

THE **VOICE** NEWSWEEKLY
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Clark aerospace hub pushed

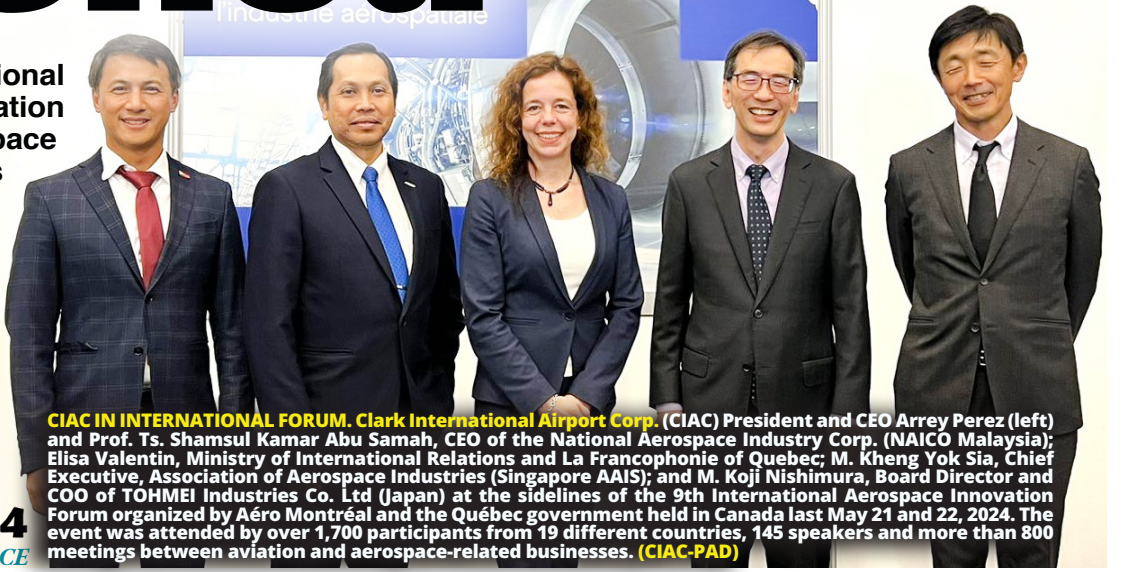
CLARK FREEPORT ZONE — The Clark International Airport Corp. said the development of the civil aviation complex here as the Philippines' future aerospace hub will generate thousands of aviation-related jobs and position the country as a key player in the global aerospace industry.

"Clark in the Philippines is a very viable and attractive hub for foreign investors from the aerospace industry and those who are looking for strategic partners to address the growing necessity for aviation jobs to meet current demands and future expansions," CIAC President Arrey Perez said.

Perez made the statement during his presentation at the 9th International

Aerospace Innovation Forum organized by Aéro Montréal and the Québec government in Canada last May 21 and 22 which was attended by over 1,700 participants from 19 different countries, 145 speakers and more than 800 business meetings over the two days.

"In our business meetings



CIAC IN INTERNATIONAL FORUM. Clark International Airport Corp. (CIAC) President and CEO Arrey Perez (left) and Prof. Ts. Shamsul Kamar Abu Samah, CEO of the National Aerospace Industry Corp. (NAICO Malaysia); Elisa Valentin, Ministry of International Relations and La Francophonie of Quebec; M. Kheng Yok Sia, Chief Executive, Association of Aerospace Industries (Singapore AAIS); and M. Koji Nishimura, Board Director and COO of TOHMEI Industries Co. Ltd (Japan) at the sidelines of the 9th International Aerospace Innovation Forum organized by Aéro Montréal and the Québec government held in Canada last May 21 and 22, 2024. The event was attended by over 1,700 participants from 19 different countries, 145 speakers and more than 800 meetings between aviation and aerospace-related businesses. (CIAC-PAD)

Angeles is finalist for DSWD award

The Angeles City government was chosen as one of the national finalists for this year's Walang Gutom Awards of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

In a letter to Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr. on May 24, 2024, DSWD Assistant Secretary for Innovations Atty. Baldr H. Bringas and Galing Pook Foundation Executive Director Georgina Ann Hernandez Yang said the "Angeles City LGU Program has been selected as one of the national finalists for this year's Walang Gutom Awards".

The city government will join the final

presentation on June 25, 2024 at the DSWD Central Office, Batasang Pambansa Complex, Quezon City, to be followed by the awarding ceremony on June 26, 2024.

"We sincerely appreciate your dedication in helping us achieve our goal for a hunger-free and food-secured Philippines," the letter stated.

The Angeles LGU has been consistently pushing programs for the nourishment of the marginalized sector in the city, such as the Plastic Palit Bigas Program, the Pusong Mamon Program for kids, and the agricultural and livestock support for residents, among others.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lazatin also assured the continuous delivery of food provisions to Angeles City residents amid interventions to stave off the disease. (ANGELES CIO)



Agri-trucks to get toll rebates

The Toll Regulatory Board (TRB), the Department of Finance (DOF), the Department of Transportation (DOTr), and the Department of Agriculture (DA), in collaboration with the toll expressway concessionaires and operators of the CAVITEX, NLEX, SCTEX, MCX and SLEX, officially launched recently the Agri-Trucks Toll Rebate Program.

The program, which will take effect on June 1, 2024, will allow DA-accredited truckers transporting agricultural goods/products to receive toll rebates equivalent to the recent enumerated toll increases.

"This program aims to protect the welfare of the general public by minimizing the impact of a toll rate increase on the overall inflationary situation to ensure the stability of food prices. The TRB, together with the different government agencies, acknowledges the toll expressway concessionaires and

operators for their full support and cooperation as this will not be possible if they did not agree to implement this exemption," TRB Executive Director Atty. Alvin A. Carullo said.

To qualify for the toll fee increase exemption, agri-trucks should be duly accredited by the Department of Agriculture (DA) and should have valid Autosweep and/or Easytrip RFID accounts.

To enroll for the program, motorists are advised to register their RFID Accounts.

