



ATTARS NEWS



Association of Tokyo Tech Alumni and Research Scholars - Kuramae Kai Philippines
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EDITORIAL



ATTARS Members – Trailblazers of Excellence

Alma Bella P. Madrazo, Ph.D.

The Tokyo Institute of Technology (TokyoTech) has continually produced technically competent Filipino alumni that have become major players in the field of Science and Technology in the government agencies, private sector, and in the academic institutions of the country. Recent awards given by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and other prestigious award giving bodies that recognize excellence in the field of science and technology has showcased the cream of the crop who are members of ATTARS. These Tokyo Tech alumni have demonstrated exceptionally outstanding achievements in their fields of expertise. There is no doubt that the pioneering programs established by Tokyo Tech among Asian countries such as the Philippines have been instrumental in the development of these outstanding achievers. For almost twenty years now, Tokyo Tech through the efforts of Prof. Hiroo Niiyama has continually implemented International Exchanges through academic cooperation agreements not only for the faculty and graduate students but for the undergraduate students as well. These academic and research exchanges enhanced the knowledge and exposure of the grantees in the various fields of engineering contributing to their advancement in the scientific field.



This issue of the ATTARS NEWS showcases successful Tokyo Institute of Technology alumni who received recognition for excellent performance in their chosen profession. Recent awardees include Dr. Nuna E. Almanzor who was given the prestigious “Excellence Award” by the Federation of Professional Association Inc., an umbrella association of 42

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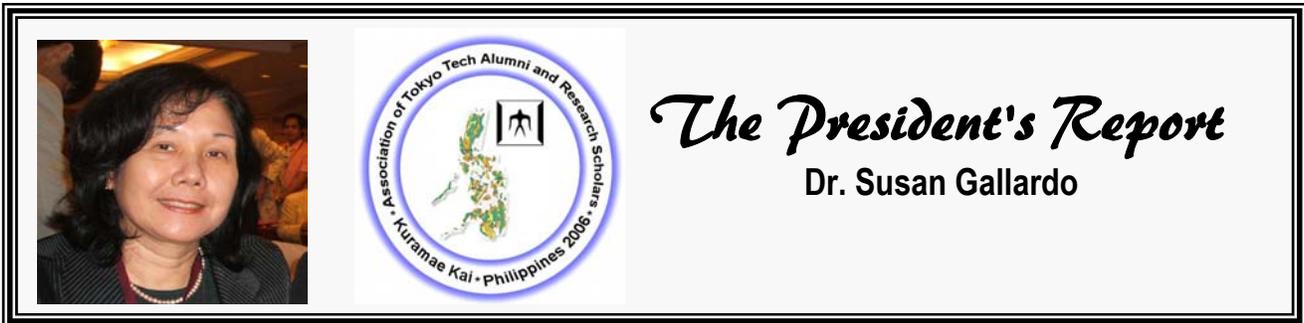
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different Accredited Professional Organizations (APO) of the Philippine Regulatory Commission (PRC) for her distinguished accomplishments as a professional. Dr. Alvin Culaba, another ATTARS member was conferred the Academician status by the National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) plus three other awards given during the 50th Anniversary of DOST in July 2008. Dr. Jonathan Dungca and Dr. Carmela Centeno were also awardees in recognition of their excellent contributions and exceptional accomplishments in the practice of their profession. Dr. Mel Baccay, on the other hand, received an outstanding paper award in an international conference. The Association of Tokyo

Tech Alumni and Research Scholars (ATTARS), Kuramae Kai Philippines is very proud of the accomplishments of these members and would like to extend a warm "CONGRATULATIONS!" to all the awardees.

ATTARS would like to thank Prof. Hiroo Niiyama and the management of the Tokyo Tech Office in the Philippines (Engr, Ronaldo Gallardo, Manager and Ms. Lan Nayre, Secretary) for the many significant assistance extended to the organization since its inception and for the continuing support extended to all its projects and activities. For this year 2008, assistance was provided to ATTARS in its participation at the DOST Sponsored Science and Technology ASEAN Exhibit, in holding the first ATTARS National Seminar-Workshop, and in the production of the two issues of the ATTARS NEWS. We are truly grateful for all these assistance.

