



Korakora List Digest Archives

From July to November 2005

These are posts to the Korakora List (July-November 2005) which were deleted from the list server in November 2005 due to an alleged "server security abuse." The discussion group is now actively based at <http://list.korakora.org/>

From: Kurokuro-l-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 1, Issue 1
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org

Today's Topics:

1. Welcome - Mabuhay! (Fatima Lasay)
2. Deserted - Open Letter to the BBC World Service Radio (Trevor Batten)

Message: 1
Date: Sat, 16 Jul 2005 21:51:26 +0800
From: Fatima Lasay <digiteer@ispx.com.ph>
Subject: [Kurokuro-l] Welcome - Mabuhay!
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Message-ID: <6.0.0.22.1.20050716214504.01ead378@localhost>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

Welcome to "Kurokuro - The Korakora Discussion Group!"
<http://kurokuro.korakora.org/>

Kuro-kuro is a Filipino word meaning reflection, opinion, discussion and meditation. Kurokuro is dedicated to discussions and studies on social, cultural and political movements in the art, science and technology convergence. Global discussion and announcement list, with focus on developments affecting the Asian region.

You may also access the archives from the old Korakora Discussion Group (on Yahoogroups) dated January to July 2005. The archives are in PDF file

format available thru <<http://www.korakora.org/update/index.html#archives>>
and will be completed shortly.

Greetings and welcome aboard!

Fatima Lasay

-Korakora- Knowledge, Technology, Autonomy -<http://www.korakora.org/>
-Collaboration Space- <http://balikatan.korakora.org/>
-Discussion Group- <http://kurokuro.korakora.org/>

Message: 2
Date: Sat, 16 Jul 2005 21:52:46 +0800
From: Trevor Batten <trevor@tebatt.net>
Subject: [Kurokuro-l] Deserted - Open Letter to the BBC World Service
Radio
To: outlook@bbc.co.uk, newshour@bbc.co.uk, Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Message-ID: <42D9112E.7040307@tebatt.net>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed

Open Letter to the BBC World Service Radio

Dear friends,

At last I have arrived in the Philippines -where I am hoping to stay on
a long term basis.

However, as an avid (and dedicated) BBC World Service listener -I'm now
having to cold-turkey in a hot climate. One leaves Europe in the middle
of a crescendo of reports concerning bombs in London, crisis in the EU
and Britian's chairmanship of the known world -only to discover that
these things are simply illusions of the inhabitants of Bush house.
For here, in the real world, there is apparently not even such a thing
as the BBC.

So here I am abandoned in media hell. No BBC world service radio and no
broad band internet -and so I'm compleately cut off from all forms of
intelligent outside information. Admittedly, there is (somewhere in the
house) a cable tv -but this has been appropriated by the maids and the
children in order to satisfy their apparent endless need for junk
cartoons, romantic tele-novellas and mindless game shows -which seems to
be the staple diet provided by the cable magnates. True, CNN and BBC

World are there somewhere -if one can regain control of the remote control -but it's a truly sad day when CNN and BBC world are the main communication channels. Surely, nobody who puts news first can be taken seriously -what intelligent people need is background information -not more pseudo American sound bites and biased pro-imperialist propaganda.

So why has the BBC World Service abandoned the Philippines? Does it feel that there is nothing to do here -now that American non-culture has decimated the place?

Here we are in the middle of a battle for the presidency (so I'm told by locals) but how are the effects of this to be interpreted in a larger context? Several days before leaving the comfortable BBC supported if not understood Eurozone, the BBC reporter in Manila told us that the president is safe -because there are no alternatives. Perhaps she is right -but now I have no chance to hear what she is saying in order to compare it with my own experiences. However, why was there so little reporting from here? Why hasn't your local reporter informed the world of the cultural and environmental devastation caused here by the imposition of American consumerist values to the cost of all that has meaning or is beautiful?

Doesn't the sun rise here in the east? Isn't this the area which is supposed to determine the future of the rest of the world? Isn't this the sleeping tiger that is supposed to develop into the consumer paradise that will rule us all? Aren't we all riding on the back of this tiger -haven't we all been put firmly on its back by implementing the philosophy of American consumer capitalism? Is this then the reason that the true nature of Asia in general and the Philippines in particular must be kept hidden from western eyes -in case we get a glimpse of the true future that awaits us too in the West?

If we stay riding the tiger where will it lead us -and if we fall off, what will become of us then? Or perhaps some hidden hunter already has one of us in his sights.....

So what on earth have these kind, friendly and hard working people of the Philippines done to deserve the cultural, economic and ecological disaster that is being forced upon them, out of the sight of western eyes?