Easytrip RFID account holders for the NLEX, SCTEX and CAVITEX users are requested to visit the NLEX Balintawak Customer Service Center or the CAVITEX Parañaque Customer Service Center.

For Autosweep RFID account holders for the SLEX and MCX, they are requested to visit the C5 Office, Petron

In Pampanga Child development workers get subsidy

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — The Provincial Government of Pampanga, through the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO), recently provided subsidy to 689 Child Development Workers (CDWs) from across the province.

Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda extended his thanks to the CDWs for their contributions to the

overall development of children aged 3-4 years.

"Asahan po ninyo na hangga't kaya ng Pamahalaang Panlalawigan, tutulong at tutulong po kami bilang kabayaran na rin po sa pagmamalasakit ninyo sa mga bata," Pineda assured during the distribution of the subsidy at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center.

Each CDW received a total

of Php12,000, representing the Php3,000 monthly subsidy for the months of January to April this year.

Acting PSWDO Head Fe Manarang cited the important role of the CDWs in society that serve as the primary caregivers of children during their formative years.



COMPENSATING CDWs. Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda, Lubao Mayor Esmeralda Pineda, and provincial board members distribute assistance to Child Development Workers (CDW) in the province at the Bren Z. Guiao Convention Center. (PAMPANGA PIO)



FOOD SECURITY SUPPORT. Department of Finance Assistant Secretary Eufroncio Bernabe Jr., Department of Agriculture Assistant Secretary for Logistics Daniel Alfonso N. Atayde, DOTr Undersecretary for Legal Affairs and Chief of Staff (Alternate Chairman of the Board) Atty. Reinier Paul Yebra, TRB Executive Director Alvin Carullo, NLEX Corp. VP for Operations West Dionisio and SMC Chief Finance Officer Raoul Romulo answer questions following the launch of the Agri-Trucks Toll Rebate Program that will allow DA-accredited truckers transporting agricultural goods/products to receive toll rebates equivalent to the recent enumerated toll increases starting June 1, 2024 at the CAVITEX, NLEX, SCTEX, MCX and SLEX.



MARCO POLO

Not a kiddie game, it's an amazing experience!

Whenever one says Marco Polo, I instantly get taken back to days of my youth, when I would engage in this game where, blindfolded, as the 'it', I would say Marco, and those I am playing the game with would say back 'Polo.' Yes, that thrilling game of chase, where your guide would be the voice, oftentimes altered, of your playmates.

But this particular time, Marco Polo has taken on a different level. Say Marco Polo and what comes to mind is relaxation - or more specifically staycation - in a place that speaks elegance, spells luxury and simply means total indulgence.



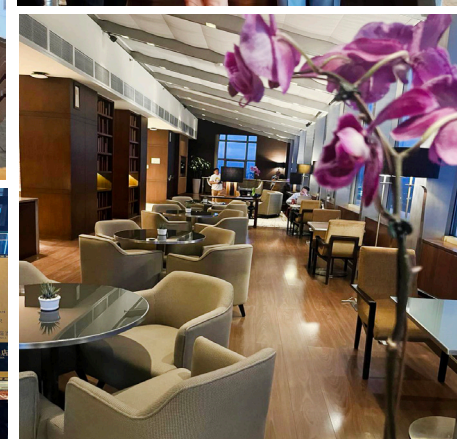
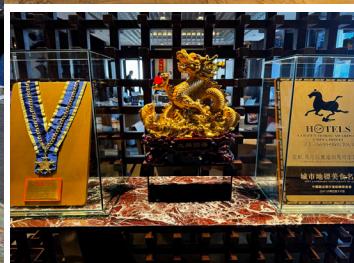
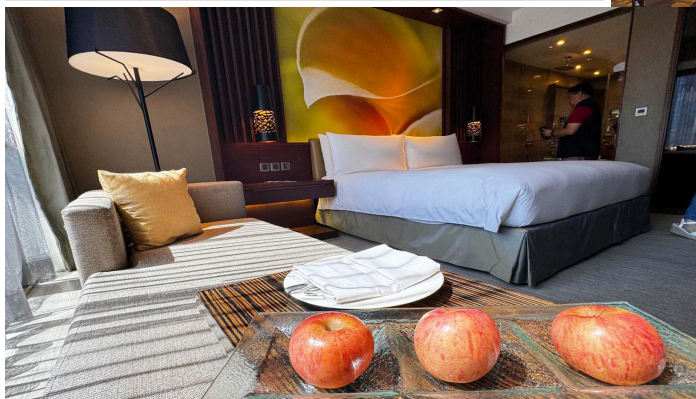
The invitation to experience Marco Polo at Ortigas Center could not have come at a better time. Our Pampanga Press Club has just staged a successful sports event, stress levels were at their highest. And the call of relaxation and recreation had to be heeded to.

We were picked up in Clark by Director of Communications Melissa V. Ferrer. Upon arrival at the hotel, we were happily welcomed by fellow Kapampangan, Francis David, who is no stranger at all to us. We have met him when he was previously connected with a hotel in Clark and has been known for taking very good care of us.

We were also welcomed by Marco Polo - Ortigas Resident Manager Olivier Foucke and Michael Poutawa, from the Wharf Corporate office.

Lunch was at the posh Cucina, which offered an amazing feast of everything delicious, prepared in interactive open kitchens.

After the sumptuous lunch, we were accorded a grand tour of the hotel's posh facilities. We felt easily 'connected' at Connect Lounge, which is a perfect spot for decadent afternoon tea, dessert samplers and snacks over invigorating aroma of signature coffee concoctions, tea, and wine flights.



We also got to see the Lung Hin, the haven for authentic Cantonese cuisine prepared by highly-trained Hong Kong chefs. This elegant outlet has exclusively-appointed private dining rooms ideal for intimate gatherings.

We were treated to a perfect view of the sunset and the beautiful night sky at the Continental Club Lounge.

