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PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PACC TEXAS

**Given at National Conference of Federation of Phil-Am Chambers (FPACC)
MGM Hotel, Las Vegas Nevada, December 6, 2008
By Ethel Mercado, President (2007-2009, Incoming National VP, FPACC)**

Introduction: The Phil-Am Chamber of Commerce of North Texas was founded in Dallas 15 years ago with only a handful of members. It is now a powerhouse statewide chamber that is widely-recognized throughout the state of Texas, in the U.S. as well as in the Philippines. In early 2007, after their successful Trade Mission to the Philippines, the **Dallas and Houston Chambers decided to merge** into one State Chamber to achieve stronger clout with the top business and government leaders in the State. In early 2009, we are planning an outreach road show to other Texas cities like San Antonio, Tyler, Austin, McAllen and Midland-Odessa in order to consolidate Chamber operations in those cities. Among our recent accomplishments:

1. At the beginning of our term last year, we set out a goal of doubling our membership. Our number has since quadrupled.
2. At the beginning of our term, we established a goal of doubling our working funds. Our funds now have quadrupled to more than \$25,000.00. Quadrupling our membership and our operating funds will enable us to sponsor more projects in the next two years for the benefit of members and the community as a whole.
3. In July 2005, we joined the Chicago Chamber's **Trade Mission to Western Visayas**.
4. In October 2006, we organized a highly successful **Trade Mission to the Calabarzon** provinces of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon graciously hosted by the five Calabarzon governors. Through the Trade Mission, delegates have generated millions of dollars of new revenues in the form of products and services sold or exchanged, as well as designation of certain delegates to serve as official U.S.-based representatives. The governors of the five provinces led by Batangas Governor Vilma Santos-Recto are preparing to reciprocate by coming to Texas with a business delegation in 2009.



Pics from the "Best Trade Mission to the Philippines Ever."



- While in the Philippines, our Chamber delegation of 50 business owners also attended the PCCI's **33rd Global Business Conference** at the Manila Hotel as well as a **Trade Fair and Tour of the biggest Call Centers** especially arranged by our Sister Chamber, the **Pasay City Chamber of Commerce** headed by former Trade and Tourism Secretary Dr. Mina Gabor. We were met by the top Philippine government and business leaders, including Pres. Gloria Arroyo, VP Noli De Castro, Senators Loren Legarda, Mar Roxas, Richard Gordon, Speaker Jose de Venecia, and the top business leaders in the country.
- Prior to the Trade Mission, our Chamber signed a **Sister City Agreement** with the Pasay City Chamber of Commerce for the purpose of trade relations, information exchange, trade missions as well as social and cultural exchanges. The two chambers have met twice and signed MOUs and plans for exchanging trade delegations. This year, our Chamber also sponsored a **Golf Tournament that raised \$6,000.00 for the natural disaster victims** in the Philippines and in South Texas.



- For the benefit of our members, we sponsored many **High-impact Projects and Free Seminars** on Taxation, Immigration, Incorporation, Legal Services for Small Business, How to Start and Fund a Small Business, SBA Financing, Financial Planning, Health and Wellness, as well as regular Membership Mixers in Dallas and Houston. For the last 2 years, our Chamber has sponsored an average of 3 big projects per month, making it one of the most active Chambers in the country.



- Last July, our record-breaking **Consular Outreach in Dallas and Houston that was sponsored and organized by our Chamber was community service at its very best!** A total of more than **1,600 Filipino families** were assisted on two weekends with the renewal of Filipino passports, document authentication and applications for dual citizenship. According to the L.A. Consuls, the Texas outreach project orchestrated by the Texas Chamber has generated the biggest response ever anywhere in the world for consular outreach programs, with estimated total savings of about \$3 million for Filipinos in Texas and neighboring Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma by not having to fly to L.A. for the services. *Saludo kami sa* 26 PACC volunteers who worked till past midnight for their unselfish dedication to help their *kababayans*.
- In response to very popular demand from the Fil-Am Community in Texas and neighboring states to repeat our **Consular Outreach program**, we have negotiated with the Philippine Consulate in Los Angeles and requested the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila to again send consular representatives to Texas in 2009 through the sponsorship of our Chamber. We have tentatively set our next Consular Outreach programs in Texas in **March 2009 and May 2009**. To be on our priority reservation list, email us now at pactexas@yahoo.com with your name and phone number. Please also forward this announcement to all your friends in the region who may need these important services.



- Share the successes and spread the blessings of your Phil-Am Chamber of Commerce to more new members. To be a part of this very dynamic and fulfilling organization, print the attached membership form and send to: **PACC Texas, 8315 Navisota Drive, Lantana TX**. Your Chamber is not only for business owners but for professionals as well. Our Guarantee: All of you will benefit, or your \$50 (individual) or \$100 (company) membership dues will be refunded and doubled!