Why are so many square kilometers of good country covered by sub-urban sprawl -including countless shopping malls within which there is no escape from mind numbing acoustic violence in the form of so called "background music" -or irritating advertisements to buy products no sane person would ever want? Why are good honest people conditioned via the pulp media to accept consumer hell as the only possible escape from the noise and the pollution on the street? What happened to the booming Asian (tiger) economies after the low-wage focus shifted to exploit

China as the next target in the destructive global slash and burn economy promoted so cheerfully by Bush and Blair?

In whose names are these crimes against human values being committed? Why is mental murder permitted -while physical murder is a crime? Isn't the mind just as important as the body?

Why is economic persecution permitted while political persecution is condemned? Is it cause or effect that leads the west to be openly guilty of the former and more circumspect when committing the latter crime via proxy governments?

How can we claim to be humanitarian when we exploit and undermine all humanitarian values in the naked struggle for financial gain?

So why the media blackout -not only in providing outside information and viewpoints for the inhabitants of this fair land -but also in informing those in Europe who profit from low-wage imports (while loosing their own jobs -as local factories relocate) about what is actually happening in the region that is supposed to reflect our future?

Doesn't the western world have a right to know the real conditions of those who are supposed to be at the forefront of our modern world -and don't those at the forefront have the right to know the ideological debates raging in Europe between those who support unbridled rapacious consumerism and those in favour of a more responsible protection of human and non-human life?

Shouldn't the BBC be doing more than simply promoting Asia as a fashionable inspiration for western stylists to copy in lifestyle programmes? Shouldn't modern media be used to create a global democratic dialogue that goes much further than the trivial business reports on a pseudo-CNN type BBC world? "Truly Asian" claims the advertisement for Malaysia on the BBC cable channel -but isn't there more to Asia than to be a tourist copywriter's fantasy? Is the recent British focus on Africa simply a smokescreen to detract people away from the consequences of British support for American neo-colonial policies in Iraq and elsewhere around the globe -especially Asia?

So why has the BBC world service abandoned the Philippines -when there is so much here to tell about -and so little non-American biased information available from outside?

Why have you abandoned me! My radio friends, I miss you!

Best wishes,
Trevor Batten

Kurokuro-1 mailing list
Kurokuro-1@korakora.org
http://mail.korakora.org/mailman/listinfo/kurokuro-1_korakora.org

End of Kurokuro-1 Digest, Vol 1, Issue 1

From: Kurokuro-1-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-1 Digest, Vol 1, Issue 2
To: Kurokuro-1@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-1@korakora.org

Today's Topics:

1. Travel Warning (Tony Dedal)

Message: 1
Date: Sun, 17 Jul 2005 16:22:02 +1000
From: Tony Dedal <tonydedal@optusnet.com.au>
Subject: [Kurokuro-1] Travel Warning
To: Kora Kora <kurokuro-1@korakora.org>
Message-ID:
<HBEHLOMDEDELPIDAMCMCIEFOCMAA.tonydedal@optusnet.com.au>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"

To KoraKora,
I wrote the following article last month in defence of freer visits to the Philippines. After the recent terrorist attacks in London, the relevance of this article became more justified. Have a read.
Tony Dedal

TRAVEL WARNING FOR THE PHILIPPINES

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) advice for travel to the Philippines is an enigma. It states, "Australians in the

Philippines are advised to exercise extreme caution. Possible terrorist targets include areas known to be frequented by foreigners, including coastal resorts." This advice seems more appropriate internationally rather than referring specifically to the Philippines as there are more terrorists outside the Philippines than there are in the country.

The warning is a generalization of a world terrorist problem and plays into the fear of fear itself. Sowing fear is one of the main objectives of terrorists as it gives them a kind of power over others. The warning "Extreme Caution" does not augur well for the Philippines, a predominantly Christian and mostly Catholic country whose people are the first to oppose terrorist incursion within their own surroundings. Christian Filipinos themselves are at the forefront defending against the few Islamic terrorists bent on committing murder based on a misguided belief.

Assuming a terrorist is successful in penetrating the natural buffer of local residents, any possible casualties will be non other than Filipinos themselves and not Australians. It is very unlikely for Australians to be targeted among the multitude especially if they stay within Christian controlled areas of the country which are safer to visit and explore.

The proof of safety for Australians is the fact that there are no Australian casualties in the Philippines arising from terrorist activities. As this seems to be the case, the words "exercise extreme caution" for Australians going to the Philippines can therefore be interpreted as an over reaction to a remote probability of being attacked by terrorists, especially if the basis of the information leading to the warning is from unreliable intelligence.

It is not unusual for threats to be bandied by people with an axe to grind against the government or any group they don't like. These threatening comments are picked up by the 'eyes and ears' of different intelligence agencies and in the process are given a higher value than they deserve. The warnings have a negative effect as they discourage movement and interaction of Australians with the people of the Philippines.

