



Inspirational words...



AFPMP members led by its president Benoit Hervet and the honorary Consul Jeffrey Cabuay

119th Philippine Independence Day Celebration

by Roda Hebrard

This year's successful celebration of the Philippine Independence day was held last June 10, 2017 at Marriott by Courtyard. Numerous Filipino and French members from Toulouse and its proximity, Agen, Pau, Tarbes and Bordeaux graced the event. New friends have also been acquainted on that occasion.

Emceed by Mrs Cynthia Adams, she narrated a very brief information on the event's theme *Pahiyas* - a Philippine feast showcasing a street of houses adorned with fruits, vegetables, agricultural products, handicrafts, and "kiping." This is a rice-made decoration which afterwards can be eaten grilled or fried. All these represent the season of harvest.

Our honorary Consul Jeff Cabuay's speech was dedicated to the French spouses as to how they can cope up with their wives' Filipino culture. He also briefly talked about the history about the bilateral relations between France and the Philippines. Benoit Hervet, AFPMP president did not forget to acknowledge everyone who has been part of the association's continued success and existence.

The crowd cheered the ethnic dance performance of Marbella Hervouet, Lahaina Hervet, Mary Jane Ongco, Heidi Laverigne, and Paul John Porlante. The patriotic song Bayan Ko was rendered by Anam Ramos and Juniefer Mesias.

Food came enormously from the hands of all our attendees. The spirit of giving and sharing among Filipinos obviously doesn't come only on Christmas seasons. Independence day celebration is also on top of the list.



Singing *Ako'y Isang Pinoy*



Ethnic dance *Una Kaya*



Our friends from far places: Buensocesa Thiebaut, Vangie Baudet, Minda & Julie Solacroup, and new member Cherry Darcourt from Toulouse



Mimie Audet, Connie Capdevielle, Johanna Kostine, Cristina Lachal and Irene Journau with Consul Jeff Cabuay

Editorial

As the Philippines celebrate the country's Independence Day in the month of June, please do not miss this year's AFPMP event on the occasion of our 119th year of independence from the Spanish colonizers. And since June is also Philippines' back-to-school month, we offer you easy recipes that you know since childhood and that you may want to rekindle. One more special occasion, though not a public holiday, is the celebration of Father's day. The month won't end without its June brides. So check-out the couples we have featured for you.

Forum des Langues is another important event that the association has joined since 2014. Have a look on the article and the photos with our colorful and festive stand.

For our equally religious members, the column for the 2-day pilgrimage in Lourdes is worth reading.

And as interesting as always, our newsletter brings us far away with our Travel columns. For the next issues, please feel free to keep sending us your articles in and around France and the Philippines. We will also be glad to discover the places you have visited.

Thank you for your support and enjoy reading!

Roda Hebrard
Editor-in-chief

What's inside?

Feature story: June Brides **p5**

Fête des pères **p7**

Mots du Consul **p8**

À Savoir **p4**

C'est-à-dire... **p6**

Annonce **p6**

Kids' Corner **p6**

2017 Activities **p2**

Events:

National Pilgrimage **p3**

Forum des Langues **p8**

My Travel Diary:

A Wedding in Italy **p4**

Thoughts to Ponder:

Time for You **p7**

À table!:

Champorado & Riz au lait **p2**

My France:

A Visit to Nérac **p7**

À table!

Champorado (Chocolate Rice Pudding)



Preparation time: 5 mins.
Cook time: 40 mins.
Makes 6 servings

Ingredients:

5 cups water
1 cup glutinous rice
4 pieces tablea chocolate
½ cup sugar
½ cup evaporated milk

Instructions:

In a deep pot over medium heat, add water and bring to a boil. Add rice and stir to distribute. Lower heat and continue to cook, stirring occasionally, until rice begins to expand.

Add tablea and cook, stirring regularly, until chocolate has melted. Continue to cook until rice is translucent and liquid is reduced to desired consistency. Add sugar and continue to cook, stirring regularly, until dissolved. Ladle onto bowls, drizzle with evaporated milk and serve hot.