As recipients and witnesses to the generous assistance of Tokyo Institute of Technology in providing graduate and post-graduate education and appropriate training to research scientists and engineers in a developing country like the Philippines, we can truly say that Tokyo Tech is a major contributor in the capacity building of our country's scientific and technical human resource producing trailblazers of excellence. Again CONGRATULATIONS to all the awardees.



Greetings to all our ATTARS members and friends! 2008 has been a very fruitful year for ATTARS. The members of the Board of Directors and Board of Advisors have been very active and supportive of the activities done to meet the objectives of ATTARS as well as to implement the plans we set in January 2008.

Indeed, in spite of our busy schedules, we were able to hold the following major activities. First, we had the first Teleconference Seminar in May. Lectures on Chloride induced Corrosion and Tunnel Propagation Measurement were made by two Filipino Scholars in Tokyo. ATTARS organized this with the help of Tokyo Tech Filipinos, Tokyo Tech-Japan and Tokyo Tech-Philippines. Second, we held the first Seminar-workshop on Climate Change and Alternative Energy Technologies (Solar Energy and Biofuels) in September. This brought together the representatives of the academe, government and industry in Trader's Hotel. The Department of Science & Technology, Pilipinas Shell, Sunpower, Tokyo Tech and De la Salle University supported our activity by being sponsors and at the same time, providing lectures in the seminar. During the workshop, we came up with resolutions that can be used for planning the year 2009 activities of ATTARS.



Teleconference Seminar, 31 May 2008



Seminar-Workshop on Climate Change and Alternative Energy Technologies, 19 Sept 2008

In May, I was able to link ATTARS to the town of Nagcarlan. Upon the invitation of DOST ASEC Malou Orijola, I visited the town water source and was able to talk with Mayor Osuna on the development of an integrated Environmental Management System in Nagcarlan. The first community outreach program of ATTARS was launched in November. We conducted lectures on Waste Management focusing on 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle), Environmental Entrepreneurship, Biofuels and Sanitary Landfill to the officials of 52 barangays, NGOs, Women's Organization, Youth representatives and Church representatives of Nagcarlan. On the first week of December, we shall have a follow up of the lecture with the different barangay officials regarding their waste audit and business plan on utilizing wastes materials to generate income. This activity is also supported by Professional Organization of RONPAKU Fellows and DOST(Office of ASEC Orijola).



Community Outreach at Nagcarlan

ATTARS has continuously updated our members through the ATTARS News with Dr. Alma Madrazo as the Editor-in-chief. This year, we have two issues. One issue was released in July and another one this December. Of course, we have the ATTARS website which is managed by Dr. Andy Oreta.

ATTARS has ably supported the activities of Tokyo-Tech Office in Manila. In July, Tokyo Tech had a booth in the World Trade Center-Manila during the Celebration of the ASEAN Science & Technology Week. The first issue of ATTARS News was printed out and copies were distributed during the exhibit which run for about a week. In June and in September, some ATTARS board members oriented the DLSU Civil Engineering students and freshmen/sophomore DLSU engineering students from different departments how to

travel, live and survive in Japan. These students went to Tokyo Tech for a period of two weeks under the Student-Exchange Program of Tokyo Tech and De la Salle University.



ATTARS 2008 Directors

Front: Marita Dimaano, Lydia Tansinsin, Susan Gallardo, Nila Abella, Back: Mel Baccay, Bojie Diola, Mineo Maruyama, Melai Centeno. (Not in the photo – Henry Co, Jonathan Dungca and Alma Madrazo)

During the third General Assembly and Christmas Party of ATTARS, we shall be electing 6 new Board Members. During this meeting, we shall seek approval to an amendment we made in the article on membership in our Constitution & By-laws. We shall consider accepting undergraduate student members to ATTARS membership. An affiliate student member is an undergraduate student who visited Tokyo Tech under a Student Exchange Program.