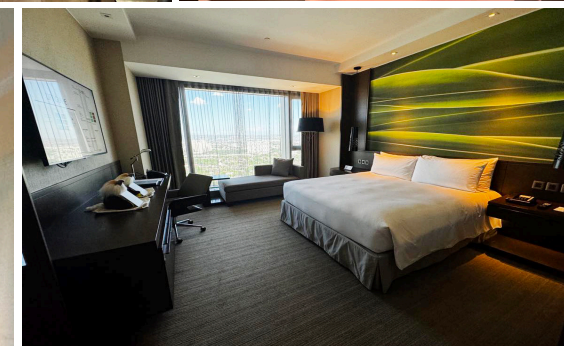
Chic music, good food and great drinks were a perfect way to end the day, at Marco Polo's Vu's Sky Bar and Lounge, a first-of-its-kind sky lounge seated at the hotel's 45th floor. The icing on the Vu's Sky Bar Lounge cake is the beautifully vibrant urban nightscape.

After an evening of fun, we retired to our well-designed, comfortable rooms with a bed that just hugged you, and pillows that were so comfortable, they seemed to lull you to lala-land.

Breakfast was another luxurious spread. It was difficult to avoid sampling a little bit of everything. Living up to the carpe diem spirit, seized the moment and took a dip in the pool before preparing to go back home.

Melissa and Francis sent us off in style, with gift bags in tow.

Our Marco Polo - Ortigas Center experience is one for the books. The timing was perfect, the accommodations were seamless, and the relaxation was priceless.



NLEX gets approval of periodic toll adjustments



The Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) has authorized the implementation of the 2nd tranche of the approved NLEX 2018 & 2020 consolidated petitions for periodic toll adjustments effective June 4, 2024.

Under the new toll fee matrix, motorists traveling anywhere within the open system will pay an additional ₱5.00 for Class 1 vehicles (regular cars and SUVs), ₱14.00 for Class 2 vehicles (buses and small trucks), and ₱17.00 for Class 3 vehicles.

The open system is from Balintawak, Caloocan City to Marilao, Bulacan while closed system covers the portion between Bocaue, Bulacan and Sta. Ines, Mabalacat City, Pampanga including Subic-Tipo.

Those traveling the NLEX end-to-end between Metro Manila and Mabalacat City will pay an additional ₱27.00 for Class 1, ₱68.00 for Class 2 and ₱81.00 for Class 3 vehicles.

The additional rates, which followed strict compliance with regulatory procedures and underwent thorough review, were part of the approved periodic

SEE PAGE 4
NLEX

Converge execs at Asia Tech X Singapore 2024

Leading fiber broadband provider Converge ICT Solutions Inc. will have the opportunity to showcase the impact of technology as a catalyst for inclusive growth, embedding sustainability in technology practice, and at the same time exploring the emerging applications of artificial intelligence, at the upcoming, mega tech trade show and festival Asia Tech X Singapore.

Converge Chief Commercial Officer Benjamin B. Azada and Chief Network Transformation Officer Paulo Martin 'Santi' Santos will join more than 200

market disruptors, technology vendors, system integrators, cloud providers, regulators and industry stakeholders at the most-awaited tech gathering in the Asia Pacific region.

"We're excited to have this platform to show how Converge has been fulfilling its mission to leave no Filipino behind, while also discussing how sustainability has increasingly been integrated into our operations in the past several years. The broader context of the role of technology in development and in sustainability is

SEE PAGE 4
CONVERGE

Pogi, DICT sign MOA for digital transformation hub

ANGELES CITY — The city government here led by Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr. has entered into a partnership with the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) for the establishment of a digital transformation center.

The Memorandum of Agreement was signed by Lazatin and DICT Secretary Ivan John Uy and Regional Director Antonio Edward Padre at the Angeles City Library and Information Center on May 29, 2024.

In the MOA, the city government has implemented a Technology Empowerment for Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Development

Project also known as Tech4ED which according to the MOA, Angeles City is "qualified to establish".

The DICT, meanwhile, donated an equipment package consisting of 11 computers for the project and provided access from the platform of DICT.

Tech4ED aims to "harness ICT to bridge the digital divide and alleviate poverty in the unserved and underserved communities in the Philippines".

Lazatin thanked the DICT for supporting the city government in implementing the project.

"Makakaasa po kayo na iingat na po namin ang inyong mga binigay na equipment na tiyak pong

malaking tulong para sa aking mga kababayan," the mayor said.

Present during the MOA signing were City Librarian Erma Manalo and Angeles City Economic Development and Investment Promotions Officer Irish Bonus-Llego.

The city government renovated the City Library in March where it installed first-class facilities and expanded its collection of books. To date, the city library houses roughly 7,000 books.

The City Library also has a newly-established Children's Section and offers free high-speed internet connection to aid students, researchers, and visitors. **(ANGELES CIO)**



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION CENTER FOR AC. Angeles City Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin, Jr., Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) Secretary Ivan John Uy and DICT Regional Director Antonio Edward Padre recently signed an MOA for the establishment of a digital transformation center at the Angeles City Library and Information Center. **(ANGELES CIO)**

AC fire department gets new equipment from AEC

ANGELES CITY — The Angeles Electric Corporation (AEC) recently donated a comprehensive array of firefighting equipment which includes a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and SCBA refiller and personal protective equipment (PPE) to the Angeles City Fire Station.

The donation will boost the safety and capabilities of the city's firefighters by ensuring they are better equipped to protect the community.

The turn-over was attended by AEC President and CEO Maria Rita V. Chua; Support Services Division SVP and CFO Erwin T. Nepomuceno; Network and Retail Services Division SVP and COO Engr. Michael Angelo D. Colle; Retail Services SVP Engr. Ceferino S. Bingang; Senior Manager and Head of Line Operations, Maintenance and Construction Section Engr. David S. Praza; Manager and Head of the Technical Services Section

Engr. Joseph S. Quiambao; Corporate Communications Manager Michael John Aniceto; and MIS Assistant Melchor Raymundo.