The sensitivity of the DFAT to terrorist threats is understandable following the Bali bombing in 2002 where 88 Australians perished among the 202 casualties when Jemaah Islamiya extremists bombed the Bali resort. The DFAT was reported in the media as having failed to give adequate warning to Australians who were on holiday in Bali when the tragedy occurred. Today, it is not a case of not giving travel warnings but possibly a case of overdoing it.

It may also be noted that Philippine authorities are continuously searching and apprehending Jemaah Islamiya operatives and their Filipino counterparts. As a result, terrorist movements are curtailed to a great extent and their effectiveness to harm Australians becomes very minimal.

Australia will be better placed by allowing guilt-free movement of it's

citizens interested in visiting the Philippines rather than instilling fear with derogatory travel advice. There is no denying, the Philippines stands to gain much with more Australian visits, not only in tourist dollars but the human contact such visits generate among the people of both countries towards better understanding.

Among Southeast Asian countries, the Philippines can claim to have the highest number of English speaking people per capita. As such, free exchange of information and ideas can be had anywhere in the country. Australians interested in going to the Philippines should not be discouraged from doing so by the projection of the Philippines as a dangerous country to visit. Travel warnings to some areas of Mindanao and Sulu are valid and understandable as these are the hotspots of terrorism. However, these are specific areas and not representative of the whole Philippines.

The travel advice to exercise extreme caution in the Philippines, as stated in the advisory, is too strong and unproductive of better understanding. Australia's image in the Philippines and long term objective of leadership by example can best be served by allowing more people to visit and learn from the cultural exchange, in addition to exploring and enjoying new places of interest.

Kurokuro-l mailing list
Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
http://mail.korakora.org/mailman/listinfo/kurokuro-l_korakora.org

End of Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 1, Issue 2

From: Kurokuro-L-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-L Digest, Vol 1, Issue 3
To: Kurokuro-L@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-L@korakora.org

Today's Topics:

1. Happy Birthday! (Trevor Batten)

Message: 1

Date: Mon, 18 Jul 2005 18:04:11 +0800

From: Trevor Batten <trevor@tebatt.net>

Subject: [Kurokuro-l] Happy Birthday!

To: outlook@bbc.co.uk, Kurokuro-l@korakora.org

Message-ID: <42DB7E9B.8080305@tebatt.net>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed

Dear Outlook (outlook@bbc.co.uk),

Yesterday I went to a birthday party for a 26 year old in metro-Manila.

Ella is a student nurse -and most of her young friends are nursing students. Nothing special about that, perhaps -except for the fact that she already has a degree in digital communication -and is now studying nursing .in order to get a visa for Canada.

Her brother is also approaching his final year as a student nurse. He is a film maker -with a degree in business management -but is also studying to get a visa for Canada. Their older brother is not studying nursing -but he is applying for a Canadian visa. Two of the remaining siblings are already in Canada and one has not yet met the immigration requirements. Soon, five out of six children from an entire generation in one family will have emigrated to Canada.

Getting a Canadian visa is for people here perhaps somewhat similar to British parents getting their child into one of the more popular preparatory schools. The visa process takes several years -and so one has to start early -even before one graduates. Canada seems to be the top choice -simply because they are the most welcoming (and therefore the easiest to get into) -and of course family connections (in this family orientated country) also help. The word is that getting a job in Britain requires prior experience -and so this automatically disqualifies it (whatever other conditions might apply). Here the kids seem to move directly from being a student to being a practicing nurse in Canada.

The drain on the country must be enormous. Not only is it losing those who would naturally become nurses here. Doctors and dentists and a whole range of other professionals are retraining to join the overseas brain drain. The Filipino education system is effectively subsidizing the world market for care-givers. In the meantime, local politicians go

abroad for medical treatment.

With so many kids emigrating -who will look after their parents?

However, one should not be fooled into thinking these people are innocent and helpless victims. They are well educated and intelligent people who are maximizing their personal potential as best as they can within the system they are presented with. Ella has just had a letter published in a local newspaper -challenging the widow of ex-presidential candidate Poe to put her money where her mouth is and, instead of simply exploiting the current presidential crisis for her own personal ends, actually do something useful to solve the problems confronting this country. Ellia's brother is planning a film based on his experiences as a student nurse. Previously developed skills are not abandoned for the sake of a new career on a foreign continent -they become interwoven with new skills -which in turn increases their future potential.

Clearly, the tragic loss for the Philippines is a great gain for the Canadians -but, in a world in which everything is supposed to be inter-connected and which that which goes around comes around -can the west really afford to keep sucking other countries dry?

Surely, one day the worm will turn -and when that happens, can we then trully claim that we have not sown whatever the whilwind will reap for us.....