Source: www.kawalingpinoy.com

Theme: Rice / Riz

In the Philippines, June is back-to-school month. Breakfasts are suggested to be taken heavy to keep students feel full the whole morning. Kids and adolescents alike love this Filipino chocolate rice breakfast topped with milk and even better served with fried salt fish. It is equally prepared as an after-school snack.

In France, they also have this rice-based preparation for either "goûter" or dessert. Add some cream for that smooth savor; vanilla, caramel and even candied fruits for that perfect result! Hmmm!!!

Riz au lait

Préparation: 5 mn
Cuisson: 40 mn
Pour 4 personnes

Ingédients:

120 g de riz rond à dessert
ou riz arborio
100 g de sucre en poudre
75 cl de lait
(entier de préférence)
20 cl de crème liquide
1 bâton de cannelle
1 gousse de vanille
une pincée de sel



Préparation :

Dans une casserole, versez un litre d'eau avec une pincée de sel et portez à ébullition. Ajoutez le riz et laissez-le cuire pendant 3 minutes avant de l'égoutter. Le but consiste à nettoyer le riz pour le débarrasser de sa poussière.

Versez le lait et la crème liquide dans une casserole. Grattez l'intérieur d'une gousse de vanille et ajoutez-la avec les grains dans la casserole. Incisez un bâton de cannelle dans la longueur et plongez-le avec le reste. Portez le tout à ébullition.

Pour finir - Versez le riz et le sucre dans la casserole. Laissez cuire à feu doux pendant 30 à 40 minutes en surveillant et en remuant de temps en temps. Arrêtez la cuisson lorsque le riz est bien cuit et qu'il reste un peu de lait dans la casserole.

Source: cuisine.journaldesfemmes.com

2017 Activities

** Please note, take part and send your confirmations and suggestions. Some activities and dates may change. Complete information will be sent accordingly. Thank you and hope to see you again.*

July 2

September 10

September 24

October 29

December 10

Sportsfest / Family picnic day

Cooking Workshop

Last GA of the year / Election of the new board members

Charity Halloween Bingo

Christmas Party

National Pilgrimage of the Filipino Migrants

by Myra Barrié

This is the time of the year when Filipinos gather in Lourdes from Paris, Marseille, Bordeaux, Pau, Toulouse, Agen, for the 2-day activity.

Day 1: As most of us travelled in the morning, our afternoon started with the Holy mass officiated by Msgr. Don Vito Pavilando and it was in Tagalog. It was overwhelming to hear and sing in our language. I, myself had goosebumps. The youth choir from Paris delegates led the mass.

After the mass, the second activity was the Stations of the Cross. This reminds us how Jesus dies and to reflect ourselves.

We had our break before the night procession. So we decided to go and have snacks at the Filipino restaurant. Then after that, we went back to our hotel and had dinner.

By 20:30, the night procession started. The rain was pouring a lot, but that didn't stop us or the other pilgrims from going. We had candles with us, joined the rosary, the prayers and the singing. When it was finished, we went back to the hotel to practice for our presentation the next day. But it took us quite a while to be serious. Lots of laughter and eating chips, tamarind, peanuts, chicharon, organic boiled eggs from Ate Rose Manubag. We have actually been looking for those eggs but were only allowed to eat during practice time. What can you expect when the Filipinas gather? We finished by almost midnight. We had a short sleep as we had to wake up early.

Day 2: Breakfast was served around 7 am. When everyone was finished, we head back to the chapel for the Tagalog mass which was officiated by Fr. Percy from the Marseille delegates. I had the same feeling like the first day while attending the mass. Everyone was singing.