Angeles City Fire Station personnel led by City Fire Marshal Fire Supt. Josie G. Lising thanked AEC for its unwavering support and commitment to the safety and well-being of the community, stressing the contribution is invaluable and deeply appreciated. **(JOJO C. DUE)**





I'm Speaking

Benjamin Azada

Chief Commercial Officer and Chief Sustainability Officer
Converge

Join Me At
ATX Enterprise

29-31 May 2024 | Singapore EXPO



CommunicAsia

I'm Speaking

Paulo Martin Santos

Chief Transformation Officer
Converge ICT Solutions Inc.

Join Me At
ATX Enterprise

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KUWENTONG PEYUPS

ATTY. DENNIS GORECHO

Galleon trade sailors as first Filipino settlers in the United States

ONE of the first Filipino settlers in the United States were seafaring people who arrived as sailors and navigators on board Spanish ships during the Galleon trade.

Manila galleon trade refers to the trade route between Acapulco and Manila that was operational from 1565 to 1815.

The Spanish trading ships linked the Spanish Crown's Viceroyalty of New Spain, based in Mexico City, with its Asian territories, collectively known as the Spanish East Indies, across the Pacific Ocean.

Many indios of Filipino and Southeast Asian origin made up the majority of the crew while other crew were deportees and criminals from Spain and the colonies. Many criminals were sentenced to serve as crew on royal ships.

The journey was interminable, the sea was unruly, the food infested.

Mortality rates were high with a majority of the crew often dead from starvation, disease and scurvy.

Infectious diseases resulted due to severe crowding in the ships such as typhus (known as 'ship fever') and typhoid (a disease spread by fleas and ticks).

Philippines and Louisiana were then under the Spanish colonial government in Mexico.

According to the Honorary Consul of the Philippines Robert Romero, some of the Filipino sailors jumped off the ship to escape the harsh, violent and abusive

working conditions. Some of them drowned, but those who survived stayed in the swamps of Louisiana, particularly Malo in St. Bernard Parish in 1763.

The village was a harsh place, storm-prone and mosquito-infested. It was isolated and undesirable. However, these traits made it a perfect place to hide from Spanish officials.

They would also later establish the Manila Village settlement in Barataria Bay, in Jefferson Parish in the mid-19th century.

The newly-liberated sailors became fishermen who caught and dried shrimp for export to Asia, Canada, South America, and Central America.

Part shrimp processing plant and town, the facilities housed workers and their families in cottages around the edges of large shrimp-drying platforms. These "stilt villages" comprised living structures that were raised completely above the ground, about ten feet high and resembled traditional huts in the Philippines. They used wire netting to keep out reptiles,

insects, and other creatures. They stuffed their mattresses with dried Spanish moss.

They would perform ancient Chinese rituals of "dancing the shrimp", a method for removing the heads and shells from dried shrimp. They then danced and stomped on piles of shrimp in a circular motion often accompanied by guitar.

The employed an innovative method at that time to store the shrimp before the days of refrigeration without the need to keep it on ice. It created a whole new market and let people from outside the gulf coast experience the seafood.

Filipinos thrived in the industry and helped make Manila Village a symbol of the growing Filipino presence in the region.

On July 24, 1870, the Spanish-speaking residents of St. Malo founded the first Filipino social club, called Sociedad de Beneficencia de los Hispano Filipinos, to provide relief and support for the group's members, including the purchasing of burial places for their deceased.

Filipinos also fought in the Battle of New Orleans in 1815 and the War of 1812. The settlements were eventually

destroyed by hurricanes: Saint Malo by the 1915 New Orleans hurricane and Manila Village by Hurricane Betsy in 1965.

By 2016, only a small remnant of Manila Island, about one acre in size, remained.

By 2021, the island stopped being visible during high tide, and as of 2024 is no longer visible during low tide.

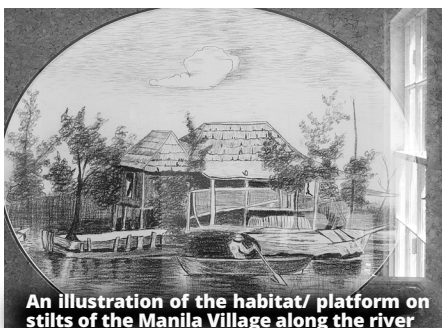
Tim Kerner Jr., the incumbent mayor of Lafitte, is a descendant of one of the Manila Men, his great great grandfather is John Rojas who founded Clark Cheniere or Clarksville around 1860.

There were historical markers erected acknowledging the role of the Manila Men in Filipino-American history: one in St. Malo, now standing inside the Los Islentos Museum Complex at Saint Bernard Parish and another in Manila Plaza in Jefferson Parish, located in front of the Jean Lafitte Town Hall.

"They were brave pioneers who ventured out into the murky waters, for a fresh start. Their hard work and industrious nature laid the foundation for the modern day shrimp industry, and made a lasting impact on the culture of Louisiana," Kerner said.

There are plans to create a replica of Manila Village along the nature trail in Lafitte.

(Atty. Dennis R. Gorecho heads the seafarers' division of the Sapalo Velez Bundang Bulilan law offices. For comments, please email info@sapalovelez.com, or call 09175025808 or 09088665786)



An illustration of the habitat/platform on stilts of the Manila Village along the river

Talks for Kapampangan museum start

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO — Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda has committed financial backing for the finalization and full operation of the Santungan ning Kulturang Kapampangan in Barangay Sto. Niño here.

This after Engr. Ferdinand Caylao, president of the Foundation for Lingap Kapampangan, Inc. (FLKI) and FLKI member Sonia Sotto, representing former FLKI president now treasurer Tess Laus, presented to the governor the current status and needs of the building at the Capitol.