Yours sincerely,
Trevor Batten

Kurokuro-L mailing list
Kurokuro-L@korakora.org
http://mail.korakora.org/mailman/listinfo/kurokuro-l_korakora.org

End of Kurokuro-L Digest, Vol 1, Issue 3

From: Kurokuro-L-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-L Digest, Vol 1, Issue 4
To: Kurokuro-L@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-L@korakora.org

Today's Topics:

1. RE: Kurokuro-L Digest, Vol 1, Issue 3 (Irene Lim)

Message: 1

Date: Thu, 21 Jul 2005 04:27:18 +0800

From: "Irene Lim" <cfalimi@nus.edu.sg>

Subject: [Kurokuro-l] RE: Kurokuro-L Digest, Vol 1, Issue 3

To: <Kurokuro-L@korakora.org>, <Kurokuro-L@korakora.org>

Message-ID:

<692DF964C3131E4F8CF606AD36E38079F84B76@MBOX01.stf.nus.edu.sg>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="Windows-1252"

hi,

kindly send all future email to padipeace@yahoo.com as this email account will be terminated soon.

Thanks.

regards,
irene

Kurokuro-L mailing list

Kurokuro-L@korakora.org

http://mail.korakora.org/mailman/listinfo/kurokuro-l_korakora.org

End of Kurokuro-L Digest, Vol 1, Issue 4

From: Kurokuro-l-request@korakora.org

Subject: Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 1, Issue 5

To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org

Reply-To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org

Date: Sun, 24 Jul 2005 12:00:03 +0800

Today's Topics:

1. HINDSIGHT By F. Sionil Jose (Fatima Lasay)

Message: 1
Date: Sat, 23 Jul 2005 21:05:19 +0800
From: Fatima Lasay <fats@korakora.org>
Subject: [Kurokuro-l] HINDSIGHT By F. Sionil Jose
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Message-ID: <42E2408F.2050709@korakora.org>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=windows-1252; format=flowed

HINDSIGHT By F. Sionil Jose
The Philippine STAR 06/13/2005

(The author gave this lecture at Cubberley Auditorium at Stanford, May 5, 2005.)

I am grateful to Stanford, to Prof. Roland Greene and the Department of Comparative Literature in particular, for having me here as writer-in-residence, to Prof. Ann Gelder who is looking after the details of this visit.

I am only too aware of this university's greatness, its trove of Nobel Prize winners. I have a bookshop and I know the distinguished publications of the Hoover Institute. Our best doctors in the Philippines trained here. As for Stanford's contribution to literature, in the mid-Fifties, your famous writing guru, Wallace Stegner, visited Manila. If I may brag, we have the same editor, Samuel S. Vaughan, at Random House. Mr. Stegner correctly observed that there was yet no literary record of the Hukbalahap peasant uprising that was then winding down. I should have told him then ? give me time, for I was conceptualizing a novel on that subject.

I originally titled this talk "Revolution as Literature," but my wife said it may not sit well with an American audience. Certainly, it does not sit well with Filipinos. But I will digress into it just the same.

When we arrived last month, I was sent to a room where I was detained for about half an hour. When I finally joined my wife at the baggage claim area, we were the last passengers there.

I will share with you my conversation with the Homeland Security officer who corrected my immigration form. He asked what I wrote and I said novels and articles on current affairs, politics, history. That started it. He wanted to know more about we Filipinos.

First, we are not Asians, like the Chinese, the Japanese, the Indians. The two great religions of Asia, Buddhism and Hinduism, responsible for the civilization and classical traditions of that continent never reached us although geographically, we are there. We are Christians who could have been Islamized if Islam came a few decades earlier.

I told the officer we are many islands and tribes. In the past, we were at war with one another. Much of that ethnicity remains in our languages, customs, attitudes. And like the United States, we are a young nation.

I am here now to finish a novel which, will help us understand our history better. The novel is about Artemio Ricarte, the revolutionary general who refused to pledge allegiance to the United States at the end of the Philippine-American War in 1902. Yes, there was such a war, which brought America to Asia in 1898 ? America's first colonial venture. We became America's first and only colony. But not after more than 250 thousand Filipinos, mostly civilians, were killed. In that war, America committed its first atrocities in Asia.

I have been working on this novel for so long, the research is flowing out of my ears, shackling my imagination. The English novelist, Robert Graves, advised an Australian writer to write the novel first then do the research afterwards. But I got that advice too late.

My five-novel saga is named after my hometown, Rosales. It is framed within a hundred years, from 1872, when three Filipino priests were executed by the Spaniards, to 1972, when Ferdinand Marcos declared Martial Law. This century is marked by peasant revolts. Through three centuries that we were ruled by Spain, peasant revolts erupted intermittently.