Although Dr. Carmela Centeno resigned from the Board and is now based in Vienna, Dr. Jonathan Dungca and Ms. Eden Mariquit took turns to take the minutes. We miss you in the Board, Melai.

To end this report, I wish to thank the members of the Board of Directors for the all out support given to ATTARS. Many thanks go to all ATTARS regular member and lifetime members for supporting ATTARS activities. This year, Dr. Leonila Abella was able to collect from seven(7) lifetime members and many more regular members.

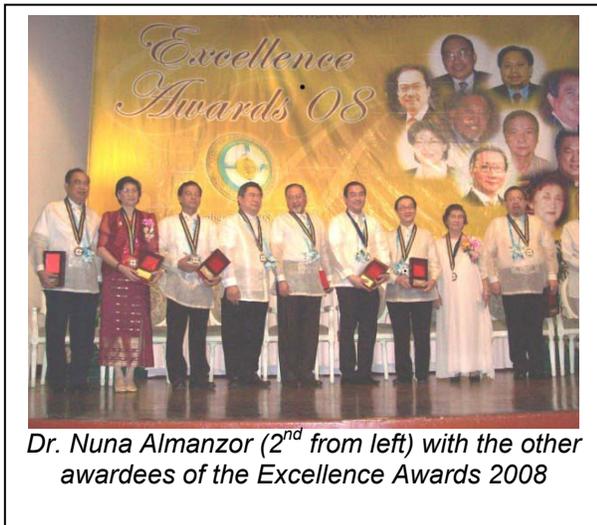
At the same time, my gratitude is given to Jun, Andy, Ronnie and Professor Niiyama for their good hearts, kind words of encouragement, warm gesture of support and their wonderful friendship.

With humble heart, it is my fervent prayer that the seeds we have planted will grow and blossom to bear fruits for the next generation.

NEWS and UPDATES

ATTARS member bags Excellence Award 2008

ATTARS member, Dr. Nuna E. Almanzor was chosen to be one of the awardees for the prestigious “Excellence Awards 2008.” The Philippine Federation of Professional Association Inc. is the umbrella association for the 42 different Accredited Professional Organizations (APO) of the Philippine Regulatory Commission. The “Excellence Awards” started in 2004 wherein all the 42 APO can nominate their candidates both national and international considering their distinguishing accomplishments as a professional, as public and private servant, etc. From all the candidates, the Board of Judges after the conduct of stringent screening and evaluation will select only 10 awardees.



Dr. Nuna Almanzor (2nd from left) with the other awardees of the Excellence Awards 2008

Dungca and Centeno named as DOST’s 50 Men and Women of Science

The Department of Science and Technology in celebration of its 50th anniversary honored two ATTARS directors, Dr. Jonathan R. Dungca and Dr. Carmela Centeno as outstanding DOST scholars which are included in the "50 Men and Women of Science" who made significant



contributions to the development of science and technology in the Philippines over the last 50 years.

Dr. Jonathan Dungca was a recipient of scholarship grant from the DOST-PCIERD while taking up his Master’s Degree in Civil Engineering at De La Salle University-Manila. He completed his D. Eng. with specialization in Geotechnical Engineering at TokyoTech. Dr. Dungca, an associate professor in civil engineering at DLSU-Manila was recognized for his interests in the development of soil liquefaction potential maps and various techniques to assess the effects of soil liquefaction to structures and his active role in community extension activities particularly the DLSU-College of Engineering’s Adopt-an-Eng’g-School Program.

Dr. Carmela R. Centeno was a scholar of DOST-PCIERD and finished her PhD in Chemical Engineering at DLSU with high distinction. Her research focus is on hazardous wastes degradation using advanced oxidation technologies. Her research on persistent organic pollutants earned awards from both PCIERD and the National Academy of Science and Technology.

TokyoTech Research Scholar conferred as Academician

By Dr. Susan Gallardo

Dr. Alvin Culaba, a University Fellow and Full Professor of the Mechanical Engineering department, visited Tokyo Institute of Technology, in 1992 under the supervision of Prof. Isao Satoh. He stayed in the Kurosaki Thermal Engineering Laboratory and worked on the research entitled “Heat Exchangers for Solar Thermal Energy Applications” for 45 days under the JSPS-DOST Exchange Scientist Program. This year, he joined several Tokyo Tech alumni and research scholars as a lifetime member of ATTARS-Kuramae Kai-Philippines.