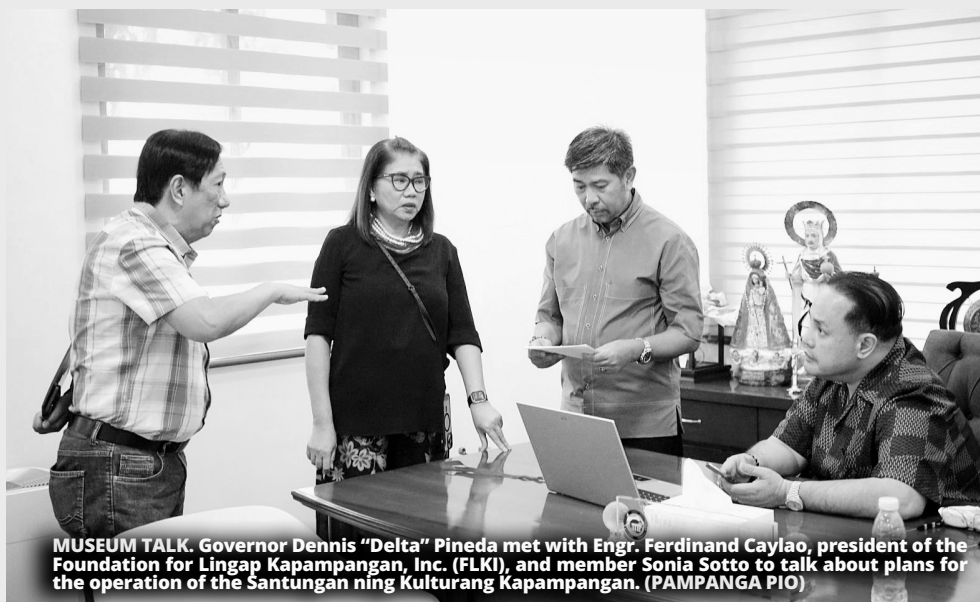
"Thankful tayo, kasi, sabi ko nga, it's a breakthrough for us na nag-commit personally si Gov. Delta na tulungan ang FLKI. Goal naman natin dito is to preserve and enrich the heritage, culture, and history of the Kapampangan race," Caylao said.

During the meeting with the governor, Caylao also expressed the need for manpower, specifically a curator who will be responsible for safeguarding the artifacts and memorabilia currently housed at the museum.

"Priceless ang mga gamit na iyon e. Baka nakawin. So kailangan 'yon. Pati na rin ang support sa kuryente, maintenance, at iba pa," he furthered.

Pineda said the provincial government is open to establishing a collaboration with the FLKI to promote the Kapampangan museum.

He is also set to inspect the museum with building experts to identify improvements in the landscape and building design to attract more tourists once the museum becomes fully operational. (GOVERNOR'S OFFICE)



MUSEUM TALK. Governor Dennis "Delta" Pineda met with Engr. Ferdinand Caylao, president of the Foundation for Lingap Kapampangan, Inc. (FLKI), and member Sonia Sotto to talk about plans for the operation of the Santungan ning Kulturang Kapampangan. (PAMPANGA PIO)

AC gov't offices celebrate Flag Day

ANGELES CITY — Philippine flags were installed all over the City Hall premises and in government offices around the city on May 28 in observance of the 126th National Flag Day.

Mayor Carmelo "Pogi" Lazatin Jr. has ordered the installation of Philippine flags as the city's initiative to remember the country's victories during the colonial period.

Lazatin said this is in line with the objective of the city government to promote patriotism and love for country.

The display of the flags was made possible through the efforts of the City Tourism Office under the supervision of Chief Adviser IC Calaguas and Executive Assistant IV Reina Manuel.

Manuel shared that as part of the celebration as well as the upcoming Independence Day commemoration, the City Engineer's Office, headed by Engr. Helen Ayro, has already installed and lit up Independence Day lanterns along the Abacan Bridge since May 10.

City Tourism Officer-in-Charge Anneleen Antonio-Sugui assured the public that the city government is doing its part to enrich both Filipino and Kapampangan history and culture.

Presidential Proclamation No. 374 (s. 1965) declared May 28 as National Flag Day in commemoration of the heroic 1898 victory by Filipino forces in the Battle of Alapan in Imus, Cavite against the Spanish Army. (ANGELES CIO)



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CLARK AEROSPACE... FROM PAGE 1

with top aerospace and technology industry players, we pitched Clark's marketability and encouraged global aerospace companies to establish facilities in Clark to serve the Asian region and global market," Perez added.

The CIAC chief referred to maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) firms, aerospace manufacturers, fixed base operators (FBOs), business aviation companies, original equipment makers (OEMs), cargo airlines, logistics companies, regional and international airlines and training organizations.

Aéro Montréal is Québec's cluster of key leaders in the aerospace sector while Québec is the world's third largest center of aerospace manufacturing.

The Clark International Airport (CRK) and the Clark civil aviation complex currently hosts aerospace investors such as MRO giant

SIA Engineering which maintains airframes, Hong Kong's Metrojet Ltd. which service business jets, and Lufthansa Technik which will soon construct hangars in Clark, along with global logistics and cargo leaders UPS, DHL and FedEx.

"The Philippines' aerospace sector may strategically begin with industry upgrade, starting with reputable and comprehensive pilot training programs along with skills training in components and assembly manufacturing, and then expand into production engineering, procurement and distribution," Perez explained.

"This approach will not only improve the local aerospace value chain but also produce skilled pilots, aeronautical engineers, aircraft mechanics, and ground support executives and operators as well," he added.

Perez noted that the realization

of Clark as the country's main aerospace hub will redefine the aviation landscape in the Philippines, provide exceptional opportunities and empower the next generation of aviation professionals in our country.

He cited as among the country's advantages is its human resource pool with a large number of low-cost, qualified English-speaking engineers and skilled workers, extensive experience in the automotive and electronics industry, a stable and sound policy environment for export-oriented firms, and tariff-free access to key markets with preferential trade arrangements.

"The development of Clark as the main aerospace hub and a key player in the global industry will also boost export revenues, and provide access to state-of-the-art manufacturing technologies," he added. (CIAC-PAD)

CHILD DEVELOPMENT... FROM PAGE 1

"Malaki ang tulong ng Provincial Government sa pangunguna ni Governor Dennis Pineda at Vice-Governor Lilia Pineda lalo na sa subsidy na tinatanggap ng mga CDW. Hindi lingid sa atin na mababa lamang ang sweldo o subsidy na natatanggap nila mula sa barangay o munisipyo kaya naman dinagdagan ni Gov ang natatanggap nila mula sa probinsiya, from Php2,500 to Php3,000 monthly," Manarang said.