A word of caution to those who plan writing historical fiction. Dusk, the first novel in this saga, has a real-life character, Apolinario Mabini, the brains in the revolution against Spain ? the first anti-imperialist rebellion in Asia ? and later on in the war with the United States. He was a cripple, and I attributed his infirmity to syphilis as told to me by two venerable historians.

Wrong! When his bones were exhumed in 1980, as told to me by a much younger historian, Ambeth Ocampo, it was found that he had polio. I confronted the historians and both scolded me for giving credence to what they told me was gossip.

According to Ocampo, the upright Mabini opposed a scheme by some of the rich men who joined the revolution to raise money that would have enriched them but would have tainted the revolution. So they discredited Mabini.

The second novel in the saga is called Tree after the balete tree, scientifically named Ficus Benjamina Linn. A scholar visited Rosales then returned to Manila to tell me there was no such tree in Rosales. Of course, it is not there but is in many places in the country, in all of Southeast Asia. As a sapling, the young tree is soon surrounded by many vines. The vines grow to be the trunk of the tree itself; they strangle to death the sapling they had embraced. A very apt metaphor

for so many of us.

Literature is mythmaking. For a young nation, it is necessary. Who can prove there was a cherry tree the young George Washington chopped down and couldn't lie about?

Mythmakers or not, all artists are ego driven, impelled by the human impulse to celebrate themselves in the most personal manner thereby achieving style, originality. They seek originality, although in the end, so many are just plain imitators of life and of other artists, sometimes doing willfully so, sometimes in blissful ignorance. But the self gets satiated with narcissism, so artists attempt to transcend the self and transcendence becomes the motive for a more profound expression. I do not claim profundity; there is nothing deep in my motives. They are moored on the reality of my country, and fiction has difficulty catching up with that reality.

I use history to impress upon my readers this memory so that if they remember, they will not only survive, they will prevail.

I also present a nobler image of ordinary Filipinos, so that even if we are destitute, amidst the swirling tides of corruption, we can raise our heads. With memory, we can face our grim future with courage.

I created in this saga, characters like Istak, the farmer and healer in Dusk, his vagabond great grandson, Pepe Samson in Mass, and a real life hero from the underclass, Apolinario Mabini. These truths are often ignored by historians who focus on momentous events and big men but miss the "little people."

Critics call this effort revisionist, the formalists say I mangled the English language because I think in Ilokano ? my mother tongue ? and write in English. Still others say I romanticize the common, the mundane. I hope I am shaping not just myths and hollow hallelujahs, but literature.

In 1955, on my first visit here as guest of the US State Department, I spent an afternoon with the poet Robert Frost at his cottage in Ripton, Vermont. He was in his late seventies but still writing. He belonged to that generation which included Mark Twain. They objected to the American occupation of my country. They argued that America, which won its freedom through revolution, had no right to invade a nation waging revolution for freedom the first in Asia against Western imperialism. The millionaire Andrew Carnegie even offered to return the \$20 million the United States paid Spain to acquire the Philippines.

Mr. Frost asked how that occupation turned out. I told him were it not for the public schools established by the United States, at that very

moment, I would most probably be an unlettered farmer atop a water buffalo somewhere in the island of Luzon.

In 1972, I toured this country lecturing under the auspices of the Council on Foreign Relations. I told my audiences, if they did not suffer from historical amnesia and recalled the Philippine-American War, they would have never gone to Vietnam. It was not communism, which they faced in Vietnam ? it was that impregnable force, Asian nationalism.

To be sure, strident voices in my country are critical of the United States. I sometimes join these out of frustration. Do no get us wrong ? many Filipinos consider America our second country.

But we must wean ourselves form overpowering American influence, get rid of our American hangover induced by benevolent neglect. Our cultural workers must shed off the American veneer, which stifles creativity, and use the mud at our feet, our folk traditions, our sweat and blood to build the enduring Filipino pillars that can withstand the onslaught of globalism and McDonald's.

I remind our writers about the "flowering of New England," how Emerson, Walt Whitman and those innovative Yankees freed themselves from 19th century European romanticism to celebrate America and give America a granite cultural foundation.

It is not easy for us to do the same. History had done its nefarious job. Stanley Karnow's book, *In our Image*, sums up the colonial experience. The Americans wanted a democratic showcase and we eagerly complied. The result is a disaster. Your fault and ours.

More than 10 years ago, the Atlantic magazine editor, James Fallow's visited us. After seeing the deadening poverty and the callousness and perfidy of our leaders, he concluded that the obstacle to our progress is our "damaged culture."

Back to our Homeland Security officer in San Francisco to illustrate this damaged culture. He had interrogated Filipinos wanting entry. He said flatly: "They are liars."

I told him they had to lie, to do anything to escape my country's poverty and injustice.

What had happened to us?

