



BCCP Post

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Chairman's Report

Chairman's 2007 Year End Perspective & New Year Message

The last 8 months have been especially active for the Chamber, as following a complete review of its organization and operation's structures & activities at a 2007-8 Board Retreat, I am pleased to report we have a successfully revitalized a very active and vibrant BCC-P going into 2008.



Since assuming the Chairmanship from May 2008 I have personally viewed from the "coal face" our Secretariat Office operations by acting as Operation's Manager. Equally by also being the Chamber's Executive Director I have had a hands on chance to see what is required to support our members as well as fully connect with the Philippine Government and both Local and Foreign Chambers & Business organizations plus play a part of the 15 Business Group made up of the top Foreign Chambers, Local Chamber & Business organizations who produced the Key 12 priority bills list to lobby the President, and Speaker & House Leaders in August and September 2007.

The highlight of the Chamber since May 2007 have been the establishment and effective operating of 5 internal Key sub committees.

The **Membership Committee** under Keith Perrin has seen membership numbers increase every month, including the return of a number of original BBA/BCC-P members. The Committee is currently reviewing the membership categories with plans to propose in the first quarter of 2008 a wider tier of membership options and benefits.

The **Events Committee** under Sarah McLeod has successfully staged monthly Social and Networking events, attracting ever increasing numbers which far exceeded most attendances at previous year's events.

Undoubtedly the highlights were the Networking evening's featuring as guest speakers Maria Resa of ABS-CBN and the successful 4 Filipino conquerors of Everest, including the first ever 3 females to climbed the mountain traversely.

We also held a number of combined events with BWA and the Lighthouse Club, culminating in our Christmas Party "Trifecta" which included Carols by the DSWD choir as part of the "Sing for me" Charity Programme.

The **Communications Committee** under Richard Eldridge and ably supported by Tony Sutton have a reestablished a "user friendly" BCC-P website which features up to date details on all upcoming Events with flyers and reply slip downloads. It also includes topical business articles of interest as well as the basic background information and membership application forms for new potential members.



Links are provided to other Societies and Associations, including UKDTI, BWA, Lighthouse Club, British School and the British Council. Additional links are being reviewed for inclusion in 2008.

In November the website added a Monthly Newsletter featuring current reports from all the Committee heads on what each has been doing in the previous month and planning for near future months.

This Committee are now reviewing a communications Advertising and Sponsorship rate structures for the Website, Newsletter and our regular Email circulations to members.

The **CGSR Committee** under Mike Whiting and ably supported by Craig Burrows has redefined the programmes envisaged under our joint agreement with DSWD signed earlier this year, and is also working on a number of new available programmes and activities throughout 2008.

One prominent activity this year was the BCC-P's lead coordination and securing of sponsorship by one of our Premier Corporate Sponsors AstraZeneca, for the Medical Mission to Tondo School in early December as part of the UK/RP Friendship Week.

Last and by no means least is our **Financial & Operations Committee** led by me together with Bill Bailey for Financial matters and Andrew Picken for Operational activities.

I am delighted our Outstanding Debtors both from the Membership renewals, Advertising and Events, are virtually cleared so that our Financial position is in its most secure position for many years, ensuring the move of our Secretariat Office to rental accommodation within the new British Embassy in Taguig during the 3rd quarter of 2008 will be financially manageable to ensure we retain and generate sufficient funds to take the Chamber forward to the mutual benefit of all its members.

The **Operational** side of the Committee has had to concentrate on a complicated legal matter concerning an ex-staff member, plus creating new contracts, job descriptions and responsibilities for current employees leading to finalizing the future near term Secretariat's new organizational structure.

For the foreseeable future I will continue to be the Executive Director as well as Chairman, but in the first half of 2008 we will also be recreating the post of Secretariat Manager responsible for the day to day running of all our back office activities.