She said that under the leadership of the governor and vice-governor, many children cared for by CDWs have graduated

with the support provided by the provincial government through the Educational Financial Assistance Program (EFAP).

"Very supportive si Gov. Delta. Mahal na mahal po niya kaming day care workers. Thank you, Gov and Nanay. We love you," Wilma Bituin, a CDW with 29 years of service in Bacolor, said.

In addition to the four-month subsidy they received, the CDWs were also provided a food pack each which contain five kilograms of rice, five cans of sardines, and five cans of corned beef. (GOVERNOR'S OFFICE)

AGRI-TRUCKS... FROM PAGE 1

Petron Commerce, Petron KM 44 Northbound, Calamba Customer Service Center, SLEX Greenfields, Southwoods Northbound, Southwoods Southbound, Sta. Rosa Northbound, Sta. Rosa Southbound, Star Toll Lipa Customer Service Center, and Tarlac Customer Service Center.

Requirements for enrollment include an Original Department of Agriculture (DA) accreditation certificate; a copy of the vehicle's OR/CR (Official Receipt/Certificate of Registration); valid ID; and, their Easytrip or Autosweep card.

Enrollees also need to fill out the Agricultural Trucks Toll Fee Increase Exemption Form that will be provided by Customer Service Center personnel.

Submitted documents will undergo a verification process within seven (7) working days after which the enrollees will be notified of their enrollment status through their registered email addresses.

Once approved, agri-truckers will enjoy a toll rebate that will be credited to their RFID accounts every Wednesday of the following week.

As part of monitoring efforts and

to prevent abuse, spot checks will be conducted to ensure enrolled trucks are transporting agricultural goods/products. Non-compliance may result in disqualification from the program.

The program will initially run for three months and subject to evaluation for possible extension.

For queries on the DA accreditation process, agri-truck owners may call the DA Hotline at (02) 8920-4072. For the complete guidelines, please visit <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K8urWuaPVa1rNSVpMQikLenl3FiW9yPC/view>

NLEX... FROM PAGE 2

adjustments of NLEX due in 2019 and 2021. The increase was deferred and divided into two tranches to help curb the inflationary strains and ease the impact on the users of the expressway. TRB has authorized the implementation of the 1st tranche or 50% of the approved toll adjustments last May 25, 2023.

From 2018 to 2020, the company has embarked on numerous infrastructure and enhancement projects to improve motorists' safety and convenience. Some notable projects completed are the San Fernando NB exit expansion, Meycauayan NB and Balintawak SB drainage enhancements, San Simon and Sta. Rita Bridge retrofitting, Mindanao signalization, Mapulang Lupa Pedestrian/Tricycle Overpass construction, Toll system and equipment, roadway lighting and signage upgrade.

Over the years, NLEX has invested in major expansion and enhancement projects that are

vital to the country's economic growth and, at the same time, ease the travel of the motoring public as part of its commitment to support the government's call for the private sector to take part in nation-building.

This year, NLEX has opened the new F. Raymundo Exit in Meycauayan and widened the Meycauayan northbound exit ramp as part of its traffic decongestion program. The tollway company is also set to complete the Candaba Third Viaduct which will expand the five-kilometer bridge from existing three lanes without shoulders to three lanes with inner and outer shoulders per direction. Being a reliable link between Metro Manila and the provinces in Central and North Luzon, this will further ensure the safe transport of people and unhampered delivery of essential goods and services in the region.

Two major projects, aimed at further decongesting the NLEX mainline, will also start construction

this year.

The first two-kilometer section of the NLEX-C5 link from NLEX Mindanao toll plaza to Quirino Highway in Novaliches is set to begin construction by the third quarter of 2024. The construction of this new expressway section will be welcome news for NLEX commuters who currently face daily traffic gridlock in the congested portions of Mindanao Avenue.

Another major project is the NLEX San Fernando to SCTEX Spur in Malabacat, Pampanga. Once completed, expressway road capacity will be expanded from the existing 2x2 lanes to 3x3 lanes in each direction giving motorists a faster, more seamless travel. The project also includes the installation of roadway lighting from NLEX San Fernando all the way to Sta. Ines for added safety and the reconfiguration of Mexico as a full diamond interchange to accommodate the increase in volume of vehicles in the area.

CONVERGE... FROM PAGE 2

sure to spur lively discussions," Azada said.

"The application of artificial intelligence in the telco industry is already pervasive so this venue is the perfect opportunity to look at how companies like Converge are using AI in predictive maintenance of the network as well as what we're doing to enhance cybersecurity," Santos said.

International audiences will hear of Converge's journey from a small ICT company in Pampanga to becoming a major broadband provider with nationwide presence, gradually contributing to job creation and technology innovation on a wider scale.

The sustainability panel will underline the sustainability measures Converge has undertaken in the past years,

including its gradual shift to renewable energy and its waste management program.

On artificial intelligence, Converge will highlight its Network Intelligence and Automation Platform (NIAP), an AI-powered solution that is integrated into fault detection and performance management, to name just two areas.

Asia Tech X Singapore (ATxSG) is Asia's flagship tech event jointly organized by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) and Informa Tech with support from the Singapore Tourism Board.

CommunicAsia, meanwhile, is a feature event that will run alongside tech-focused tracks gathering international industry experts, business leaders, and government stakeholders

to discuss technologies and innovation in revolutionizing the converged ecosystem and today's digital world.

CommunicAsia is an annual trade fair and platform for information and communication technology, held at the Singapore Expo as part of Asia Tech X Singapore. Organized by Informa Tech, a subsidiary of Informa PLC -- a leading global provider of specialist information and services, the fair covers a wide range of topics related to information and communication technology.

Key themes at CommunicAsia in Singapore focus strongly on the next steps in telecommunication technology, particularly the challenges and opportunities of 5G.