After World War II, we were Southeast Asia's most modern, most progressive. Students from the region came to our schools. When I traveled, the backwardness everywhere amazed me. Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur were villages. The tallest structure in Bangkok was the Wat Arun. Seoul and Taipei were quiet, with horse-drawn carts, bicycles

and those low brick buildings left by the Japanese. These cities are no longer recognizable from what they were. Manila has skyscrapers now, but everywhere are the slums that show how we have decayed.

Thus, the massive hemorrhage of talent, the diaspora. There is no ocean-going vessel without a Filipino on board, from the captain down to the steward. An American diplomat had heart surgery in Washington performed by what he said is one of the top surgeons in America. He is Filipino. A Boeing executive told me Iran Air wouldn't get off the ground were it not for the Filipino technicians there. An Indonesian businessman said most of the banks and corporate headquarters in Indonesia are managed by Filipinos. A Singaporean architect pointed to the city's soaring skyline as the handiwork of Filipino architects and engineers.

Here, the United Nations headquarters in New York would stand still if all those Filipina secretaries were absent. And what would happen to your health service if all those Filipino doctors, nurses and technicians left?

Indeed, the Filipina is not just a maid in Hong Kong or a prostitute in Tokyo. We have become the proletariat of the world. This is our shame and our pride for as a European executive wryly commented: "You are such a wonderful people, why is your country such a mess?"

Is this mess for always?

Your Homeland Security officer said he knew of a Filipino retired general who was poor.

I said that general should be investigated for unexplained poverty.

The "damaged culture" James Fallows pointed out can be repaired. In the Fifties, President Ramon Magsaysay invigorated the Army to defeat the Hukbalahap rebellion. He cleaned up government, made it responsive to the needs of the masses. When he died in a plane crash in 1957, people in the streets wept. When Arsenio Lacson was Mayor of Manila at about the same time, the city was safe, the garbage collected, the coffers were full. A year after he died, the city was broke.

The moral decay is a slow process exacerbated by the Japanese Occupation when all the rules were thrown out and each man was for himself. The elite conditioned by colonialism collaborated all through our history with the imperialists. Like most of us, they imbibed the vices ? not the virtues of our rulers ? the sense of honor of the Spaniards, the enterprise and democratic ethos of the Americans, and the discipline and sense of nation of the Japanese. And like the imperialists, the rich Filipinos send their loot abroad ? the Chinese to China and Taiwan, the Spanish mestizos to Spain and Europe, and the Indios like Marcos to Switzerland and the United States. As the

Spanish writer Salvador de Madriaga said, "A country need not be a colony of a foreign power, it can be the colony of its own leaders."

How then can we accumulate capital to modernize? How do we end this treason? How else but through the cleansing power of a nationalist revolution, a continuation of the revolution the Americans aborted in 1898. It is not only inevitable, it is righteous.

In 1985, we finally threw out Marcos in a bloodless revolution. But Cory Aquino who succeeded him turned it into a restoration of the oligarchy ? not democracy as she claims. Sure, we have free elections and etceteras but these are the empty trappings ? not the essence of democracy. That essence is in the stomach, when the Manila jeepney driver eats the same food served the president in Malacañang Palace.

Listen, when I was a child, the poorest farmer ate twice a day but only in the three hungry months of the planting season. Today, the poor eat only once a day. They die when they are sick because medicines are expensive. Millions of grade school kids drop out because they cannot afford to continue. About half of 85 million do not have safe drinking water.

Two ongoing rebellions, one communist and the other secessionist, have cost us billions and thousands of lives. If the communists win ? and I know they won't ? they will rule just as badly because they are Filipinos hostage to barnacled habits of mind, to ethnicity.

The real revolution has to start first in the mind and its wellsprings are not in Mao or Marx. It is in our history, in Mabini, in Rizal, our national hero, whose writing inspired the revolution of 1896.

Its creed is articulated by the peasant leader Pedro Calosa who led the Colorum uprising near my hometown in 1935. It is this: "God created land, air and water for all men. It is against God's laws for one man, one family to own all of them."

The American reformer, Wendell Phillips confirms the Colorums. He said, "If you hold land and land is in the hands of a few, you do not have democracy ? you have an oligarchy."

And this is our curse ? an oligarchy that must be destroyed, whose allies are here in this bulwark of democracy. Who, after all, was Ferdinand Marcos's best supporter but Ronald Reagan? Can you understand now why America is so crucial to us and to those in the poor countries whose despotic rulers have alliances with American leaders? Washington wants peace and stability, and so do we who are enslaved, but that peace, that stability should not be the peace of the grave.

When we parted, the Homeland Security officer said I was the first

Filipino he talked with the way I did. What I told him, which I have said here, is also what I say at home. It grates the ears. For this, I have been accused of Filipino bashing, labeled a communist, a CIA agent, an opportunist. You name it. In truth, I am just an old writer whose discordant voice is drowned, unheard in the maelstrom that is my country.

