



2011 International Assembly and Conference on Rizal  
Order of the Knights of Rizal  
Manila Hotel  
February 17-19, 2011

To all our Knights,  
KABABAIHANG RIZALISTA, INC.  
MACLARIZ  
KAPARIZ  
And all Affiliate Organizations,  
IHQ Staff

Manila, 28 February 2011

## Reflections and Looking Forward

### *The prelude*

About two weeks before the 2011 International Assembly and Conference on Rizal (the Assembly), the Organizing Committee under the Over-all Chairmanship of Sir Roger Quiambao, KGCR, was quite worried. At that time only about 50 overseas knights had registered and not even a hundred knights from all our islands. You could say this low count happens before every international assembly, but it was more critical this year, because of the higher cost of the venue and the personalities involved particularly if the President of the Republic accepts our invitation, which he did, and for that we are most grateful. It really highlighted our event and placed it squarely on the map of prestige.



*Knights of Rizal bring floral offerings to the monument of Dr José Rizal, at Bagumbayan*



*Part of the large crowd that offered flowers at the foot of the Monument to Dr. Jose Rizal in the early morning of 17 Feb. 2011 proudly pose with Sir Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr., KGCR (third from left). They are backdropped by the historic Manila Hotel, venue of the 2011 International Assembly.*

*Welcome and thanks to all our Knights*

Nonetheless, all that is water under the bridge and the Assembly attracted about 350 delegates and guests worldwide, including their spouses and affiliated groups. This year, every region was represented, including the Middle East and Africa. The Supreme Council thanks everybody for coming and making this Assembly an historic success. Historic because of the conferment of the Knight Grand Cross of Rizal on our President, His Excellency, Benigno S. Aquino III, as this completes the line of presidents knighted to the fifth degree. His Excellency's father, the late Senator Benigno Aquino Jr. was knighted posthumously in 1986.



*His Excellency, President Benigno S. Aquino III, is congratulated (left to right) by Sir Rogelio M. Quiambao, KGCR, Sir Emilio S. Yap, KGCR, Sir Justo P. Torres, KGCR, Supreme Commander Emeritus, and Sir Pablo Trillana III, KGCR, Supreme Commander on His Excellency's conferment of membership with the rank of Knight Grand Cross of Rizal.*



*His Excellency, President Benigno S. Aquino III, is conferred the Order's Sash and Medallion of Honor as Knight Grand Cross of Rizal. Sir Reghis M. Romero II, KGCR, Sir Jeremias C. Singson, KGOR, and Sir Mayor Alfredo S. Lim, KGCR do the honors.*

The Supreme Council also wishes to assure all our knights, that we do firmly recognize the importance of the Regional and Area Commanders in the chain of command and appreciate their knowledge of the local situations. And that is why, concerning petitions, citations and other requests received here at Headquarters, the first question asked is what did the Regional Commander say or recommend.

*Our Philippine Knights, Kababaihang Rizalista, KAPARIZ, MACLARIZ*

The Supreme Council is pleased too with the turnout of knights from our own islands. The Supreme Council appreciates those who took the effort to get here from the far cities, like Davao and Bohol. We are also glad with the turnout of members of the Kababaihang Rizalista with their President, Lady Bernardita Lizardo, KAPARIZ Youth Coordinators, and MACLARIZ members with their President, Dr. Erlinda Garcia. Many thanks for coming and making our Assembly a success.



*Kababaihang Rizalista and MACLARIZ members add color and beauty to the 2011 Assembly.*



*At the Manila City Hall, Sir Mayor Alfredo S. Lim, KGCR joins members of the Order as follows (left to right): Sir Rodolfo Suarez, KCR (Nagcarlan), Sir Arnold Montero, KCR (Manila), Sir Raymund Liongson, KCR (Hawaii), and Sir Judge Antonio Manzano, KCR (Calamba).*



*Ms. Gemma Cruz Araneta and Kababaihang Rizalista members: Lady Linda Mayo (New Jersey), Lady Bernardita Lizardo (KB International President), Lady Rixit Repotente (Bonn, Germany), Lady Myra Almeida (Brussels), and Lady Cora Manlulu (Pasig).*

*Courtesy call on Mayor Lim*

The knights also paid a courtesy call on our fellow knight, Sir Alfredo S. Lim, KGCR, Honorable Mayor of Manila, co-hosted by our very own international beauty queen and descendant of Rizal, Ms. Gemma Cruz who is Executive Assistant to the Mayor and Vice-Chairperson of the Manila Historical and Heritage Commission. The Office of Mayor Lim treated the delegates and guests to a hearty lunch and arranged a special speaker in the person of Dr. Floro Quibuyen, historian, author, and professor based in Australia.

