



Tinig ng Tropa

Tropa ng Kabataang Pinoy sa Deutschland



By: Consul Gary Auxilian

The Tropa ng Kabataang Pinoy in Deutschland, a Filipino youth group in Bonn, Germany, celebrated the Fiesta ng Kabataang Pinoy 2007 on 16 June at the Rheinauenpark in Bonn. Supported by the Philippine Embassy Bonn Extension Office and the different Filipino communities in Bonn and archdiocese of Cologne, the Fiesta was the Filipino youth's meaningful way of joining the world-wide celebration of the 109th anniversary of the declaration of Philippine Independence in 12 June.

The theme of the fiesta was "*Celebrating the Filipino Spirit*". This was chosen by the youth themselves because they want to promote and nurture awareness of the Filipino culture and tradition in the minds of the young Filipinos in Germany.

The Fiesta was conceptualized by Tropa to raise funds to support the participation of the Filipino youth group in the Archdiocese of Cologne in the coming World Youth Day celebration in Sydney, Australia in July 2008. They hope that by participating in it, they will be able to nurture the seed of faith in the hearts of the youths as brought about by their joining in the World Youth Day in 2005 in Köln. It is also intended to raise some funds to support a project of the

organization called CRIBS (Create Responsive Infants by Sharing) in the Philippines, which provides assistance to young female victims of abuse.

As an opening event of the day-long celebration of the Fiesta, there was a Santacruzán at 11:00 o'clock in the morning. It was a colorful parade along the park's pathways by the lake leading to the amphitheater. Participated in by the beautiful ladies dressed in elegant and colorful traditional Philippine gowns or mestiza dresses, Santacruzán commemorates the finding of the cross by St. Elena. This year's *Reyna Elena* is Ms. Bernice Portentado. This was followed by a Living Rosary, which was



joined by the individuals from the different Filipino religious communities in the archdiocese of Cologne, each representing the 60 beads of the Holy

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QUOTE OF THE DAY

**Love
builds bridges
where there are none.**

- R.H. Delaney

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Rosary.

The main highlight of the day was a



thanksgiving mass officiated by Fr. Jun De Ocampo, SVD, chaplain of the Filipino communities in the archdiocese of Cologne. In his unique and interesting German-Tagalog homily, Fr. Jun pointed out that there are many Filipino values that we need to bring back to mind during the



celebration. Foremost of these is the bayanihan spirit. The word "bayanihan" stems from two possible Filipino rootwords: bayan (homeland) and bayani (hero). A hero is somebody who offered his life for the welfare of the country. Andres Bonifacio, Jose Rizal and Ninoy Aquino sacrificed their lives to attain freedom for the Philippines. Filipino migrants in Germany, he said, are considered "modern heroes" because they do sacrifice to send financial support back home to the Philippines. He emphasized that bayanihan spirit is a real Filipino spirit – the Spirit of Jesus, who is our noblest hero. Following Jesus' ultimate advice before he died on the cross – to love one another, he reminded the people present, especially the Filipinos, to be a hero to each other by saying "Magbayanihan kayo."

Other highlights of the celebration were the holding of the Filipino parlor games, tombola/raffle draw, a cultural program featuring modern and Filipino cultural dances and song numbers from selected Filipino communities as

well as a search for Little Miss Philippines 2007. Also part of the event was an On-the-Spot Poster Making contest on the theme "Together we achieve a better future" (see "When Colors Speak" on this issue).

Consul Gary Auxilian, Officer-in-Charge of the Philippine Embassy Bonn Extension Office, delivered a welcome remark during the cultural program. He reminded the Filipinos that it was on 12 June 1898 in Kawit, Cavite when the Philippines first declared its independence from Spain which colonized it for more than 300 years. The Philippines takes pride of being the first republic in Asia. He said that "we, Filipinos should be thankful to our national heroes like Dr. Jose Rizal, Andres Bonifacio, etc. for the freedom and liberty the Philippines, as a country, and we, as Filipino citizens, enjoy today." The Philippines is now considered as one of the most active and dynamic democratic countries in the world today. It is also one of the fastest growing economies in Asia having registered a 6.9 percent GNP growth in the first quarter of 2007, which is the highest in the last 17 years. He explained that the theme for this year's Independence Day celebration is "Sama-sama Tayo Tungo sa Pag-aseño." He then encouraged the Filipinos in Germany to remain united and supportive of each other and to do their share in order to preserve and nurture their freedom and attain sustainable progress and development in the Philippines.