Republic of the Philippines REGIONAL TRIAL COURT THIRD JUDICIAL REGION OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT ANGELES CITY

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION, Mortgagee,
- versus -
FORECLOSURE OF REAL ESTATE PROCEEDINGS OF MORTGAGED PROPERTY UNDER ACT 3135, AS AMENDED

BERNARDO D. GUARIN Married to RODRIGA GUARIN, Mortgagees. F.C. Case No. 2024-0027

x-----x

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

Upon extra-judicial petition for sale under Act 3135, as amended filed by Mortgagee, **NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION** with office address at 104 Filomena Bldg., Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City against the Mortgagees, **BERNARDO D. GUARIN married to RODRIGA GUARIN** with residence and postal address at **620 Manuel A. Roxas St., Angeles City or 622 Manuel A. Roxas St., Angeles City or Lot M, Block 16 Don Bonifacio Subd. III, Balibago, Angeles City** to order to satisfy the mortgage debt which as of **February 29, 2024** amounts to **TWO MILLION FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY EIGHT THOUSAND NINETEEN PESOS AND THIRTY SIX CENTAVOS (Php 2,568,019.36), Philippine Currency**, principal including interest and penalties but excluding the attorney's fees, foreclosure expenses and other charges allowed by law, the undersigned Sheriff IV will sell at public auction on **June 27, 2024 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning** at the **Office of the Clerk of Court, Regional Trial Court, Ground Floor Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos Bldg., Hall of Justice, Pulung Maragul, Angeles City, Pampanga** to the highest bidder, for cash and in Philippine Currency, the following parcel of land with all the improvements existing thereon, to wit:

TCT NO. 82248

A parcel of land (Lot M of the consolidation-subdivision plan (LRC) Pcs-14184, being a portion of the consolidation of Lots 25 & 26, both of Block 16, (LRC) Cad. Rec. No. 124), situated in the Barrio of Balibago, City of Angeles, Island of Luzon. Bounded on the N., points 1 to 2 by Lot 1, of the consolidation-subdivision plan; on the E., points 2 to 3 by Lot 33, Block 16, (LRC) Psd-57373, (Alley); on the S., points 3 to 4 by Road Lot 15, (LRC) Psd-57373; and on the W., points 4 to 1 by N of the consolidation-subdivision plan. x x x containing an area of TWO HUNDRED SQUARE METERS (200) x x x

Prospective buyers may investigate for themselves the above-described property and encumbrances thereon, if there be any.

All sealed bids must be submitted to the undersigned on the above-stated time and date.

In the event the public auction should not take place on the said date, it shall be held on **July 30, 2024 at the same time and place** without further notice.
Angeles City, April 11, 2024.


CARLO ROBERTO C. MEDINA
Sheriff IV

Copy Furnished:

ATTY. ERIKA KATHRYN FERNANDEZ-AGUAS
4th Floor Filomena Bldg.,
104 Amorsolo St.,
Makati City

BERNARDO D. GUARIN married to RODRIGA GUARIN
620 Manuel A. Roxas St., Angeles City or
622 Manuel A. Roxas St., Angeles City or
Lot M, Block 16 Don Bonifacio Subd. III,
Balibago, Angeles City

DENR awards 151 land titles to Tarlac residents

TARLAC CITY, Tarlac — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recently awarded a total of 151 land titles to qualified beneficiaries in Tarlac under its Handog Titulo Program.

The DENR distributed 146 residential free patents covering a land area of about 13,645 square meters as well as five agricultural free patents in Barangay Cristo Rey in the Municipality of Capas during the 151st Provincial Founding Anniversary program.

In her message, Tarlac Governor Susan Yap reminded the beneficiaries to take good care of their properties and use these to improve their lives.

"The Provincial Government of Tarlac, together with the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, strives to deliver all kinds of

services to all Tarlaqueños. You have waited for this day to come. So cherish it and enrich your land," Yap said.

The governor thanked the DENR and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) for working hand-in-hand to fast track the process of providing land titles.

Meanwhile, DENR Regional Executive Director Ralph Pablo advised the beneficiaries to put their land to good use despite the removal of restrictions imposed on the registration, acquisition, encumbrance, alienation, transfer, and conveyance of land covered by free patents.

"Now that you received a testament of ownership for your properties, may you be fully dedicated to developing these and aspire to hand these over to the next generation," Pablo said.

The provincial government also distributed financial assistance to four centenarians amounting to Php100,000 each during the 151st Provincial Founding Anniversary program. The assistance is in accordance with Republic Act No. 10868 or the Centenarians Act of 2016.

At the same time, a total of 11 senior citizens aged 100 and above who recently celebrated their birthdays also received Php25,000 each.

Ancillary activities in accordance with the anniversary celebrations include medical missions, a bloodletting activity, a feeding program, mobile passporting services, a trade fair and the provision of legal assistance. **(PIA REGION 3-TARLAC)**



TITLES FOR TARLAQUEÑOS. Tarlac Governor Susan Yap with officials of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) lead the awarding of 151 land titles to qualified beneficiaries in Tarlac under the DENR's Handog Titulo Program. (PIA-3)

Angeles biz owners get corporate regulatory updates

To keep the Kapampangan business community informed and compliant, the Securities and Exchange Commission-Tarlac Extension Office (SEC-TAREO) joined the Breakfast Club Meeting of the Metro Angeles Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (MACCII) on May 23 at the Camalig Restaurant in Angeles City to orient its members about the latest policies and issuances of the Commission.

The orientation led by SEC-TAREO esteemed lawyers including Director Richard R. Laus and Securities Counsel Ma. Theresa L. Reotutar provided crucial updates on regulatory changes affecting businesses across various sectors.

They presented comprehensive overviews of recent SEC regulations and discussed the implications of these for large corporations and small enterprises.

Among the key updates discussed were the guidelines on declaration of delinquent status and revocation of certificate of registration of corporations,

updated fines and penalties on the late and non-submission of SEC annual reportorial requirements and the guidelines on the use of eAmend portal in filing amendments of SEC documents.

