



FTMW
Filipino Tribe
Mission
Welfare



NEWSLETTER

No 3 2010

NEWS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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PREFACE

Already in the month of January, **FTMW** held its annual meeting in the Philippines, with representatives from all the four provinces the work is aimed into. March 3, **FTMS** held its annual meeting, and we present in this newsletter the new board. It contains only one change, and it is Andreas Eklund, who earlier was auditor, but now is our new chairman in the organization for 2010.

During the fall 2009, and until present situation, it has been reported about a number of acts of God all around the world. We have heard about, among other, Manila, Haiti and lately Chile (if not more is added in time of printing). Places were hundreds, and in several cases thousands, have become homeless, and huge masses of people has lost their relatives.

FTMS, which you already might know, is not working with catastrophe or emergency aid, but with preventive work among different ethnic groups. This includes likewise lifting the conscience about this ethnic groups among those that lives a somewhat more modern life, to make it plausible to inaugurate cooperation's that earlier was difficult due to prejudgment and/or ignorance.

We still always make pressure and stress out the importance to engage one self.

For those of our readers that belong to the lucky, i.e. belongs to those that have education and work, it is good to be enabled to share ones knowledge and skills, or make a saving to our work through being a sponsor to a godchild or tribe.

Those, who turns out to be in the Philippines, is often contributing through voluntary work, and guides in different ways their fellow-beings after their ability and inquiry.

1. Annual meetings tackled successfully

Annual meeting has been held both in the Philippines and in Sweden, and it is now shown how our new boards look like and how we will work during 2010.

FTMS annual meeting was held Wednesday, March 3 and following matters was settled:

- * Thor Klaveness was re-elected and Andreas Eklund was elected into the new board of **FTMS**.
- * The meeting decided to investigate the plausibility to connect payment through charge card on Internet, and our home page, this to ease payment of donations and fees from all parts of Europe, but from around the world too.
- * The meeting decided to certify Jovelyn Klaveness as responsible for **CHP4051**, which is a project directed to the Mamanwa tribe in Adlay and Pantukan, Carrascal, Surigao del Sur.
- * Thor and Jovelyn Klaveness received also authorization to sign an account in the Philippines to enable distribution of aid that is not possible through **FTMW**.

After constitution of the **FTMS** board, it looks like following:

	Andreas Eklund	Chairman
	Rosauro Maniquis	Secretary
	Thor Klaveness	Treasurer
	Thor Johnny Thoresen	Director

We thank you for your confidence.

Even in the Philippines, **FTMW** has held its annual meeting.

Thor Johnny Thoresen was present as a guest during the negotiations, and conducted the word of **FTMS** when queries were directed concerning our cooperation. They spoke, among other, about a common reporting system which in an easy way could be used to see how much money has been distributed per child and/or project, and what shall be done, who is responsible etc. That it not arise confusion about what is of vital importance.

In the same time **FTMS**, who collect some of the money, knows, what the money sent is used to.

FTMW has elected a new board, and it is shown at our home page from the link 'Board' on **FTMW** in the menu.

2. The present situation in the Philippines – What can I do?



A main theme on the daily news (radio, TV, papers), is those areas in the world which has been hit by acts of God. Haiti has been especially in the limelight. Before it was New Orleans when the storm Katrina destroyed everything for the living there, and before that we remember Thailand and Indonesia and how the Tsunami destroyed hundreds of thousand people's life.

Between these big devastations, we has seen reports from the earthquake struck Chile, which many ask themselves today; how are they now?

Even from the Philippines we received reports how typhoon after typhoon destroyed big parts of Manila and its surroundings during the fall of 2009. But how does it look like today? Do the organizations that operate there receive what they need to continue, and does this work touch us?

It is important that we divide the different aids in the different parts they belong to.

1. The international community, **UN**:s, assistance
2. Separate countries assistance
3. Separate organizations assistance
4. Individual people's assistance

It is then a little bit easier to understand the news reports and to see the whole. This so we not become deluded to believe that a country, for instance Sweden, not care to aid, just because it has not been showed on TV or is written about. It is however so that aid financed by governments is depending on its peoples approval, and is therefore given larger space in media, likewise is also those aid given through our international cooperation, such as **EU** and **UN** given more space in media.