The Tropa ng Kabataang Pinoy gave a great opening dance number (a slight downpour notwithstanding) for the cultural program by performing their own interpretation of a piece from the



High School Musical. The Filipina mothers and the youths from the Philippine community in Mönchengladbach, meanwhile rendered a series of lively and wonderful Philippine folk dances such as Sayaw Bulaklakan, Pandanggo and Tinikling.

Six (6) very cute and talented kids joined the much-awaited Search for Little Miss Philippines 2007 and obliged the audience to follow and watch their presentation through out the show. It was hosted by the ever charming and lively pair, Ms. Marivic Sagum and Mr. Oggie Maristela. This year's winners for the Search for Little Miss Philippines were as follows: Little Miss Philippines 2007 (Lauren Rennert); First Runner-up (Mariel Vanessa Stephan), and Second Runner-up (Dina Hupper).



As an important element of the Fiesta, different Filipino organizations also put up stands not just to sell Filipino foods and drinks and different Filipino products to the visiting public but also to extend financial support to the Tropa. These are Boholanon in Germany e.V., Couples for Christ Bonn, Shalom Charismatic Community, The Loved Flock Community, the Knights and Ladies for Rizal, Children of the Southern Cross Foundation, Bergheim Community, Western Union, among others.

From the fiesta goers

“Ich fand die Fiesta ganz toll. Ich wollte eigentlich beim Little Miss Philippines mitmachen aber ich duerfte nicht. Zu schade. Aber Tatsache ist, alle waren froehlich.”

Nina Auxilian, 8
Bonn

“Tropa Fiesta 2007 was a feast of success, full of Filipino heritage and victory for the Filipino youth in Germany. Congratulations, Tropa. You are the next Filipino Heroes (Batang Bayani) to carry our culture into a foreign land.”

- Logy Ewig
Couples for Christ, Bonn

“Fiesta is a good idea for an activity for the youth because they are able to express themselves and learn responsibilities (like organizing such projects on their own).”

- Yolly Roncal
Shalom Community, Bonn

“Fiesta ng Kabataang Pinoy is a wonderful day for the youth. It was a step forward, made by the kabataan, for the different communities to meet and know each other. Despite of the weather, the youth showed their interest in participating in the different activities. Knowing that part of the proceeds of the Tropa’s project will be sent to the Philippines, let’s hope and pray for the youth. More power, Tropa ng Kabataang Pinoy.”

- Zenaida de Ramayo,
Servants of God, Bonn

“It was a great event to connect the Filipinos, second generation Filipinos, Germans and me (the

only Chinese probably) together. For me, it was a surprise to see the Consul, Father Jun, the young boys and girls work so closely together to make the Fiesta a very successful event. I really enjoyed the atmosphere, the food, and of course, the wonderful show!”

- Aiping Chen-Schmitz
Bonn

“Maganda ang ginawa ng kabataan dahil ang dapat sa mga Filipino, palaging nagkakaisa. At naipakita ‘yun. Ang Unterstuetzung sa kabataan, lagi dapat ibigay ‘yan, (dahil) kayo (ang kabataan) ang papalit sa amin (mga matatanda). Tulungan dapat talaga ang mga kabataan dahil sila ang next generation.”

- Theo Angulo
Phil-German Community, Oberberg

“Maganda ang presentation... simula sa Santracruzang hanggang sa programme. Entertaining siya lalo na ‘yung Ms. Bulilit (Little Miss Philippines). Ein Stueck Heimat (kaya) it’s worth the time na pumunta, kahit maghapon. Hindi ka mag-sisisi.”

- Jovie Hitzmann
Bochum

“Hindi ko makakalimutan ang fiesta dahil astig siya! Fiesta ay isang tradition at mula pagkabata nasanay ako na bawat taon, may salu-salo at tawanan. Kaya nga pumunta talaga ‘ko dun. Since pumunta ‘ko ng Germany, hindi ko na naransan ang fiesta, so sana next year ulit.