### *Hunters troop the colors*

We were blessed again this year. The original color guard of the Philippine Marines was not able to perform the trooping of the colors for us. Fortunately, we had just chartered a new chapter, the Hunters, composed of several branches of the armed forces who are members of the joint military rescue team under Sir Captain Joebert Tolentino, KCR Chapter Commander from the Philippine Coast Guard. They trooped the colors in full gala uniform. Their precision performance was wonderful! And we do hope to count on Hunters Chapter for all trooping of the colors or guard of honor. Bravo, Sir Joebert and the Hunters.

### *Rigodon*

It was also very heartwarming to see how several MACLARIZ ladies participating in the Rigodon, together with the KAPARIZ and our own IHQ staff ladies. Our thanks to Lady Gigi Davide who organized this and the dance instructor, Mike Remonde. Maganda talaga ang ating mga ladies in terno at balintawak! Everyone we talked to, loved this elegant dance of 'arrogance!'



*Ms Meriel Bansil performs the Rigodon. See her magic touch!*



*After a beautiful performance of the Rigodon de Honor (the French Quadrille), participants pose in their colorful Ternos and Barongs.*

*Banda Kawayan, Exhibit and Dances, Paintings, Books*

The Banda Kawayan (composed of PUP students) sponsored by Sir Reghis Romero, KGCR played liling songs to the delight of the audience, accompanied by their graceful dances which wowed the audience.

We were all very pleased also to watch the performance of songs and dances by the Pamantasan ng Lungsod Pasig's *Himig* and *Pasigyaw* respectively. These were a perfect setting for the exhibit of historical paintings by members of the Juan Luna Chapter, Pasig. Our thanks to Mrs Andrea Morales Edang, of the Philippine Association of Museums and Sir Noel Rivera, KCR, Chapter Commander of the Juan Luna Chapter and the Pasig City Museum.



*Dancers of Pamantasan ng Lungsod Pasig (Pasigyaw) perform a vibrant, nationalistic number.*

Our publications this year were also successful. They were : *Gliceria Marella: Angel of the Revolution*, revised and edited by Sir Carlos Arnaldo, KGCR; the Spanish original text was authored by Francisco C. Zaragoza, and the first English translation was done by Sir Alfredo Veloso, KCR; *Hagonoy: a Shared Past*, edited by Sir Pablo Trillana III, KGCR; and *Mga Bagong Bayani\_Book 2* by Sir Enrique Sadosa and Pierre Tremblay. We thank Ms Estella Robles Veloso for sharing the use of the first English translation by Sir Alfred, KCR; and thanks to Sir Teody Hidalgo, KR for excellent page design and printing.



*Lady Virginia Davide (middle) receives the Plaque of Appreciation as Guest of Honor and Speaker during the opening of the Art Exhibit: The Boy Rizal and the Book Launching. Mrs. Andrea Morales-Edang of the Philippine Association of Museums, Inc. (PAMI) hands over the Plaque as Sir Pablo S. Trillana III , KGCR, Supreme Commander witnesses the ceremony.*

*Our prestigious and learned speakers*

The Supreme Council Trustees are all deeply indebted to our guest speakers who not only graced this occasion with their presence, but shared with us their innermost reflections on Rizal, patriotism and the future of the Philippines in the throes of rapid change and trying to beat corruption in government. We all appreciated the universality of Rizal, hero, not just of Asia but of the world as explained by Sir Chief Justice Davide, KGCR; the intellectual argumentations of Dr Lydia Echauz; the modern ideas of climactic change and utopism presented by Dr Nicanor Perlas; and the sober reflections concerning the injustices brought upon the Rizal family as recounted by Sir Chief Justice Reynato Puno.



*Sir Chief Justice Reynato Puno, KGCR (middle) receives the golden bust of Rizal after speaking as a member of the Assembly's Panel of Distinguished Speakers. Sir Roger M. Quiambao, KGCR, the Hon Nicanor Perlas, another Distinguished Speaker, Sir Pablo S. Trillana III, KGCR, and Sir Diosdado Santos, KGOR look with approbation.*



*FEU President, the Hon. Dr. Lydia B. Echauz, after her talk on “Rizal and System Thinking”, with Assembly guests, Lisa Bayot (descendant of Rizal) and Lois Ilustre.*

### *Workshops and Resolutions*

The Supreme Council was most pleased to see the Regional and Area Commanders, and other Knights and guests taking active part in the program of activities, especially in the workshops and the deliberations on the resolutions. Three resolutions were approved: (i) mainstreaming innovations for the youth through technology training education; (ii) providing assistance on chapter twinning relationships for coordination and cooperation in rendering community service; and (iii) adoption of open and transparent communications and increased participation among brother knights through the use of appropriate technology. A special resolution thanking Sir Dr. Emilio T. Yap, KGCR, for his warm accommodation and support leading to the successful Assembly was unanimously approved.

