, ADB Headquarters Building. For further information, contact Gam de Armas at gamdearmas@yahoo.com.

The **Korea** Chapter will host its 2020 annual get-together on Thursday, 10 December in Seoul. Contact Meeja Hamm at meejahamm@gmail.com for details.

Keep Your Address Updated with AFE–ADB

Please keep us informed about any change in your address, telephone/fax numbers, and e-mail address. We don't want to lose touch with you. Also, if you know any member whose address and other contact details are not listed, or are incomplete or wrong, please let us know.

AFE–ADB

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