When it was finished, we went to the hall St. Jean for the talk. The first speaker was Fr. Mars. He told us that he was assigned in Mindanao for a couple of years. He discussed the importance of the pilgrimage and what else we need to visit there the next time we'll go back. He briefly talked about the life of St. Bernadette who came from a poor family. To be able to help as a young girl, she was collecting woods to sell and have some money. He said that the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Bernadette 18 times but only on the 17th apparition when she declared herself as the Immaculate Conception. During the last 2 apparitions, St. Bernadette was not allowed to go to the grotto anymore. She just then looked at the grotto from across the river. Now, a church has been built on this same place across the river.

Then there was our Honorary Consul Jeffrey Cabuay who introduced himself and spoke.

The 5-minute talk was about Mary, in the life of the migrants. The representative from our Toulouse group who did the talk was Mrs. Cristina Tolentino-Crosland.

The most awaited part of the program was the presentation of each group. The Toulouse ladies have presented "Sister Act 2." It was just a 3-minute lip sync but we had a good fun. Thanks to Tina for her patience and providing us our costumes.

After the gathering, we had our lunch, then packed up our things and left it at the hotel storage. We had the whole afternoon before taking our train back to our designated areas. We went to the Holy Grotto, lit candles and prayed.

It was then our time to leave. We said goodbye to everyone. Four years ago when the pilgrimage started, there were only 4 representatives from Toulouse. But this time, there were 22 of us! Hoping for more next year!



After the candlelit night procession



Performing Sister Act's My God (My Guy)



Group photo after the performance

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My Travel Diary A Wedding in Italy!

by Mike LeVoir

Ok - where?? Santeramo in Colle - where is this ?? OK, near Bari, a long way. The start of an 'interesting' long weekend. Several of Thelma's cousins live in Dubai (she has a large family all over the world); one of them was marrying an Italian guy, so off we go! An 1800km drive to get down to Santeramo, so over-night stays were organised near Florence on the way out and near Genoa on the way back. Fortunately, 95% of the trip was on autoroutes or autostrades, so easy driving. The drivers in Italy appear to have a relaxed approach to speed 'limits'; these appear to be discussion items only.

We arrive in Santeramo; confusion reigns as the address given appears to be a 'hall of residence' for a religious college - we are correct, this is a Roman Catholic priests' college that rents out rooms as a hotel due to a lack of trainee priests! Having overcome this issue, we have dinner with all the other visiting wedding attendees and then settle in for the night.

The following morning; breakfast and then everyone mills around as all the ladies get together for a mass sort-out of hair, make-up and clothing. The scribe was pleased to avoid this!! Next, everyone on the bus and off we go to the church in the centre of town. No issues there, apart from the helicopter drone being used for photographs (they work well when working, but when the machine is flying within the church? Fortunately not during the service). Next, everyone back on the bus for a ~30 minute trip to the reception.

This was a serious reception. Brilliantly organised as a bi-lingual event, to cater for a zillion Italians, half a zillion Filipinos/Filipinas and four 'others' - the bride's sister's husband, his mother, an Australian friend from Dubai and, of course, the scribe. A superb event, brilliantly organised; anyone has to admire any MC who can get 80% of the (~150) participants performing aerobics on a dance floor; in full formal regalia and, for the ladies, 15cm heels. Excellent food, wine and entertainment, all in all a brilliant event. Then, back on the bus to get back to bed!!

The following morning saw a very quiet breakfast for practically all (no stamina, some of these younger people!!). Then, fill up the car with pasta, pizza flour, wine and the other necessities of life and back home. All in all, a great trip!

An observation of the Italian autostrade system. It is a national 'system'. Driving from Toulouse to the Italian border involved eight stops to pay autoroute tolls, ie no national system (as bad as New England). You can drive 1,200+km in Italy without stopping to pay intermediate tolls - brilliant.

A Savoir: The Philippines' Oldest Conglomerate Goes Back to School

The Ayala Corporation, the oldest conglomerate in the Philippines, has made a push to invest in businesses that could play a major role in shaping the country's "social infrastructure," the company's chief executive said.