I have been listening among those that gives aid in the same way as we does, i.e. aimed aid to a specific country, a place like a school, orphanage or livelihood project, and they say that they feel people in Sweden has given more than usual during the past year, even to them.

It is in particular pleasant since they are not visible in media the same way but is faithfully working in the quiet. They have already a well established network of contacts, wherein all, both giving countries, and receiving countries, knows what to do so that the aid will be provided and recorded properly in intern media (as for instance this newsletter).

What implies then individual aids, and what different it from aids from organizations?



It was with individual aid I started in the Philippines in 2003. A pastor asked me if I could help them in the small village of Adlay on the island of Mindanao.

What can a lonely electric engineer do for a village in the Philippines?

We are not talking about any big, revolutionary efforts, like fresh water plants or agricultural contributions, but we started with a small project, which can be viewed in the perspective of a tourist, as a very egoistic; a recreation centre on an island outside the village.

I proposed a budget to build a bigger rain shelter to the village chieftain, and he saw immediately a plausible field of application. Could I meet this building with a kitchen and a sleeping-compartment? He saw immediately a possibility to use this building for watching after illegal fishing and illegal lumbering on the islands surrounding. He wanted to place a village police on the island, and this building could in the same time make this effective, as it in the same time gave the nearby citizens a place where they could come for bathing and cooking.

A trivial thought that grew up to be an environment protection project, and which, though this, gave me insight on different instances within the Philippines working with nature conservation. In that moment more themes occurred about other existing problems. That it exist illegal lumbering, corruption in shape of smuggling lumber through guards which has been bribed with both money and alcohol, but also drug trade, thieving and murder.

Could I do anything against this?

I did not see myself as the right person to aid in such cases, but promised to bring the queries with me back to Sweden. I was thinking that the Salvation Army, which I belong to, and which is international, has needed knowledge, and maybe could advice about what to do.

It became a Norwegian/Swedish pastor that became my mentor, and who helped me to explore the possibility to start up a collecting agency for the need, which existed in Adlay and its municipality Carrascal. We made contact to my existing contacts in the Philippines and asked them if it was possible that they could cooperate in a common receiving organization, who also obeyed the demands set by SFI, Swedish Trust for Collecting Control (Stiftelsen För Insamlingskontroll), in Sweden.



A frantic activity started up, and a board was introduced that covered the whole region XIII, also called as the CARAGA-region, located in the north-eastern Mindanao. This entire regions name was Surigao back in the 19th century, but has been renamed, since it has been divided in four provinces, of which the lake Agusan has named two of them. We had now a target for our work, and we had workers that willingly would see to that the money was distributed properly in the different provinces. To ease our task to reach all the way and see to that the goals set was reached, it was decided to aid through godchild projects, and directed contributions in those cases a responsible receiver exist.

FTMW was founded in the Philippines and **FTMS** in Sweden.

Several of its members is still active in the organization, and Mildred Dalipe, who is seen second from the right in the upper line, is newly elected treasurer of **FTMW** in 2010. This is very interesting, since several calamity howlers in Manila saw that I should not find enough members to a board, if I not hired 'professional' people from Manila. It is this I will touch in this article, to update you about the ongoing work on Mindanao, and about the importance of cooperation, not only between different local departments, but also nationwide as well as internationally.



What do the poor know about democracy?

What do they know about Convention on the Child, violence against women law, information on public medical service, hygiene, prevention care in shape of correct nourishment and exercise, or reforms appointed to ease their ability of livelihood?

Who will give them that information and education?

Is it plausible that you can be an important actor to this?

I consider you to be incredibly important!

With "you" I am aiming to several actors.

- *You*, who, as a sponsor to a child makes this work possible.
- *You*, as a donor to any of our projects, make sure that we can carry through reforms in cooperation with the people of the country and its laws.
- *You*, that shows engagement, which gives a wonderful impact in our area of work, since local people understands that somebody, globally, cares for, and are thinking on them.
- *You*, as a leader of an organization that gives us valuable information and resources to take measures that ease people's daily life.
- *You*, who is an abroad living Filipino, and who shares your experiences from your homeland, so that we avoid being swindled in frauds and gossips, which destroy, also called tsismis.
- *You*, as a Filipino, who have resources to open national co-operations that make local people feel that they have a connection to, both their history and presence. Not only for a temporary aid, to survive the day, but to achieve insight about future abilities in an improved technology, and one's and children's own engagement to understand this.