I end Dusk, the first novel in the Rosales saga, with the battle of Tirad Pass in December 1900. To me, that battle is similar to Thermopylae in ancient Greece. There, Leonidas, the king of Sparta, and his men died to a man defending the pass against the invading Persians.

In Tirad Pass, high in the roof of the Cordillera range, the 24-year-old General Gregorio del Pilar and 48 of his men, most of them farmers died defending it against the invading Texas Rangers closing in on General Emilio Aguinaldo, President of Asia's first republic.

I remind Filipinos of Jose Rizal who, at 34, was executed by the Spaniards for writing tracts against them. As Prof. Roland Greene said, he was the first post-colonial writer. In World War II, all of Southeast Asia succumbed so easily to the Japanese invasion. We didn't. Our valiant stand in Bataan Peninsula, our bitter guerilla resistance ? these are forgotten.

I repeat ? we are a young nation carving our place in the sun. Young, yes, but we have a past which exalts us, which tells us that we have a revolutionary tradition, and that above all, we are heroic people.

In our search for social justice and a moral order, in our struggle to build a just society, we must rely on no one else but ourselves, endowed as we already are with a history that shaped our sinews and our genius.

And from America, what will we ask of you? Nothing, nothing but your understanding and your compassion.

But first, we must remember.

<http://www.philstar.com/philstar/lifestyle200506140501.htm>

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http://mail.korakora.org/mailman/listinfo/kurokuro-l_korakora.org

End of Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 1, Issue 5

From: Kurokuro-l-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 2, Issue 1
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org

Today's Topics:

1. Call for participation: UNESCO Digital Arts Award 2005
(nisar keshvani)
2. DRUNKEN BOAT'S FIRST ANNUAL PANLITERARY AWARDS (nisar keshvani)
3. [Fwd:Forum on Collaborative Art Practice, Aug. 17 CCP MKP]
(Fatima Lasay)

Message: 1
Date: Thu, 4 Aug 2005 12:17:53 -0700 (PDT)
From: nisar keshvani <nhkeshvani@yahoo.com>
Subject: [Kurokuro-l] Call for participation: UNESCO Digital Arts Award 2005
To: 12@34.com
Message-ID: <20050804191753.66955.qmail@web34109.mail.mud.yahoo.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1

Call for participation: UNESCO Digital Arts Award 2005

Young artists from around the world are invited to take part in this years award devoted to the theme of Cities and creative media. Organized in collaboration with Art Center Nabi, the Award would be delivered to non-realized project proposals in order to embrace a wider audience of creators, who have the innovative artistic ideas but not necessarily the means.

The call specifically aims at encouraging young emerging artists to cultivate new

forms of expressions using new media and technology in reflecting on how urban spaces and city environments could be transformed into creative outlets.

The submission deadline is 14 September 2005. All project proposals should be submitted online at the official website of submission (http://www.nabi.or.kr/unesco_award), where participants will also be able to find further detailed information (description of sub-themes, general guidelines, submission criteria, etc). All submissions should be in English.

The total prize money is US \$10,000, which would be divided into and given to more than one laureate, in some cases a group of artists. In addition, the Nabi center (Seoul, Republic of Korea) is organizing a special honorary mention category to the Award, targeting realized projects that could be re-embodied within the urban context of the city Seoul.

The award-winning projects would be selected by an international jury, assembled on this occasion representing the five geo-cultural regions (Africa, Arab States, Asia/Pacific, Europe/North America, and Latin America/Caribbean).

For more information, contact:

unesco_award@nabi.or.kr
digiarts@unesco.org

UNESCO DigiArts portal: <http://portal.unesco.org/digiarts>

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Message: 2
Date: Thu, 4 Aug 2005 12:20:58 -0700 (PDT)
From: nisar keshvani <nhkeshvani@yahoo.com>
Subject: [Kurokuro-I] DRUNKEN BOAT'S FIRST ANNUAL PANLITERARY AWARDS
To: 12@34.com
Message-ID: <20050804192058.35970.qmail@web34103.mail.mud.yahoo.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1

DRUNKEN BOATS FIRST ANNUAL PANLITERARY AWARDS
Deadline Extended to: August 15th, 2005
Judges: Annie Finch, Sabina Murray, Alexandra Tolstoy, Talan Memmott, David Hall, and DJ Spooky

Drunken Boat, <<http://www.drunkenboat.com>>, international online journal for the arts, announces its First Annual Panliterary Awards in Poetry, Fiction, Non-Fiction, Web-Art, Photo/Video, Sound. Submit up to three works, either via email to <panlitawards@drunkenboat.com> or via physical mail to: Drunken Boat, 119 Main St., Chester, CT 06412. A \$15 entry fee must accompany all submissions, either via check or money order, else submitted electronically at: <<http://www.drunkenboat.com/db7/donate.html>>. Winners in all categories will be featured in a subsequent issue of Drunken Boat, and will be invited to perform at future multimedia events and performances with all expenses paid. All other entries will be considered for publication.