We all deeply appreciate the contribution that the Organizational Change Consultants Inc (OCCI) made in setting up and guiding the workshops. Clay modeling was a perfect way to illustrate concretely what these resolutions were about, and we see that, next occasion, we have to budget time for presenting the sculpted resolutions as well. Thank you Sir Roger, KGCR, for calling the Workshop Chairmen and Rapporteurs to discuss and hone down the resolutions to the ‘biteable’ and the ‘doable.’



*Sir Eddie Limon, KGOR, Regional Commander USA explaining his group's clay modeling*



*After the Plenary Session, which approved three regular resolutions and a special resolution of thanks to Sir Dr. Emilio T. Yap, KGCR, members of the Supreme Council and Council of Elders pose with overseas and national chapter members.*



## *Awards*

What would be an international assembly without awards?

This year, we have been very strict with the awards, not only examining in detail the achievements and merits presented, but also looking into whether the Regional Commanders have endorsed the candidates. The number of awards may be less, particularly in the higher ranks of the Order but represent concrete achievements and reflects a desire to confer based on merit.

The Supreme Council and the Supreme Commander sincerely congratulate all those who won these distinctions and elevations. The Supreme Commander also offers the special congratulations of the Supreme Council to Sir Dr. Emilio S. Yap, KGCR for his continued support to the Knights and the cause of education and leadership training. For this we have conferred upon him in a private ceremony, as he would have preferred, the unique distinction of the Order, the El Amor Patrio Award with the profile of José Rizal in gold on a chain bearing the coats of arms of the first eight provinces that rebelled against Spain. And we also congratulate Sir Virgilio R. Esguerra, KGCR, our former Supreme Commander, who was conferred the Pro Patria Award for his long years of service to the Order and especially for his contribution to the peace and unification mission in the Order and the healing process afterwards.



*Sir Virgilio R. Esguerra, KGCR, awarded the Pro Patria*



*Members of the Supreme Council witness the conferment of Lifetime Membership on Sir Enrique Sadiosa, KCR, author of the book: “Mga Bagong Bayani-Book II” which was launched during the Assembly.*

*Uso pa rin si Rizal!*

The youth leaders also performed exquisitely songs and dances during the Dinner Show. We wish to heartily congratulate the whole team, starting with Lady Gigi, wife of our own former Supreme Commander, Sir Hilario G. Davide Jr., KGCR, Sir Joey Lina, KGCR, Sir Reynold Mateo, KGOR, Ms Angela Marie Cahoy of KAPARIZ, and Mr. Christian Alvear of the Tanghalang Banyuhay. Sir Joey took us from kundiman to rap! Lady Gigi hypnotized us with her ‘No other love.’ The reaction to the performance was so outstandingly positive, the Supreme Council is thinking of the possibility of a command performance possibly at the RCBC auditorium the week before June 19.

The last day of the three day Assembly was capped by an optional mini golf tournament among the Knights organized by Sir Horace Templo, KGOR. Others opted to join a tour of the Museum of Philippine Political History at the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) and a visit to the Rizal Shrine in Calamba organized by the knights and ladies headed by Supreme Pursuivant Sir Samuel Samuela, KGOR, Southern Luzon Regional Commander Sir Esmer Plastina, KGOR and Chapter Commander, Sir Judge Tony Manzano, KCR who prepared a hearty lunch and a short program for the overseas delegates. The delegates returned to Manila not only with memories of Jose Rizal’s birthplace but also with native *pasalubongs*.



*After the hard work, members of the Council of Elders and the Supreme Council relax on stage to savor the superb moment of accomplishment.*

Again, many thanks, to all who came, who worked and who brought success to the Order! And may we give special recognition to all the members of the Organizing Committee, particularly to the outstanding work of Sir Roger Quiambao, KGCR (Over-all Chairman), Sir Ver Esguerra, KGCR (Programs), Sir Reghis Romero, II, KGCR (Resource Mobilization), and Sir Vicente G. Ramos, KGOR (Administrative and Finance); also to Sir Carmelo T. Gempesaw, KGCR whose presence showed commitment and solidarity with the Order under any circumstance; likewise to our IHQ staff who not only worked hard for several months before the Assembly and still have one or two months of post Assembly work, but also participated in the Rigodon, and other activities of the Order. They are also the core staff of our special project, *Batang Pier-Sabado Eskuela*.

Our highest compliments to you all. You made the Assembly a huge success and an unforgettable experience. Again our deep thanks. We look forward to future assemblies with renewed hope and anticipation. God Bless us all.

Non Omnis Moriar!

**For the Supreme Council:**

**Sir Samuel S. Samuela, KGOR**  
Supreme Pursuivant

Noted by:

**Sir Fabio S. Trillana III, KGCR**  
Supreme Commander