

Councilmember Nestor R. Garcia
Vice Chair
Chair, Council Committee on Budget

TRIP REPORT
Cebu City, Philippines
November 9 – 14, 2009

Introduction

This trip report will also constitute the trip report for Mark Segami, a member of my staff whom I directed to accompany me on this trip.

The primary focus of this trip for me was to finalize the Sister City Agreement between Cebu City, Philippines, and Honolulu, Hawaii, and to support and enhance the relationship with substantive activities that go beyond cultural and artistic pursuits. A second, but no less significant reason was to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first Visayan workers to Hawaii. Cebu is the capital city of the Visayas.

In 1990, the respective city councils of Cebu City and Honolulu approved a "sister" pairing and authorized the mayors of each city to consummate the relationship by signing a Sister City Agreement. In May 2009, nearly 20 years since the intentions of the councils were approved by resolution, Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann and Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña formally signed the agreement in Honolulu. I signed as witness for the City & County of Honolulu.

It was subsequently decided that a reciprocal signing ceremony for the benefit of the constituency in Cebu City would be held on November 10, 2009.

The visit by Mayor Hannemann, myself, and members of the City & County of Honolulu coincided with the planned visit to Cebu by the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii's trade mission to the Philippines. There was a concerted effort to capitalize on the potential synergy while in Cebu.

November 9 – 10, 2009

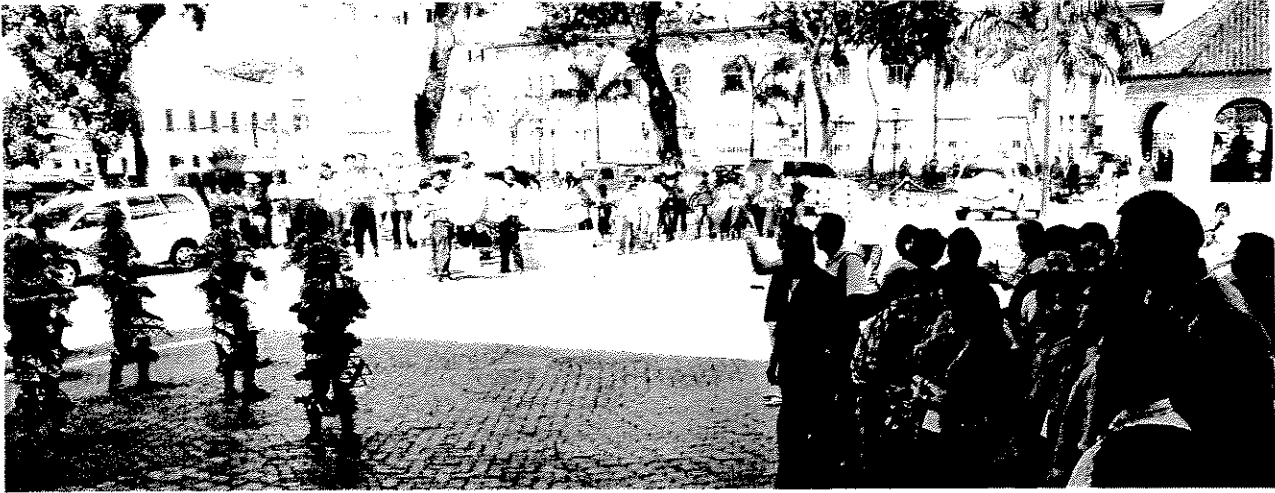
We (Mark Segami and I) departed on Honolulu on November 9 and arrived in Manila on the evening of November 10. We lost a day crossing the International Date Line. We stayed overnight in Manila and caught a flight the next day for Cebu City.

November 11, 2009



Mayor Mufi Hannemann, Mayor Tomas Osmeña and Councilmember Nestor Garcia

The scheduled signing of the Sister City Agreement at Cebu City Hall had to be modified as Mayor Osmeña was suddenly and unexpectedly called to a meeting in Manila. The makeshift ceremony was held in a meeting room at Cebu's Mactan International Airport following the arrival of the Honolulu Delegation. Mayors Hannemann and Osmeña formally signed the Sister City Agreement just before Mayor Osmeña caught his flight.