Dr. Culaba, in recognition of his pioneering and outstanding works and accomplishments in the area of Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) methodology and his more than fifteen years of research in the theory and application of LCA has earned him international reputation and is now a recognized expert in the region. Alvin, as he is fondly called by colleagues and friends, was

conferred the rank and title of Academician by the Republic of the Philippines, The National Academy of Science and Technology in July 10, 2008.

Aside from this award, Alvin was also the recipient of the Dioscoro L. Umali Medal of Excellence and the 2008 Outstanding Science Administrator Award on July 11, 2008 at the World Trade Center, Manila. The award was given by the Department of Science & Technology and the National Academy of Science & Technology during the ASEAN Science and Technology Week. Alvin was recognized for his commitment, leadership and dedication to develop researchers, engineers and institutions in environmental systems management in the Philippines.



Dr. Alvin Culaba (2nd from Left) poses with ATTARS members after receiving an award during the ASEAN Science and Technology Week 2008.



Dr. Melito Baccay receives his Outstanding Paper Award at the 33rd Our World in Concrete Conference in Singapore

Baccay bags outstanding paper Award in Singapore

ATTARS director, Dr. Melito A. Baccay was awarded with the STUP Consultants Ltd. Award for his outstanding and original paper entitled “Proposed two-dimensional model for estimating the rate of steel corrosion in existing reinforced concrete structures.” He presented the paper on the 33rd Conference on Our World in Concrete held last August 25 to 27 in Singapore. The conference was dedicated to Dr. Nobuaki Otsuki, a professor at the Department of International Development Engineering, Tokyo Institute of Technology.

Tansinsin presents paper at Eng Ed Forum in Tokyo

ATTARS director, Dr. Lydia G. Tansinsin was invited as resource speaker by the Toyohashi University of Technology – International Cooperation Center for Engineering Education Development (ICCEED) by Prof. Dr. Yoshituki Sakaki, President of the University for the 7th Open Forum on International Cooperation for Engineering Education Development held on November 20, 2008 at Tokyo, Japan. The theme



Dr. Lydia Tansinsin (3rd from right)

of the forum is “Engineering Education Accreditation Towards Quality and Relevance in Asia”. Dr. Tansinsin presented her paper on “Engineering Professionals in the Philippines”. Dr Tansinsin is the chartered president and adviser of the Philippine Technological Council (PTC) and founding president of the ASEAN Federation of Engineering Organizations (AFEO). The open forum was attended by academe, industrial sector and relevant government agencies.

Community Outreach



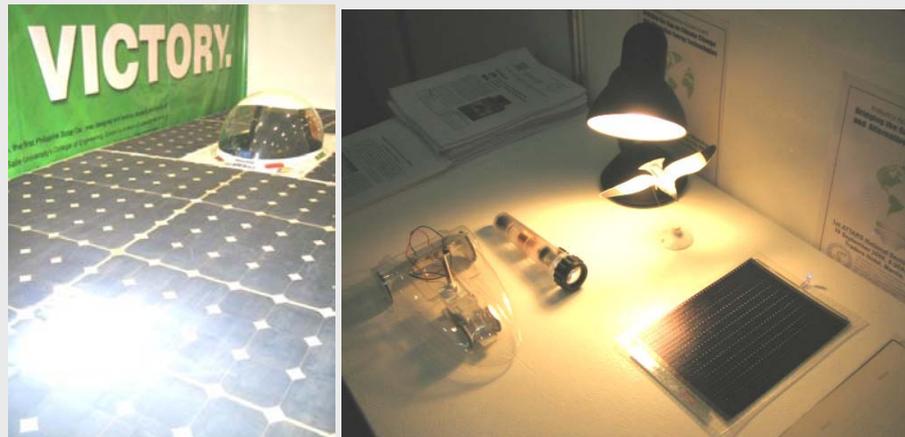
ATTARS-PRF Joined Together in Environmental Awareness Program in Nagcarlan, Laguna

