

## **The Philanthropy of the Filipino Diaspora**

*Year:* 2009

*Place of Fieldwork:* Philippines

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Key Words: Diaspora, philanthropy, Filipino organizations, transnational relations

### ***Research Background***

The approximate total population of the Filipino Diaspora is 8.7 million. The greater part, if not all, of this army of Filipino citizens worldwide is actively involved in the growing aspects of Diaspora giving either through individual remittances, hometown associations, civic society organizations, religious networks, and other formal and informal alliances.

In 2006, according to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), Japan ranks as the third most popular destination for temporary contract workers and seventh in the top ten remittance sending countries (estimated at \$4.01 million dollars in 2007). The Philippine Embassy in Tokyo has 56 registered organizations scattered all over Japan which are dynamically engaged in different ways of philanthropic activities.

### ***Research Purpose and Aim***

Objectives: a) to examine state-society relations on the aspect of Diaspora philanthropy; b) to understand and possibly measure the impact of Diaspora philanthropy; c) to establish relationships with Filipino organizations for comparative case study; d) to identify aspects of Diaspora philanthropy as transnational social capital

### ***Results and Achievements by Fieldwork***

It was possible to distinguish a number of relationships between the state and civil society regarding the issue of migration. The research indicates a number of diverse and complicated interactions that are shaped by each groups' priorities.

With regard to measuring the impact of such activities, the duration of the field work was not sufficient enough to build on establishing a measuring tool applicable to these types of projects, which are, generally, informal and small scale.

A number of promising relationships were established in the course of the fieldwork. Key organizations have been identified as crucial case studies for this area of research. Diaspora philanthropy as it appears to manifest among the interviewees and case studies transpires more closely on the trans-local rather than the transnational scale as most of the Filipinos abroad certify their region or hometown as the preferred venue and avenue of their philanthropic activities.

### ***Implications and Impacts on Future Research***

This current research will hopefully contribute in enriching the discourse on Diaspora philanthropy by providing an alternative perspective on the phenomenon. Filipino Diaspora philanthropy offers vivid variants that are unique in their manifestations.

*Selected Field Photos*



Interviewing a People's Organization leader in Bicol



Attending an NGO-organized National Conference on Diaspora Philanthropy



Interviewing the head of a farm-based cooperative in Nueva Ecija