Following the signing ceremony, we accompanied Mayor Hannemann, members of his cabinet, and delegates from the Filipino Chamber of Commerce's trade mission to Cebu City Hall, where, prior to being called away, Mayor Osmeña had arranged for a unique Cebu welcome and luncheon in their newly constructed Session Hall.

It was agreed that the witnesses to the Sister City agreement would complete the signing ceremony at Cebu City Hall. The ceremony was presided over by Cebu Vice Mayor Michael Rama.



Hawaii State Representatives Kyle Yamashita (left) and Ryan Yamane, along with Mayor Mufi Hannemann and representatives of the Cebu City government observe as Vice Mayor Michael Rama and Councilmember Nestor Garcia sign as witnesses to the Honolulu - Cebu Sister City Agreement.

While in Honolulu in May 2009, Mayor Osmeña stated that he would like to see, as part of the Sister City relationship, if something could be done to help the thousands of nursing graduates in Cebu. Over the ensuing months and in preparation for this visit, I consulted with Kapiolani Community College Director of Nursing May Kealoha, as well as leaders of Kokua Kalihi Valley, which helps nurses and others prepare for careers in healthcare. Both organizations stated that they would be open to discussing any type of initiatives with Cebu. Kapiolani Community College even donated nursing textbooks, which I then instructed Mark Segami to coordinate the presentation of the textbooks to the City of Cebu during the Sister City ceremonies. Mark informed me that Cebu City officials decided the books would be given to the University of Cebu. Mark was then instructed to schedule a meeting for me with representatives of the University of Cebu.



Mayor Hannemann and Councilmember Garcia present nursing textbooks as a gift to the City of Cebu. The box of books (on floor) was donated by Kapiolani Community College's School of Nursing. The gift was accepted by Cebu Vice Mayor Michael Rama (center).

November 12, 2009

This originally was to be a courtesy call on Cebu Provincial Governor Gwen Garcia. However, we subsequently were informed that Governor Garcia was traveling in China on business. Furthermore, a political development ensued in which Cebu's Vice Governor abruptly resigned from the political party to which he belonged with Governor Garcia and became unavailable to us. Ultimately, we met with Provincial Board Member Agnes Almendras Magpale, chair of the committees on Tourism & International Affairs, and Women, Children, & Family, and several departmental directors of the Cebu Provincial Government.

Also, overnight, I received a call from Mayor Hannemann's delegation asking if I would head the Honolulu group for the meeting with the Provincial representative as Mayor Hannemann would not be able to make the visit. I agreed and together with George and Frida Carpenter and Mark Segami, reported to the Cebu Governor's office. We were shown a DVD of the impressive economic and social progress the province has experienced over the past five years and Cebu is now considered the No. 1 province in the country, owing to its lofty position as the only debt-free province in the Philippines.

Board Member Agpale and the several departmental directors present at the meeting said Cebu is being very aggressive in attracting international investment and packaging the province to increase tourism. We were joined halfway through the meeting by members of the Honolulu delegation and the Filipino Chamber of Commerce.



Provincial Board Member Agnes Magpale explains Cebu's courtesy gift to Councilmember Garcia. Honolulu Facilities Maintenance Director Geoffrey Cudiamat stands ready with the City's official gift. Also in the background is Honolulu Environmental Services Deputy Director Manny Lanuevo.



From left: CIPC Director Joel Mari S. Yu, George Carpenter, Councilmember Nestor Garcia, Frida Carpenter, unidentified CIPC staff member, CIPC Deputy Director Roberto Varguez.

Following the meeting, Mark Segami and I headed to the Cebu Investment Promotion Center, a quasi-governmental agency that works closely with Cebu City to attract and promote in investment. We were told that all major investments in Cebu City are coordinated through CIPC. Our meeting was with CIPC Director Joel Mari S. Yu and his deputy, Roberto Varguez. George and Frida Carpenter also joined us for the meeting.

CIPC was created in 1995 and since then, has been the driving force for the substantial growth and progressive policies in Cebu City, an autonomous region not subject to oversight by the Provincial Government.

Among the many major investments in Cebu City is a recently completed technology park which features a central mixed use mall for high tech tenants. Two major shopping malls have been completed – SM Mall and Ayala Centre – and huge mall investor Shoe Mart is negotiating for yet another parcel to create a shopping mall that would rank among the top 5 in all of Asia.