The company's investments in the education, healthcare and renewable energy sectors came about after "opportunities for disruption" were spotted, said Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, chairman and CEO of the Ayala Corporation.

"Both education and healthcare have been fairly rigid spaces and I think there is a lot that can be contributed in those spaces," Ayala told CNBC's "Managing Asia."

While the company's foray into the private education sector is still in an early stage, Ayala said responses have been "very positive" so far. The Ayala Corporation's education investments arm entered the primary and secondary school education space with schools that offer affordable rates and standards that are "above the public school system," Ayala said.

The Ayala Corporation also has stakes in the private tertiary education sector. It acquired a 60 percent stake in the University of Nueva Caceres in the Bicol Region of the Philippines in 2015.

According to a report on private education from the World Bank, close to 9 percent of the Philippines' 6.5 million high school students were enrolled in schools that were part of the country's public-private partnership program.

"On the average, if you look at the number of Filipinos who enter the high school system, a very small percentage goes to college. And of that college group, I think only 19 percent finally graduate. The filtering mechanism through the educational system to employment is really very small," Ayala said.

The Ayala Corporation's solution to this issue has been to make the links between education and employment in its educational institutions stronger.

"The basic philosophy that I think is different to what's taken place in the past is we're looking at this education-to-employment model, and making sure that the education that our schools participate in are relevant to the employment needs of tomorrow," Ayala said.

The company's ultimate goal in the education space is to increase the employability of graduates of its colleges by making sure the curriculum and skills taught are "more relevant" and up-to-date.

While the number of college graduates and adult literacy rate in the Philippines is high — 97.5 percent of Filipinos above 15 years old can read and write, according to UNICEF — the quality of education across the country can vary due to income inequality.

Source: CNBC.com

June Brides

In the Philippines, marrying couples usually choose June as their wedding month. For history reason, it started from the ancient times where the Pagan goddess "Juno" was referred to as the Goddess of Marriage. It says marrying on this month means blessings and prosperity for the couple. And for practical reasons, they consider the month of June due to its nice weather, and flowers bloom in larger numbers at this non-dry part of the year. It also offers more available outdoor and garden venues.

For this column, we have asked two of our Filipino members now married to their French husbands during the month of June to answer some interesting questions about their wedding.

Marbella and Damien



Question: Why has June been an interesting month for you to get married? A: It's Mabel who like the month of June for the wedding, just like her parents' wedding month.

Q: Who chose your wedding date? A: The wife.

Q: How did the first meeting take place?

A: It was full of staring at each other in my working place. He's a friend of my regular client.

Qs for the bride:

Q: What was your

dream wedding originally? A: A church wedding.

Q: Are you more of a traditional or a modern Filipina? A: Modern but traditional in some ways.

Q: Do you remember doing something crazy for this wedding to happen? A: I think the crazy thing i did was to convince a taxi driver to bring me at the embassy despite the heavy flooding. That day, everybody cancelled their appointments due to the typhoon but it doesn't stop me!

Q: What was your wedding vow to your husband during your wedding? A: I just said to him that in happiness and in sadness, in sickness and in health, i will try my best to be a good wife. i love you.

Qs for the groom:

Q: Has your wedding happened the way you wanted it to

be? A: Yes, it was just perfect.

Q: Have you spent more than your budget for this wedding to take place? A: No. It was what we planned about the budget.

Q: Have you done something you normally do not do just to give in to your future wife's culture? A: Yes. Attending mass with Mabel's family. I'm Catholic but i never attend any mass for long time until Mabel brought me with her family.

Q: What was your wedding vow to your wife during your wedding? A: To do everything that is best for my wife and to be a good father to our future children and to always take care of our family.

Qs for the bride and groom: A: What was the last thing you both did together in the night before your wedding? A: Going out with some friends, having fun with them.

Q: If you will have your renewal of vows, will you want it again to happen on the month of June, or will you opt for another month? A: Yes, it will still be in June.