Laus cited the importance of these guidelines in promoting transparency and protecting investors.

"Our goal is to ensure that businesses operate within a framework that supports fair practices and promotes the consistent and timely compliance of the corporate sector with their reportorial requirements," he said.

Reotutar, at the same time, highlighted the SEC's ongoing initiatives to streamline compliance procedures and reduce administrative burdens for businesses such as the new online portal designed to simplify the amendment of articles of incorporation and by-laws and improve the efficiency of regulatory processes.

"This portal is part of our commitment to leveraging technology to better serve the

business community," she explained.

The event also featured interactive sessions where the participants could ask questions and seek clarifications on specific compliance issues.

Kapampangan business owners and entrepreneurs expressed appreciation for the opportunity to directly engage with SEC officials and understand better how the new policies would impact their operations.

Maria Angeli Espena of MACCII cited on the importance of such orientations.

"Staying updated about regulatory changes is crucial for our members. This orientation helps ensure that our local businesses remain compliant and competitive," Espena said.

The SEC-TAREO officials were later cited by MACCII officers for being one of its active campaign network partners in the region, fostering financial literacy and inclusion and advocating for innovative finance and promotion of the capital market in the Angeles business community.



SEC UPDATES AC BIZ OWNERS. Securities and Exchange Commission-Tarlac Extension Office (SEC-TAREO) officials Director Richard R. Laus and Securities Counsel Ma. Theresa L. Reotutar are awarded Plaques of Appreciation after orienting Metro Angeles Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (MACCII) members about the latest policies and issuances of the Commission.

P6.33M Subic port expansion revealed

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT — Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chairman and Administrator Eduardo L. Aliño has revealed a P6.33-million port expansion plan for this premier Freeport.

In his speech before participants of the Central Luzon Transport & Trade Conference 2024 at the Hilton Clark Sun Valley Resort on May 24, Aliño presented the Subic Port Expansion Plan under the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)-Regional Development Master Plan.

"Subic Bay Freeport will have additional berthing facilities in the Boton Area alongside the expansion of the Boton Wharf with an approximate cost of P6.33 million. The plan will include the reclamation for a terminal expansion with a ten-hectare area, expansion and deepening of the existing wharf by 1.5 meters, and the inclusion of a general cargo and Roll-On, Roll-Off (RoRo) terminal," Aliño said.

He also said there is also an expansion plan for the New Container Terminal 3 to include additional berthing facilities and a quay with a length of 410 meters and a width of 700 meters, a total area of 28.7 hectares, and a depth of 16 meters. The project will cost P6.20 billion.

The agency also plans to create additional berthing facilities at the San Bernardino Road which will have a multi-purpose terminal with a quay length of 400 meters, an area of 17.4 hectares, and a depth of 12 meters.

"The construction of the 400-meter wharf will have warehouses and open spaces, a container yard, and a truck weigh scale area. The expansion at the San Bernardino Road

will cost around P6.10 billion," Aliño explained.

Aside from the said expansion plans, the SBMA also aims to implement a Port Expansion Plan at the Redondo Peninsula that includes the construction of a P9.35-billion multi-purpose terminal with a 600-meter by 500-meter quay that has a total area of 30 hectares and a depth of 13.5 meters.

"This will also include the construction of a 600-meter wharf, warehouses, an administration building, truck parking, truck weigh scale, sentry gate, open storage, offices and facilities for workers," the SBMA chief said.

A proposed multi-purpose terminal at the Lower Mau area of the Freeport is also in the works that includes a 570-meter quay with a total area of 17.2 hectares and a depth of 13 meters. The said facility will have the same amenities as the other multi-purpose terminals but has an approximate cost of P10.19 million.

Aliño said the SBMA is bullish on the shipping industry, citing that the Subic Bay Freeport can easily handle the shipping industry in the North and Central Luzon.

"This is why we are pushing for these expansion plans. We want the world to know that

Subic Bay Freeport is more than capable of handling their cargo," he stressed. **(SBMA MEDIA PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT)**

SBMA EXPANSION PLANS. Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Chairman and Administrator Eduardo Jose L. Aliño presents the P6.33-million Subic Port Expansion Plan before participants of the Central Luzon Transport & Trade Conference 2024 at the Hilton Clark Sun Valley Resort on May 24. (SBMA MEDIA PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT)

PH maritime university inks MOU with Korean university

SAN NARCISO, Zambales T — The Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Korea Maritime and Ocean University (KMOU) to establish programs of exchange and collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

PMMA Superintendent Commodore Joel Abutal said during the MOU signing aboard the KMOU's T/S Hannara at Pier 15 in the Port of Manila signals the start of the collaboration and cooperation between the two maritime higher education institutions, focusing on common areas of interests beneficial to both parties.

"Korea is becoming the number one producer of ships while the Philippines is the leading supplier of seafarers. Together, we can become a global maritime superpower," Abutal said.

The PMMA, as the pioneer maritime education institution in the country, aims to fulfill its mandate as the leading producer of competent and qualified officers who will lead the global maritime industry — be it as a merchant

marine, Navy, or Coast Guard officer.

For his part, KMOU College of Maritime Science Dean Kim Jin Gwon said the opportunities for exchanges between the two educational institutions would greatly contribute to the shipping industries of both the Philippines and Korea.

These include the sharing of resources for academic and administrative documents; providing students with opportunities for vessel training with commercial boats or training ships (conditional); a collaboration on research and development projects; and, academic mobility through international fellowship, international students, and faculty exchange, among others.

Kim also expressed hope that the friendly relations between the two countries will prosper.

The KMOU is the only specialized maritime university in Korea that has been producing experts in the maritime field, including the shipping industry. **(PIA-3)**



MARITIME COLLABORATION. Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) Superintendent Commodore Joel Abutal (right) signs a Memorandum of Understanding with Korea Maritime and Ocean University (KMOU) College of Maritime Science Dean Kim Jin Gwon in recognition of a long and historical relationship with common academic and social interests. (PMMA)