By Eden Mariquit

The Association of Tokyo Tech Alumni, Researchers and Scholars (ATTARS), and the Philippine Society of JSPS RONPAKU Fellows (PRF), in cooperation with DOST, hold a community outreach program where some of its members and officers conducted an Environmental Awareness Seminar in Nagcarlan, Laguna last November 10. The resource speakers were Dr. Susan Gallardo, ATTARS President, Dr. Marita Dimaano, ATTARS Board member, also PRF President, Dr. Evelyn Laurito, from PICHE-MMAC and Eden Mariquit, ATTARS member.

Nearly 200 participants consisting of barangay captains, barangay councilmen, residents, NGOs, and representatives from the church and the youth sector of Nagcarlan attended the seminar that was held at One-Stop Shop in Poblacion, Nagcarlan. Dr. Gallardo discussed the basics of waste management in her presentation entitled “Waste Management: Tamang Pangangasiwa ng Kalat o Dumit”. Eden followed with her talk on Environmental Entrepreneurship entitled “Kabuhayan Para sa Kapaligiran”. After which, Dr. Dimaano gave a very informative lecture on alternative energy fuels with her presentation entitled “Biofuels as Alternative Fuels: Biofuels Bilang Alternatibong Langis” then the last resource speaker, Dr. Laurito talked about the basics and the engineering of a landfill in her presentation “Ligtas Ba Ang Ating Sanitary Landfills?”.

DOST Assistant Secretary Ma. Lourdes Orijola facilitated the seminar while Mayor Nelson M. Osuna of the municipality of Nagcarlan gave the opening remarks.



Solar Power

During the 8th ASEAN Science & Technology Week (July 7-11, 2008), the potential of solar power as an alternative source of energy was exhibited. Left - Sinag Car of DLSU-Manila which competed in the 2007 World Solar Challenge in Australia. Right- Various solar powered gadgets and toys at the TokyoTech Office booth.

1st Seminar - Workshop on Climate Change and Alternative Energy Technologies

By Dr. Alma Madrazo



The Association of Tokyo Institute of Technology Alumni and Research Scholars (ATTARS) – Kuramae Kai Philippines successfully conducted its *1st National Seminar-Workshop on Climate Change and Alternative Energy Technologies*. Recognizing the need to partake on these issues for the development of the country, ATTARS organized its first national seminar-workshop with the objective of bringing together experts from the industry, academe and the government to address issues related to alternative energy and climate change. The seminar-workshop provided a venue for the exchange of expedient ideas and subsequent establishment of possible collaborative researches geared towards the association's contribution to our country's development. The activity was intended to bridge the gap between climate change and alternative energy technologies.

The 1-day seminar was able to attract international experts from Japan, Prof. Yutaka Tamaura of Tokyo Institute of Technology who discussed "*Advances on Concentrated Solar Power Cell Technologies*" in the Plenary and presented "*Technical Aspects of Concentrated Solar Power Technologies*" during the Technical Parallel Sessions in the afternoon, and Dr. Josefino Comiso from the United States of America, a NASA Senior Scientist who presented "*NASA on Climate Change Observation and Implications*" that shared interesting data he has gathered related to Climate Change.