Q: What will be your message to each other if you can be married again tomorrow?

A: To my husband Damien, if we will get married again tomorrow all i can say is my feelings for you never change since i fall in love with you. We face everything together and i will always be here for you. Thank you for the love and care to me and to your daughters. You're the best husband and father to your children. I hope you won't change. I love you.

A: To my wife Mabel, if we will get married again tomorrow what i can say is marrying you two times is not enough to express aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaal the Love i have for you.



Lahaina and Benoit

Question: Why has June been an interesting month for you to get married? A: Traditionally, June is the best month to get married in Philippines and in France too. And also because June is my (Lahaina) birthmonth and we wanted the date to be close to my birthdate.

Q: Who chose your wedding date? A: We chose it together. Normally we wanted to do it on June 9 but our judge was not available on this date, so we changed it to June 11 instead.

Q: How did the first meeting take place? A: I met him personally for the first time in the airport after one year of communicating through internet. I was so nervous, happy, stressed - mixed emotions that I felt that I needed to go to the toilette. Even more that my gay uncle made me wear sexy dress, high heeled shoes and exaggerated make up that I'm not used to. I'm not used to have that attention of everyone when I am with a foreigner. Dramatically stressful for me.

Please see page 6

Annonce



Myra and David Barrié will be holding their renewal of vows at St. Michael Archangel Parish on July 22, 2017 during their summer vacation in Macrohon Southern Leyte, Philippines. They first got married on July 13, 2002 at the city hall of Moissac, Tarn et Garonne, France. They will be celebrating their 15th wedding anniversary.

Kids' Corner

Alec Christian Lachal

Born on September 22, 2015 weighing 4.23 kg with parents Maria Cristina and Lionel Romain Lachal, Alec is fascinated with animals and cannot be constrained indoors. He loves the sound and touch of nature. At his very young age, he already enjoys riding a quad and a motorcycle. Despite his colérique attitude, this little man is very sweet, loves to give hugs and at most très malin.



Benoit Cabuay

Seven years old on July 23, 2010, Benoit is a very active and inquisitive boy. According to his parents Jeffrey and Mireille Cabuay, he is very curious with a lot of things that is why he can't stop reading materials ever since he started to learn how to read this school year. It has been 2 years that he is learning the basics of music. Next year, he will be learning how to play the clarinet. He is also practicing the art of the Japanese martial art Judo.



June Brides...from page 5

Qs for the bride:

What was your dream wedding originally? A: My dream wedding actually is to have our wedding on the white sand beach.

Q: Are you more of a traditional or a modern Filipina? A: As how my parents raised me, I am more of a traditional Filipina but with a hint of modernity.

Q: Do you remember doing something crazy for this wedding to happen? A: Yes, we began to organize the ceremony 1 month before. I had asked too to make my wedding gown 2 weeks before and inviting the whole barrio, approx 200 people to come and celebrate with us.

Q: What was your wedding vow to your husband during your wedding? A: To love him eternally, in sickness and in health, ups and downs i will be with him. To give him beautiful babies, as what we have now, our beautiful Princess Izia.

Qs for the groom:

Has your wedding happened the way you wanted it to be? A: Not totally, because even if I'm not yet baptized, I wanted to be married in the church because i believe in God and for me, thanks to Him, He make me cross the way to this wonderful woman when i was down before I knew her.

Q: Have you spent more than your budget for this wedding to take place? A: Yes perhaps a bit more but it's not important. The more important is the result of the love that we have. The money is just a tool. We have a budget of course, but we have also some unexpected moment that makes you spend more money. At the end, we were very happy.

Q: Have you done something you normally do not do just to give in to your future wife's culture? A: Yes i have eaten things that in my culture i will probably not eat. Like balut for example. I have worn barong tagalog and to invite people that i don't know and even my wife is not related to.

Q: What was your wedding vow to your wife during your

C'est-à-dire...

malaya • simbahan • singsing

Ako ay malaya na mula sa mapang-api kong amo.