CIPC is also embarking on a major effort to lease a large parcel of reclaimed land that currently houses a full-scale movie production studio and soundstage called Bigfoot.

Following the meeting, CIPC arranged a tour of the completed developments as well as planned future developments for Cebu City. We toured the large parcel of reclaimed land where CIPC has already put in major infrastructure, power and sewer connections, a modern four-lane highway and connecting bridges to the mainland.

In the evening, I delivered brief remarks at the Philippine public premiere of "Mabuhay with Aloha," a documentary of the sakada experience in Hawaii produced by Hawaii journalist and television personality Emme Tomimbang. I was asked by Emme to offer some words of support in conjunction with the Visayan centennial. The premiere was held in a meeting room at SM Mall.

November 13, 2009

The University of Cebu is a private university with four campuses, the main campus of which is in the center of the city. At last count, the university has a student population of 35,000, making it the largest campus in the Philippines, surpassing even the University of the Philippines in Manila.

Our meeting was with University President Augusto W. Go and the school's Director for International Affairs and Business Development, Tiffany G. Tan. Also present was the director of the school's nursing department.



From left: Roberto Varquez, CIPC Deputy Director; George Carpenter; Councilmember Nestor Garcia, Cebu University President Augusto Go.

President Go said currently Cebu is implementing a strategic plan to give its nurses practical working experiences following graduation. The university has purchased a hospital and will offer its nursing graduates the opportunity to gain experience before applying for positions in the Philippines and elsewhere. The university is open to discussing other possibilities, including attracting students from Hawaii. Mark Segami was directed to follow up.

Another area of interest which emerged during the discussions was the university's keen desire to establish a strong tourism industry program. They specifically asked if we could provide a contact in the University of Hawaii's Travel Industry Management Program. Mark Segami was again instructed to work with Tiffany Tan and UH-TIM.

George Carpenter arranged a meeting with Mr. Lito Maderazo, president, Mactan Rock Industries, Inc. The company's original business was fabricating unique Mactan rock for use in building construction, often as a façade but not as flooring because of its softer composition. The company has expanded and is now heavily into water treatment chemicals and associated equipment. Mr. Maderazo said he is now heavily involved in projects in Palawan, a large island in the Southern Tagalog region. He said the capital, Puerto Princesa City, might be very interested in establishing a relationship with the city of Honolulu, on either a friendship or sister basis.

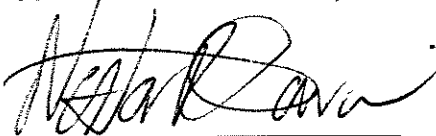
I informed him that while certainly Honolulu has both types of relationships, there must be a strong and compelling case made to establish such a relationship. Historically, there may be very little connection between Puerto Princesa City and Honolulu and it might take a special effort to identify and coalesce grass roots support for such a relationship in Honolulu. Mr. Maderazo said he would work on it immediately upon his return to Palawan and keep us informed. Mark Segami was directed to take point for my office and follow up with Mr. Maderazo.

November 14, 2009

Returned to Honolulu.

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Submitted November 18, 2009


NESTOR GARCIA, Vice Chair
Honolulu City Council

and


Mark Segami
Office of Councilmember Nestor Garcia

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

CLAIM FOR TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT

Date: December 1, 2009

Traveler: Mark Segami

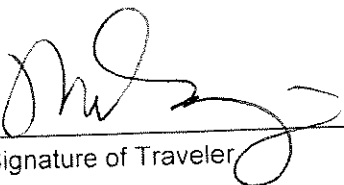
Event: Trade Mission Conference and Business Seminar with sister city in the Philippines

Location: Cebu City, Philippines

Dates: From November 9, 2009 To November 14, 2009

Description	Amount	Notes:
1. Registration Fee		
2. Airfare		
3. Hotel	\$189.73	
4. Meals	\$8.96	Receipt attached
5. Ground Transportation		
6. Tips		
7. Other	\$24.68	Departure fees
Other		
Other		
8. Adjustment		
TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	\$223.37	

This is to certify that the above data, based upon receipts submitted to Council Administrative Support Services via a CCLTRVL02 form, is accurate. Further, I am claiming reimbursement for expenses associated with a trip in which City business was conducted and personal funds were used to advance payment.


Signature of Traveler

12/1/09
Date