Assistance is spread like rings on water, and I am thinking of how cynically it can become, if one suddenly shall evaluate made contributions and disbursements in refunds, reflected in people's emotional success due to a specific contribution.

I have in mind the Swedish minister for development assistance claim on SIDA (Swedish International Development Authority), that they shall show the result of the government's investments on assistance in different countries. The threat was a little bit covered; that if the government could not see a success, the assistance could be cut or redistributed.

The thought behind can be seen, if we see to that the Swedish government in the past has been cheated and involved in fraud, where invested assistance not has given intended result, but has been used for private purposes. Some cases are still echoing, among other from Africa and former Soviet states.



I will also show that mistakes must be done if a change should be seen. When a dictatorship turns to democracy, it follows that not all its citizens immediately understand their rights, or that corrupt persons stop existing, corrupt people that is cheating people to achieve votes and ability to provide one self first, before the people.

The child to the left is a girl, age 12, named Nicki and who lives in Adlay. We wanted to help her come to Operation SMILE in Cagayan de Oro, where she could be operated for free. It was not as easy as we thought. The parents were not happy. They were afraid!

It showed out that a local politician had promised to them the same favour if they gave him their votes. It is only election every fourth year, and still had the politician not fulfilled his promise. But maybe he will now in 2010 when it is election again? It is why they said no when we came in 2009.

I have been sitting with the chairman of the village, and its councillors, for hours, and explained that the parents and the society's behaviour against the child violate the Convention on the Child. Since she was malformed at birth, the parents thought that she had a mental retardation too and therefore refused to send her to school. The children in the same age are now graduating from the elementary school, while she never has got the chance to. This, in spite of that she is fully, both physically and mentally healthy.

The doctors in Cagayan told me that they are the only place that makes this kind of operation in the area, but that they cooperate with different local partners. So, the disputed politician, which the family refused to tell who it was, had surely given us his permission to proceed, if we only had known who we should negotiate. The work to help the girl continues, but we can do nothing as long as the parents refuse help and the politicians not know which resources which are available and violate their power. The engagement in queries like this has very low priority, this in spite of the Convention on the Child that says as follows:

Article 3

1. In all actions concerning children, whether undertaken by public or private social welfare institutions, courts of law, administrative authorities or legislative bodies, the best interests of the child shall be a primary consideration.

The chieftain of the village was distracted when she realized that she, as a delegate, has a public responsibility towards the girl and her family. I was informed that education on international laws not reaches the local governments in the different provincial districts properly, and that newly elected delegates not always know where to go to receive such information needed to provide the people.

I am happy that I, together with the present chair of **FTMW**, Pastor Efren Rubenial, could give information about instances where this chair could appoint her queries to get advice. I was at the same time happy that this happening opened the eyes to all citizens of the village that children have rights.

Do you know these rights?

See link on Internet:

English: <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/crc.htm#part1>

Swedish: <http://barnkonventionen.nu/>

Much time is used to travel and meet partners, build support to this family so that they will have guts to care their child without feeling that they are pressed or afraid for acts of reprisals if they not let the politician bring the child to appointed surgery. Enormous resources are used to this time-consuming project, just to make improve for one child in one family. This to make all partners feeling safe and know that they are not making faults while breaking old traditions, while it is in reality, existing resources since decades which has been revealed to them.



If you multiply with the number of citizens in these provinces, who are in the same situation, and who are living a daily life with a feeling of hopelessness due to the feeling that they cannot do any to improve it, while we, in cooperation with other organizations, have discussions on a daily basis, and educations to achieve result, how will we then, to come back to our minister for development assistance, be able to show the profit?

Initially, many involved react differently, but sometimes also in a way that looks like anger, frustration and/or fraudulent conduct.

This is not strange, since one answer on the pattern learned by heritage, and which, through generations, has protected one to be victim under the corruption.

Many times, organizations and donors give up, since they see their contribution as a failure.

But one must see one's contribution as a step on the way. Through a first step, one has learned another's weakness, and can now renew and try new methods. The most important is that one is very clear to show what result one is aiming for.

It is then, after long times sometimes years, of hard work, a change to the better can be visible. When people understand, and with own experiences feels the changes, they become more involved, and suddenly the knowledge is quicker spread out. Now it is Filipino to Filipino and not organization to private.