Je suis déjà libre de mon employeur oppressif.

I am already free from my oppressive employer.

Kami ay pumupunta sa simbahan tuwing Linggo.

Nous allons à l'église tous les dimanches.

We are going to the church every Sunday.

Ito ang aking singsing sa kasal.

C'est ma bague / mon anneau de mariage.

This is my wedding ring

wedding?

A: My wedding vow was to promise to be with her in my eternal life, to care about her and to be sweet with her. And also to be present in the good and bad moments of my life.

Qs for the bride and groom:

What was the last thing you both did together in the night before your wedding?

A: Sleeping together with my future wife's friends like sardines in a "hospital like" room without knowing there are extra two big rooms at the back. Goodness!!!! So devastating when we discovered about that!

Q: If you will have your renewal of vows, will you want it again to happen on the month of June, or will you consider another month? A: If given a chance, we will still do it in the month of June.

Q: What will be your message to each other if you can be married again tomorrow.

Lahaina: I want to let him sign a contract saying that he will give me allowance while I'm not working. lol

Benoit: The same vow that i made 3 years ago.

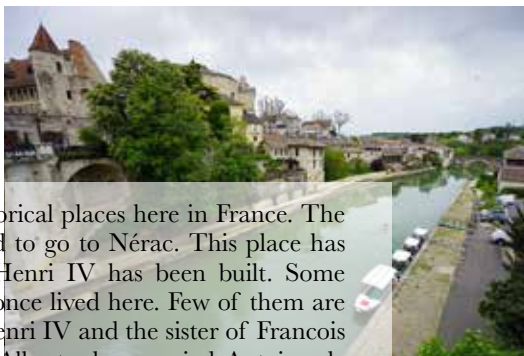
My France: A Visit to Nérac

by Anam Ramos

It is fun to visit and have a glance on the historical places here in France. The Filipino community here in Toulouse decided to go to Nérac. This place has been historical as a castle called Château Henri IV has been built. Some important persons of the French history has once lived here. Few of them are Marguerite d'Angoulême (grandmother of Henri IV and the sister of Francois 1st, king of France), her daughter Jeanne d'Albert who married Antoine de Bourbon (listed among the blood princes as an inheritor to the throne of France) and Henri de Navarre (son of Jeanne who later on became the king of France). The castle has been a testimony of the renaissance art of the 15th century.

At present, only the North wing of the castle still exists. We had a tour in this area and seen beautiful art works. There are huge paintings and beautiful sculptures. Some poems (created by Marguerite herself) are also available. Every room seems to be small but this is a way to preserve the heat within it especially during the cold weather. There is also a replica of the beautiful dress that the queen and princess were wearing. Visiting the castle made us imagine the life during the renaissance period.

We had a good time visiting the place and we met other Filipinos and their French husbands which makes us feel we are at home and not far from the Philippines.



Fête des pères

Both in France and in the Philippines, Father's day is observed every 3rd month of June. In this issue, we would like to celebrate, not just for our two featured fathers in this column, but for all the fathers who have been half the reason why the children of our association exist. For that, 2 of them have gladly announced their appreciation to their Papa, or *Tatay* as we call them in Tagalog, as well as to all the rest of the fathers that we know.

Chaque année, la Fête des Pères nous donne l'occasion de réfléchir au rôle important que nos pères ont joué dans nos vies. Tous les jours, ils nous protègent et nous guident.

Une tonne de bisous et des montagnes de câlins à tous les papas !



Alice and Jean-Mathieu with their father Patrick Lavergne.



Andrea, Audelyn, Jonathan with girlfriend Léa and Papa Claude Brissonnet.

Papa,

En ce jour de fête des pères, tes enfants te souhaitent une journée exceptionnelle. Tu le mérites car tu es le meilleur des pères pour nous, un père qui nous aime, nous conseille et nous apporte tout ce dont on a besoin que ce soit un trajet en voiture pour aller chez des amis ou un kebab. On t'aime.