- Venz

When colors speak

By: Ays Espiritu

We believe in the talents of the Filipino youth. There is so much more in them than singing, dancing and acting. We can attest to that since we have worked with them for some years now. It needs not to be proven. The best thing to do is to find a project that would cater to developing them.

When the date of FKP 2007 was set just a few days after the Philippine Independence Day, the opportunity presented itself and the on-the-spot poster-making contest was conceived. It aimed to showcase the Filipino youth’s talent in visual arts particularly in painting and drawing and to raise awareness of our culture and tradition.

On 9 June 2007, four young ladies made their way to St. Augustin Kloster and showed their talents in drawing. It’s amazing how they illustrated the theme, “Zusammen schaffen wir eine bessere Zukunft”, taken from the Independence Day’s theme in the Philippines. At their young age they visualized their ideas and dreams of how a better future was supposed to be. They were totally on their own finding their best ways to illustrate their ideas.

In the following week, the artworks were judged by Consul Gary Auxilian, Ms. Mary Joy Sarmiento, an artist based in Los Angeles taking her practicum in Bonn and Mr. Louie Tana of Bonn. They were very impressed of the participants’ talents. The fiesta-goers were also given the chance to catch a glimpse of these artworks and all of them gave positive remarks.

The winners were Jacqueline Dey (14), from Troisdorf (1st prize), Kerstin Habor (14) from Troisdorf (2nd prize), Mary Jane Ignacio (13) from Bonn (3rd prize), and Sheila Bierend (11) of Troisdorf, 4th prize. Each of them received a handmade plaque made of wood and cash prizes donated by our kababayans from the UN Climate Change Secretariat.



Landas ng Liwanag "LnL" goes to Köln

By: Linda Stein and Liberty Tanangco



"LnL goes to Köln." Somebody's dreaming wildly! Fr. Jun wanted to have the play in Köln at the end of November. This was a few months after the first successful play in September 2006. Director Lando, tired but definitely, equally inspired, exclaimed "why not?" Everyone was ecstatic but knowing the gigantic task ahead, we held ourselves several steps backward. We have the Crew, the Cast, and even Caritas hall was booked, but it was imperative to have dedicated partners on that side of the city. With all our hearts into this new project, God gave us the best timing: we came during the bible fellowship of the Köln community led by Carol Berntgen and Linda Stein, and had a warm welcome. After laying down our prepared R&R (roles and responsibilities), we were deluged with questions and offers. The excitement was infectious. Sis Linda described this project in her own words:

"We missed the first LnL stage play performance in Bonn. So we suggested to Fr. Jun the idea of bringing the play to Köln. That was in December last year. Four months later, it became a reality. After an arduous and painstaking planning and preparations, the LnL play had its run in Köln. We were so overwhelmed by the cast and the play itself. The resonance among the community turned out beyond expectation. If ever there were some shortcomings and/or let-down on our part, hopefully it will serve as pointers for the next "curtain call."

True, until the very last hour of cleaning up the hall, our logistics team left us a remarkable souvenir: all smiles flashed despite their aching feet and hands. God has spoken to His servants and they gladly followed Him.

Thank you, friends from sister city Köln.



World Youth Day Sydney 2008
15 – 20 July 2008

'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses.'
Acts 1:8

WAZZUP? WAS GEHT?

12 August

Tropa Choir Service
St. Winfried Church, Bonn

Jugendtreffen with parents for
WYD 2008 preparations

28 September

Tropa Choir Service
Novena Mass in honor of San
Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila
St. Winfried Church, Bonn

30 September

Deadline for WYD 2008
Registration with Tropa

21 October

Tropa Choir Service
St. Winfried Church, Bonn

3 November

Halloween Bingo
Steyler Mission, Sankt Augustin

11 November

Tropa Choir Service
St. Winfried Church, Bonn

22 December

Tropa Choir Service
St. Winfried Church, Bonn

30 December

Tropa Choir Service
St. Winfried Church, Bonn

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Put together by:
Jang, Ays, Jaz,

For more information or for copies,
please contact:
0170 44 60 734 (Jang)
tropa.kpd@gmail.com
bahaykubostrasse.com