In this way we have seen how the indigenous people, who do not have any historical background in academic education, and people in the poorest slum, grow fastest.

This, since they have no negative references or fear of failures in the same way as those that live suppressed under the oppression of corruption.

We see small societies grow with highly positive and motivated people. We hope that this will contaminate to others that is more negative.

An eye-opener even to us in the western world, who lives in a daily more technologically fulfilled world, but still is lacking social competence and ability to see each other and cooperate without a direct order from a superior.

As you see, and hopefully understand from my article, your decision to engage has an enormous impact to many people around you. Even when your decision means that you will not participate, it has an impact to others in your surrounding. The question that each has to ask oneself is therefore; what impact do I want to make on my surrounding, and what impacts will follow upon myself and my, if any, family?

With the knowledge I have until today of assistance, I guess that all of us that work with assistance in the world, in one way or another, feels that we learn more than we initially thought.



After a number of years and turns in another country, I begin to see a social pattern among ourselves in Europe, where we can use won knowledge to, not only in other countries, but in our own, and our own environment, build a social network, where people come out from depressions and feelings of stress, to build a more qualitative daily life.

It is why it is so important that each one dare to cooperate; as a sponsor, donor, volunteer or as a partner within an organization or another way.

To spread information about our work to others.

How have you chosen to become active?

Thank you for your contribution to our work.

3. Calendar – Where to meet FTMS and receive more information?

New on our homepage this year, under Sweden in the menu to the left, is a calendar which is built out due to publicly booked lectures, exhibitions or other events or meetings.

For you that want to, please feel very welcome to visit these without previously booking yourself.

FTMS as a lecturer



We have, besides these public events even occasions in local churches and organizations. Yes, even in smaller scale in offices, on companies, and private, meetings where we show our work and how one can be a partner and contribute with an own project or as a partner in an existing.



In the month of March, Thor was invited to participate in a radio program, broadcasted by Lomma/Burlöv community radio, with FKM, Free Christian Mission aid as host, where he spoke about the work within the Philippines and the experiences he has from the life on Mindanao.

At the time for the sending of this newsletter, following has been booked concerning Sweden.

8 May Mission house in Källeryd 18.00
21 – 27 June Torp conference



For more information due to these events, see information and follow links on our homepage.

If you want to book us to know more about the Philippines and our work, please contact us on given numbers or e-mail, last in this newsletter.

Observe that we are pleased to come, if only, for the case of giving information, for instance; the life in the Philippine provinces, and about livelihood to, among other, Swedish youth in schools and scouts.



It is you that decide the theme after consulting with us, for instance in connection with the UN day or international event, or as a theme day at your work. School – Organization – Work place, does not matter.

I ask our deepest and warmest thanks from me and our co-operators for your engagement. Please, talk with a friend about the possibility to be a sponsor to a child or to any of our many projects in the Philippines.

God's peace

Thor Klaveness

FTMW

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FTMS

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Sponsorship fee

The monthly fee for a godchild is
€20/SEK200 or €15/SEK150 for group sponsor
and can be paid as follows:

1. By autogiro
2. By payment card/bill which can be paid monthly, quarterly, half year or own choice.

When paid within Sweden, payment can be done
to account shown lowest this page.

Payment outside Sweden but within

Europe, pay to: NORDEA Sweden

IBAN: **SE31 9500 0099 6042 0418 2960**

SWIFT: **NDEASESS**

Internet pages:

Homepage for the network:

www.tribemission.com

Filipino Tribe Mission Sweden's homepage:

Se FTMS in task bar

Filipino Tribe Mission Welfare's homepage:

Se FTMW or Philippines in task bar

Godchildren:

Se Child sponsor in task bar

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NOTE

This Newsletter is written to reach people not common with the Filipino culture. To tell about the way Filipino's lives and give an opportunity to help where help is needed.

We are in no way participating in any political movements, but are involved to lift the knowledge to have patient and ability to live side by side with one another. Notwithstanding if it belongs to be to Filipino's or other.

If you want to contribute with your own experiences and/or knowledge, please feel welcome. News in our newsletters is solely based on facts from Filipino's and experiences from other within the Philippines itself. We belongs to different cultures, therefore it is sometimes different viewpoints on the news.