Ton bonhomme, ton chaton et ta petite puce.

Time for You

Saturday mornings I always wait
On a swimming competition I'm always the great
The bicycle tips you've taught me plenty
You spend time with me until we get dirty.

Homeworks from school never make me bore
The way you teach me I always adore
We never care when we jokily say
Silly words that make mom freak out each day.

During vacation lots of things we do
Be it mountain hiking or just family bar-b-que
For mom and me, you work hard, that's true
But not this Sunday 'coz this time is for you.

By Roda Hebrard, from the mind of a son to his father.

Harvest Season in Forom des Langues

by Joechelle Lacour

It was a blissful Sunday morning and the 4th time that the Amitié Franco-Philippine en Midi-Pyrénées (AFPMP) association participated in the Forom des Langues, a yearly activity organized by Carrefour Culturel Arnaud-Bernard. There were almost 70 booths colorfully decorated in the Place du Capitole in Toulouse. Different countries joined and represented their languages and cultures in this memorable and fun event. Some booths used their creativity by putting up their stands with colorful banners, famous products found in their representing countries and by simply singing songs in their own languages.

For the Philippine stand, since the *Pahiyas* festival was just celebrated recently in the Philippines, the volunteers have decided to use this theme for this year. Our booth offered basic Tagalog lesson and *Alibata* writing was also introduced. Trivia and facts about the Philippines were shared and a *kutsinta* (delicious Filipino dessert or merienda) were sampled to visitors.

This gathering reminded us how Filipinos work harmoniously together. Other members of the community arrived in the afternoon to help out in the booth. Most of the visitors came to our booth candidly told us their own experience and story about the Philippines. Of course, as a Filipino, knowing and hearing about their unforgettable experiences in our country makes me happy and proud.

Some of the highlights that day were the performances, the traditional dances and the songs presented by different countries. There were kung-fu and martial arts shows too and our very own *Arnis* was presented by the association's president, Benoit and his group.

I am so glad to have experienced this event with co-Filipinos. Cheers to more Forom des Langues in the future and I hope to laugh with you all again.



AFPMP booth representing the *langue* Tagalog



Lots of visitors were eager to know and learn about our Philippine language

Mots du Consul



I wish to congratulate the Amitié Franco-Philippine en Midi-Pyrénées for the efforts it

has done with the activities for its members. I would personally like to thank the officers and volunteers of the association, with Benoit Hervet as president, for giving their time and effort for organizing these varied events. The Forom des Langues, the national pilgrimage in Lourdes and the Philippine Independence Day celebration are the main activities that the Philippine Consulate in Toulouse has helped organize together with the AFPMP this year. It has been very successful because of the people who organized it and most especially the people who participated in it. Without these two things, I believe our activities would not be a memorable event.

A typical Filipino attitude and spirit is called the 'bayanihan.' This is an attitude where each Filipino has the tendency to help another person who is in need. In the 3 activities that I mentioned above, this spirit was very present. People came in to give their help; people brought their Filipino food and delicacies for sharing. This is one of the things that we should be proud of as Filipinos because even though we are not in our beloved country, we still bring this spirit with us. I hope that we can

transfer this spirit to our family, and most especially our children.

Let us also remember that there would be an election of the new officers of the association at the end of this year so please think about volunteering if you feel you would like to help organize activities for its members next year. The association is always in need of people who could help continue with its projects.

The Consulate of Toulouse will also be launching its newsletter so that you will be informed of what your Consul has been doing. For the past few months, my territory is no longer the former Midi-Pyrénées but now the region Occitanie, which includes the former Languedoc-Roussillon region.

Congratulations again for this newsletter and more power to the association!

I hope to see you in the activities of the Consulate and the association. Mabuhay po kayo!

The Consulate is open to welcome you every Thursdays by appointment.

Jeffrey CABUAY
Philippine Honorary Consul in Toulouse