TO: ALL AGENCIES/ENTITIES CONDUCTING PDOS

RE: Dissemination of Information on the Bagong Bayani Awards During PDOS

The Bagong Bayani Awards (BBA), an annual search for outstanding overseas contract workers since 1984 under the auspices of the Bagong Bayani Foundation, Inc. (BBFI) in coordination with POEA, has to date given due recognition and incentives to some thirty-one (31) OCWs and seafarers for their notable achievements and adherence to the Code of Discipline for Filipino OCWs.

So that more OCWs with exemplary accomplishments and sterling records of performance and discipline would have equal chances of gaining recognition under this Bagong Bayani Awards program, all agencies and entities are hereby enjoined to include in their PDOS syllabus a brief discussion of the basic information on the BBA to help expand the scope and reach of the project.

Attached for this purpose is an outline-module which can be used by PDOS trainers as reference in presenting the objectives and mechanics of the BBA to increase the awareness of OCWs and their kins on the significance and benefits of projecting good image and positive traits of the Filipino as an international worker and an Ambassador of Goodwill in his own right.

For information and compliance.

20 April 1992

MEO - EB- MD
PDOS MODULE ON THE BAGONG BAYANI AWARDS

WHAT IS THE BAGONG BAYANI FOUNDATION?

The Bagong Bayani Foundation, Inc. (BBFI) is a non-stock, non-profit organization conceived to uphold the new heroes of our time, the overseas workers. It works hand in hand with POEA in paying tribute to the Filipino overseas through the Bagong Bayani Awards.

WHAT ARE ITS OBJECTIVES?

@ To promote the recognition and appreciation of the role of the Filipino overseas worker in Philippine society/economy;

@ To foster high standards of responsibility, efficiency and integrity among Filipino workers;

@ To determine the criteria and procedure or the selection of outstanding Filipino worker; and

@ To solicit donations/contributions from the public and private sectors to finance the activities of the Foundation.

The BBFI institutionalizes private sector participation in its Bagong Bayani project in line with the government's thrust for close coordination with the active participation in the overseas employment industry.

WHAT IS THE BAGONG BAYANI AWARDS?

The Bagong Bayani Awards is an annual search for the country's outstanding overseas workers. Initially launched by the POEA in 1984, the project is now under the sponsorship of the Bagong Bayani Foundation, Inc.

The Bagong Bayani Awards is conceived to give due recognition to the Filipino worker for his outstanding contribution both as a paradigm of national skills and talents and as an ambassador of goodwill as a whole. The term "Bagong Bayani" which literally means the "new hero" was coined project as new form of heroism.
the growing significance of the role of the overseas contract worker as a contributor to the country's foreign exchange earnings through his remittance and by being less of a burden to society by being employed.

Given the fact that this undertaking caters to the Filipino overseas contract worker, the search will cover both land-based workers and seamen who are aboard foreign ocean-going vessels.

**WHO MAY BE NOMINATED?**

Any overseas contract worker (land-based or seamen), past or current, provided that the act for which he is being nominated was achieved by him while an overseas worker.

**WHO MAY NOMINATE?**

Anyone (co-worker, relative, employee, manning/placement agent, industry association, Philippine Embassy/Consulates, etc.) except DOLE, POEA employees.

**WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA?**

The candidate shall be nominated for an outstanding contribution made or accomplished while an overseas worker.

Outstanding contribution in this sense is loosely defined as any accomplishment, feat, exploit, deed, or act of heroism of the worker which have contributed considerably to either:

1. fostering the good relations between the Philippines and the host country; or
2. enhancing the image of the Filipino as responsible and a competent worker.

**WHO WERE SOME OF THE PAST BBA Awardees AND WHAT WERE THEIR ACCOMPLISHMENTS?**

1. **DANNY DE LA CRUZ**

   He is a Filipino seafarer. He saved the life of the vessel's master, Capt. Jeeris, who had suffered injury and

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exhaustion during the explosion of AET Summer at the same time encountering difficulty with his lifejacket. Amid the heavy, smelling oil slicked, he supported the Captain during their six-hour swim while seeking for rescue ships.

2. RAMON NAGUITA

Ensuring the welfare of his fellow Filipinos and helping those in distress has been part of Mr. Naguita's nine-year overseas stint. Realizing the need for a link between the Emirate government and the Filipinos, he helped organized the United Filipino Association in Al-Ain, UAE which until now has been helping countless of Filipinos in the Emirates encountering problems particularly with their employers.

3. MILOR EERNAL

He is model Filipino who strived relentlessly to make a name and not only for himself but also for all Filipino workers abroad. A recipient of many citations and awards, he exhibited diligence and cooperation by accepting higher position without additional remuneration thus winning the trust and respect of his employers. He was one of the few who was selected to train Naval personnel.

4. JUANITA CORROS

Aside from participating from numerous nursing research projects and being an active member of the nursing committee, she also figured in the recent Gulf crisis, where she coordinated closely with the Philippine Embassy in assisting our countrymen who were fleeing Kuwait. She was very active in organizing the proper distribution of food and medical donations and even "adopted" a Filipino refugee family for a short period. Juanita also assisted the KFSH in recruiting several nurses who were displaced from Kuwait and were then stranded in Saudi Arabia.

5. YOLANDA JURADO

In 1987, a law in Saipan was put in place that would drastically affect the lives of non-resident families working in the island. It called for the immediate deportation of the

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families of overseas contract workers who were earning less than US$ 20,000 a year. More than three hundred immediate relatives of workers were going to be affected and it was out of this situation that Yolanda Jurado and Rev. Dwight Chapman established the Committee for Non-residents Dependents in January 1991.

Under the guidance of Father Chapman and Ms. Jurado, their group actively lobbied against the bill which would separate children and wives from their husbands.

Putting her job on the line (she was still working with a Saipan company at the time), Ms. Jurado went around soliciting the support of key people. She worked long hours over and above her own job to see that justice for the families would be carried out. She even raised funds in order to get the services of a lawyer.