This recruitment is already underway and attached below (and also featured on our website) is the Job's Qualifications, Roles and Responsibilities requirements template. I earnestly request all members to review this, and here I wish to thank Trixie Whyte and her team at Q2 HR Solutions for their help. If you know of any potentially qualified and suitable applicants please get them to send their application details personally to me as requested on the template, by the **deadline of Friday 15th February 2008**.

Finally and most importantly I must thank all of you, our BCC-P Members, and especially our Premier Sponsors Astrazeneca, BG Group, HSBC, Shell Exploration BV, Pilipinas Shell, Clark Aviation and GlaxoSmithKline; for the tremendous support all of you have personally given to me and my 2007-8 Board colleagues.

Here's to a great 2008!

Thank you and best wishes to you all.

Happy New Year!



Leslie J.Stokes

A Bit of Christmas Cheer.

With the busiest time of year in full swing (well traffic wise anyway), the BWA joined forces with the BCC-p and The Lighthouse to ensure that a great night was had by all on Thursday 22nd December back in 2007!

This year's final bash was once again held at the Palawan Center, where Mason ensured we had that 'soul' food which was so needed, the homemade pate, the smoked salmon spread, pastrami and beef deli sandwiches and of course some lovely mini pizza quiches, all of which were designed to soak up Linda's fantastic mulled wine (made to the exacting measurements of Esther's recipe). The Renaissance Hotel donated some delicious mince pies, freshly made that afternoon - they were still warm when I collected them - and the Dusit Hotel donated some lovely Christmas biscuits and stollen which all together ensured that we all had a wonderful evening.

This year, Michael Whiting and his team have been working with the DSWD on community issues for the BCC-p, and so we invited their choir to come along and join us in singing some favourites carols. They were great, and we all enjoyed the seasonal songs which lifted our spirits. We made a Santa collection on the night for their good causes which resulted in a total of 21,000 pesos being placed in Santa's hat and boots (thanks Linda and Sheila).



Whilst we had not intended that any money be made at this event, we did end up with a small surplus, so 6,000 pesos was given to Craig Burrows to buy emergency goods to be added to the collection being made at Murphy's Irish Pub for the survivors of a horrific fire that happened just before Christmas. We had just over 3,000 pesos left to ensure that the BWA Santa Suit could be dry cleaned, repaired and refurbished with new fur attached to the hat, and put safely away for another year's rest. This year 'Santa' was used 9 times, not only by the BWA, but also by the British Embassy, the Australian Embassy and AXA Philippines, so very good use was made of him, and of course everyone who met him was thrilled!

Thanks to all those who helped to ensure our last 'big' bash for 2007 went with a bang, and I look forward to seeing you all again in 2008!

Sarah McLeod

Dates for the Diary

- 17th January 2008 Joint European Chambers Social Networking Night
Prince of Jaipur Fort Bonifacio 6:30 to 9:30 pm
- 31st January 2008 UK Consular/ Visa Seminar (Exclusive for members only)
Boardroom 2, 2/F Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City 6:30-9:30pm

While Leo made the first successful Filipino ascent of Everest in May 2006, Janet, Karen and Noelle were the first Filipinas, and the first women from an ASEAN nation to reach the summit of the 29,198 foot mountain, and, astonishingly, the first women in the world ever to traverse Everest from one side to the other, on May 16th, 2007. We heard of their training experiences from 2004, and the mental, physical and family hardships they endured without any guarantee of success or reward. Nevertheless, they persevered to conquer a formidable challenge, proving that Filipinos of both genders can achieve anything they put their minds to with the minimum of resources, and become members of an elite club of the few who have stood on the earth's highest point.

KEY ACTIVITIES

January – February 2008

DATE

9 – 10 January
UK's DEFRA

EVENT

Visit to Manila by representatives of the British Pig Association and the

25 – 28 February

Contact Emma Leister emma.leister@fco.gov.uk
Mission of approx 14 British companies to ADB HQ

Contact: Fidel Ventura (fidel.ventura@fco.gov.uk)

For more information on any of the above events please free to contact the lead person as shown.