The technical parallel sessions were focused on *Biofuels* moderated by Dr. Nathaniel Diola and *Solar Energy* moderated by Dr. Alma Bella Madrazo. A workshop followed the technical sessions resulting to a roadmap on the way forward which can be used as a basis for future activities of ATTARS. Of the five Poster Presentations, two were on Solar Power ("*Testing and Evaluation of the Temperature Control System of a Solar Powered Egg Incubator*" and "*A Locally Fabricated Solar Flat Plate Collector for Water Heating*"), one on the "*Development of Small-Scale Fuel Ethanol Production for Small Farm Operations*", one on "*Biomass-Fueled Stirling Engine for Domestic Energy Generation*", and "*Alternative Natural Gas Utilization in the Philippines Using Catalyst for Steam Reforming of Methane*". A Souvenir Program was produced containing the messages of the Department of Energy Secretary, Hon. Angelo Reyes and the Department of Science and Technology Secretary, Hon. Estrella Alabastro, the President of Tokyo Institute of Technology, Prof. Dr. Kenichi IGA, Director of Tokyo Tech Office in the Philippines, Prof. Hiroo Niiyama, and the ATTARS President, Dr. Susan Gallardo, the program, the different abstracts of the papers presented, a primer on climate change, ATTARS Board of Directors and Advisers, a brief history of ATTARS, and information on the major sponsors. This important activity would not have been possible without the full support of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation, SUNPOWER, De La Salle University, Tokyo Institute of Technology, and the Department of Science and Technology. To all the organizing committee members spearheaded by ATTARS President Dr. Susan Gallardo and Mr. Henry Co and to all the graduate students who helped in the preparation of this successful event, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks.



*The 1st ATTARS Seminar-Workshop on Climate Change and Alternative Energy Technologies
19 September 2008. Trader's Hotel, Manila*

Tokyo Tech Office (Philippines) in 2008

Professor Hiroo NIIYAMA
Director, Tokyo Tech Office (Philippines)



2008 is the year of strengthening the activities that has been initiated in the previous year. The following is a summary of the activities:

- Tokyo Tech Forum was successfully coordinated and conducted with 70 attendants. The presence of ATTARS as well as Tokyo Tech Office are recognized in the Philippine society.
- A linkage with Tokyo Tech Filipinos is established, with several teleconferences. The linkage is now inter-association rather than individual friendship.
- Tokyo Tech joined the exhibition for the ASEAN Science and Technology Week, held July this year at World Trade Center, Manila. Tokyo Tech exhibits its recent establishments, mainly on Solar Energy utilization technology.
- Two students visit tours to Japan were coordinated. Last May, DLSU civil engineering students visited Tokyo Tech. This is an annual undertaking. Last September, ten DLSU freshmen students were invited by Tokyo Tech to join a craftsmanship education program. It is a package of class lectures, designing and fabrication by their own hands, evaluation and finally presentation. Filipino students enjoyed cooperative works with Japanese students.
- Lecture provisions were also continued. The lectures from DLSU to Tokyo Tech on Technical English Writing attracted twenty Japanese students.

Tokyo Tech Office (Philippines) proceeds hand in hand with ATTARS. The support given to TokyoTech Office is very much appreciated. I hope the year 2009 will also be fruitful and prosperous.

TokyoTech Filipinos: Activities in Oct-Nov 2008

Ian Dexter Garcia

The present group of 22 TokyoTech Filipino students have had a fun time with the group's activities in October. October is the beginning of the new semester, and we opened it by hosting a simple welcome lunch party for the newcomers at the TokyoTech main building grounds under the



Sakura trees last Oct.7. The newcomers include Hazel Palapus (Civil Engineering), Michael Cocjin (Civil Engineering), Pierre Joven (International Development Engineering), and Aimee Avancena. May they have a fruitful and enjoyable stay at TokyoTech. This October, the group also began two weekly sports leagues held during the lunch breaks at the TokyoTech Gymnasium. Entitled "TokyoTech Pinoys Lunchtime Basketball League (Tapalbola)" and "TokyoTech Pinoys Lunchtime Badminton and Table Tennis (Tapalbutas)", the games have proven to be a great time for stress release, exercise and camaraderie to the group and their international friends. Tapalbutas games are held every Friday, while Tapalbola games are

held every Mondays and sometimes on Fridays, days which the group looks forward to every week. Shown in the middle picture are some of the Tapalbola players looking excited before their first Game last Oct. 17.

George William Hong was appointed as the President of the TokyoTech International Students Association (TISA). As President of TISA, he serves the 1000-plus international students and leads its many volunteers in the vision and plans of TISA. Besides representing the international students, George William leads fellow students in organizing the international students welcome party, its sportsfest, the web portal, among others. William, Mabuhay ka!.

