

# GMA to award outstanding OFWs

President Arroyo will lead the awarding of outstanding Filipinos and organizations from around the world today as part of the celebration of the Month of Overseas Filipinos and the International Migrant's Day.

A total of 31 people and organizations will be honored in this year's Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas, a biennial search for overseas-based individuals and organizations who have dedicated their work in the service, advancement and improvement of the lives of Filipinos, particularly in the marginalized sector in the Philippines and abroad.

It is also given to Filipinos who have excelled in their field or profession.

Since it was institutionalized in December 1991 by virtue of Executive Order 498, the award has so far been conferred on 283 Filipinos and foreigners and private organizations overseas.

According to the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, the awardees were evaluated by Philippine consulates and embassies prior to the final selection by the technical committee.

The awards will be given for four categories.

The "Lingkod sa Kapwa Pilipino" award recognizes Filipino associations or individuals for their exceptional or significant contribution to Philippine reconstruction, progress and development.

The recipients of this award are Tobias Enverga Jr., (New York); Laurence Ligier (Toronto); Association of Philippine Physicians of America (New York); Filipino Women's Association United Kingdom (London); and Stitching Kapatiran (The Hague).

The "Banaag" award is given to Filipinos whose contributions have significantly benefited a sector or community in the

Philippines, or advanced a cause of overseas Filipino communities.

The Banaag awardees are Alexander Asuncion (Riyadh); Patricia Bernabe (New York); Angeles Carandang (Chicago); Mary Aida Casambre (Hong Kong); Esperanza Derpo (Abuja); Lamberto Garcia (Seoul); Eleanor Ho (Taipei); Joseph Magdalena (Riyadh); Santiago Muzones Jr. (New York); Dr. Antonio Noblejas (Wellington); Lilian Overs (Toronto); Adeline Philipsen (The Hague); Filipino Korean Spouses Association (Seoul); Philippine Community Council of New South Wales (Sydney); Philippine Nurses Association of America (New York); and United Filipino Council of Hawaii (Honolulu).

The "Kaanib ng Bayan" award is accorded to foreign individuals or organizations for their exceptional or significant contributions to Philippine reconstruction, progress and development, or whose contributions significantly benefited a Philippine sector or community, or advanced the cause of overseas Filipino communities.

This award will be given to the Catholic Medical Mission Board (New York); Children's Chance NY (New York); and Heetens Helpgood Center Philippines (The Hague).

The "Pamana ng Pilipino" award is conferred on overseas Filipinos who have brought honor and recognition through excellence and distinction in the pursuit of their work or profession.

The recipients of this award are Amelita Besa and Romeo Dorotan (New York); Bayani de Leon (New York); Carlos Esguerra (New York); Federico Hizon (Singapore); Libertito Pelayo (New York); Dr. Teresita Ramos (Honolulu); and Engr. Nilo Villarín (Washington).