Congratulations to Mr. Lawrence Materum (Propagation and Antenna Laboratory) for his paper, "*Improved multipath clustering of a small urban macrocellular MIMO environment at 4.5 GHz*" won the Best Student Paper Award at the *International Symposium on Antennas and Propagation*, Taipei, Taiwan, 27-30 Oct. 2008.



At the time of this writing, the group is enthusiastically preparing to give a presentation at the Welcome party for the TokyoTech International Students at Suzukakedai Campus on Nov. 11. Entitled "The CoCoNut Family", the song and dance number will showcase the Filipino culture and the talents of the group.

The group is thankful for the active participation of its members these past months and looks forward to its future plans. So what's in store this December and January? Let's wait until the next TokyoTech update.

TOKYO TECH CRAFTSMANSHIP EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR ENGINEERING STUDENTS

Ten DLSU engineering students were invited by TokyoTech to undergo a technical and cultural exposure trip last September 3-14, 2008. The student were Airah Jane Hernandez, Pauline Lolitanel Chua, Jackie Madrazo, Katherine Marie de Asis, Ronald Fidel Gallardo, Stephanie Kim Reasonda, Mark Baylon, Shiela Balisado, Mariela Ana Trespeses and Justine Vittorio Manalo.

THE CHALLENGE: Weeks before we left the Philippines, we had a video conference about what we are supposed to do during the exposure program at TokyoTech. We are expected to design a speaker box starting from scratch. But there are two types of speaker boxes – bass reflex type and back loaded horn type – and no one wants to work on the back loaded horn since the construction is much more complex than the bass reflex. But two of the groups have no choice but to work on the complex type since the assignment was done through draw-lots. Since each group was composed of only two Filipinos and the rest were Japanese students, we thought that it would be hard to accomplish the project of making a speaker box. Although the medium of communication was English, there had been some difficulties in interacting with the Japanese, especially when it came to sharing the ideas for the design and explaining some concepts. Despite all of this, working with the Japanese was a fruitful, fun and learning experience. Through the speaker box making, we were able to learn a lot from the Japanese and vice-versa. In this project, both Filipino and Japanese students needed to be open-minded since both nationalities had different cultures, views and approaches in handling things. Creativity and being innovative also played a big role in this project, since all of the groups had to make the same type of speakers – the bass reflex and the back loaded horn type of speaker. Also, patience, perseverance, teamwork and determination were the very essential concepts learned and applied during the speaker box making. Patience truly played an important role especially to the groups that made the back loaded horn type of speaker, because this required a great amount of time and effort in designing, cutting and assembling all the parts together. With a limited time of two weeks, we learned to work together with the Japanese students and do things together in every step of the way.



IMPRESSIONS: To learn the culture and life in Japan, Mr. Ronaldo Gallardo, DLSU CE Dept Chair and TokyoTech Office (Phils) manager, planned our daily activities. Everyday after our class, we visited different places around Tokyo like Shibuya, Akihabara, and Ginza. We also toured the TokyoTech campus. After a couple of hours of observing and enjoying the scenery around the campus, we realized that the campus is large enough that a day would not be sufficient to tour around it. As each day passes by, we seem to get exhausted and tired but this never hindered us to venture into place we have never visited before. Each day made us realized how beautiful the country of Japan is.



From this trip, we observed distinct impressions and differences between Japan and the Philippines. One of the first things we learned about the Japanese is that they are punctual and organized. Trains, the main mode of transportation, are on time, even to the last minute. As a result of trains being on time, everyone else must also be aware of the time. Train stations are filled to the brim with rushing *salary men* or office workers during rush hours and rushing commuters who want to catch the next train. Escalators had two lanes: the left side is for those who aren't rushing, and the right for those who are in a hurry.

Another observation we had is that Tokyo has clean and wonderful sidewalks, the kind that heel-wearers of Manila could only dream of walking on. We also noticed a lack of cars in the suburbs. The streets in the suburbs were narrow enough for only one car to pass, and most of the time, people were the ones traversing those streets. Buildings were narrow and tall. When we walked around Ginza and Ueno, we noticed that the only kinds of cars we saw were taxis, trucks and really expensive cars. We never saw the streets clogged with cars – only with people. Akihabara, Harajuku and Shibuya were especially clogged with people, especially on the days when we decided to go there on a weekend. And the people walk really fast, fast enough that we slow-walking Filipinos started to clog up the sidewalk. There were no sidewalk vendors and in their place, there were vending machines at every other street. Their trash bins are properly labeled as *pet bottles*, *cans*, *combustible* and *incombustible*. Smokers are only allowed to smoke on designated areas, and smoking while walking is prohibited in most areas. Bikes are common among commuters whose working places are far away from the stations and as such, there are designated parking spaces for bicycles in several areas.

Third is about how expensive Japan was. Drinks bought from the vending machines were around 110 to 160 yen but only costs about 50 yen in the Philippines. The cheapest meals were around 200 to 300 yen, while the average meal costs around 300 to 500 yen; and cooked rice bought from the convenience store is around 80 to 100 yen per serving which costs only 10 yen in our country. Train rides were around 120 to 200 yen, depending on how far your destination is but only costs approximately 25 yen in the Philippines.

Lastly, we noticed how quiet Tokyo was. The loudest things we have heard while touring Metropolitan Tokyo were the trains, the alarm that rang when the train doors were about to close, the street parade that passed by, and the crowd of Shibuya. People converse in quiet whispers and most people don't talk at all on the train. Even the voice that announced the next station on the train was quiet. One would expect that for an area so large and so densely populated that it would be as loud as the streets of Manila on a particularly busy day. Instead, the only noise we heard on the busier streets were the noise of shoes hitting the pavement, the soft murmurs of the people and the voices of sales people shouting out bargains. The suburb was even quieter, and at night, there's nothing to be heard at all, except for the passing trains.

Through this, it showed that we did not only learn how to make a speaker box but most of all, we learned how to adapt to changes and appreciate the differences in culture between two countries – the Philippines and Japan. Knowledge. Experience. Friendship. Three words that can mark a person. Three words that we held grasp on. Three words that each of us would treasure forever! *Write-up by Katherine Marie de Asis, Airah Jane Hernandez, Jackie Madrazo, Stephanie Reasonoda.*

My Digital Eye by Andy Oreta

Photos on science, technology, culture and nature with short commentaries are welcome in this section. Send your interesting photos with comments to andyoreta@yahoo.com.

The Car of the Future

On exhibit at the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation (Mirai-kan) at Odaiba, Tokyo is a revolutionary electric car with eight wheels – the Advanced Electric Vehicle KAZ. Designed to have a maximum speed of 311 kph, its total energy efficiency is approximately 1.7 times greater than conventional gasoline-powered vehicles and emits only 1/3 the CO₂ of conventional vehicles.



Looks Yummy ... Itadakimasu!

One of the most fascinating things that you will remember about Japan are the attractive and tasty looking plastic (artificial) food displays in front of Japanese restaurants. For many foreigners who can not read the Japanese menu, these food displays are really helpful – you first see what you order. There is a plastic food district Kappabashi in Tokyo where you can buy different types of food displays – tempura, sushi, ramen, spaghetti, gyoza, omuraisu, etc. Oishii-soo.. Itadakimasu!

(Note: Matt only pretends to be holding the chopstick...but the chopsticks are actually supported by the noodles)

A Tokyo Tech Beauty

The TokyoTech campus has a number of beautiful flowers especially during summer. This is a close up picture of a flower blooming near the "tunnel" at TokyoTech. The photographer, Eden says "I got so attracted to this flower that I went back to the International House to get my camera so that I can capture its beauty." Indeed, like the photographer and her name, "Mariquit" in Filipino means beautiful - this flower is a Tokyo Tech beauty! Photo by Eden Mariquit



PHOTO GALLERY: ATTARS in 2008



ATTARS NEWS

Alma Bella P. Madrazo - *Editor-in-Chief* (alma_bella2002@yahoo.com)

Andy Oreta - *Associate and Lay-out Editor* (andvoreta@yahoo.com)

Website: <http://attarsphilippines.tripod.com/Index.htm>

E-Group: <http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/attars>