Submissions must be received no later than August 15th, 2005. Awards will be given in the following genres: poetry, fiction, non-fiction, web art, photo/video and sound. The judges for the Panliterary Awards are:

Poetry Annie Finch, Poet, translator, and librettist and Director of the Stonecoast MFA Program in Creative Writing at the University of Southern Maine, <<http://www.users.muohio.edu/finchar/>>

Fiction Sabina Murray, 2003 PEN/Faulkner Award Winner
<<http://www.groveatlantic.com/grove/wc.dll?groveproc~book~4236>>

Non-Fiction Alexandra Tolstoy, Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society,
<<http://www.alexandratolstoy.com/>>

Web-Art Talan Memmott, 2000 trAce / Alt-X New Media Writing Award Winner and Creative Director for the literary hypermedia journal, BeeHive,
<<http://www.memmott.org/talan/>>

Photo/Video David Hall, Video art pioneer, TV interventionist, installation artist, sculptor and filmmaker. <<http://www.davidhallart.com/>>

Sound Paul D. Miller, aka DJ Spooky that Subliminal Kid, Musician, writer, producer, editor-at-large of Artbyte, and conceptual artist whose work has appeared in the Whitney Biennial and the Venice Biennial for Architecture, <<http://www.djspooky.com/>>

Works will be accepted as URLs of work online, as attachments (MSWord files or .jpg/.gif/.zip/.swf/.html/.mp3/.mov/.wav files), or else as hard copy, disk, or CD/DVD. Please include the phrase Panliterary Awards in the subject line of any email submission and do not paste text submissions into the body of the email. Email editor@drunkenboat.com or shankarr@ccsu.edu for more information.

+--+ Drunken Boat is a non-profit organization that depends on public assistance for its sustenance. Please see <<http://www.drunkenboat.com/db6/donate.html>> to make a tax-deductible donation.+--+

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If email bounces, kindly resend to
nkeshvani [at] hotmail [dot] com

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Message: 3
Date: Fri, 05 Aug 2005 22:41:28 +0800
From: Fatima Lasay <fats@korakora.org>

Subject: [Kurokuro-l] [Fwd:Forum on Collaborative Art Practice, Aug. 17 CCP MKP]
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Message-ID: <42F37A98.9070000@korakora.org>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Forum PR, pls forward to those you think would like to attend
Date: Wed, 3 Aug 2005 23:49:58 +0800
From: Eileen Legaspi-Ramirez <eileen.legaspi.ramirez@gmail.com>
Reply-To: Eileen Legaspi-Ramirez <eileen.legaspi.ramirez@gmail.com>
To: fats@korakora.org, Rica Arevalo <ricaarevalo@gmail.com>, yasonbanal@yahoo.co.uk
References: <c466d45005072708133f6bf510@mail.gmail.com>

The Tile Project: Destination, the World
Forum on Collaborative Art Practice, Aug. 17 CCP MKP

The Tile Project: Destination, the World brings over 100 artists from 40 countries together in setting up 22 public art installations exploring informal routes for global cooperation through art made out of portable and accessible materials. Initiated by the Boston-based art group Transcultural Exchange, The Tile Project is a creative collaborative initiative being undertaken from 2004 through 2006 in sites such as: the Azerbaijan State Arts Academy, Akademija Likovnih Umjetnosti (The Academy of Fine Arts), Sarajevo, Hastahana tekija Mesudia, Kacuni, the Cultural Centre Verkatehdas, Finland, UNESCO-Paris, the Bar of Modern Art, Berlin, Khyber Restaurant, India, Tel Aviv University, Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Occidente, Mexico, Pataka Museum, New Zealand, Bacau Town Hall, Romania, Centre for Visual Art at University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, Peace Museum, South Korea, City Council of Chinchn, Spain, Kuandu Museum of Fine Arts, Taiwan, Artemis Art Center, Turkey, Mercer Park, New York, Pauline A. Shaw School, Boston, Northside Preparatory School, Chicago, The Peace Garden, Washington, D.C., Fine Arts Museum of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, and The Chapel of Art / Capel Celfyddyd, UK.

Each of the installations have or are being constructed out of a plurality of materials (ceramics, digital imagery, assemblage, painting) in a portable, square, tile-like format. For the Philippines, CCP Thirteen Artists Awardee Claro Ramirez undertakes a kinetic installation made out of the component tiles sited at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Second Level Staircase Landing Area.

To mark this installation's first public viewing, a modest public forum called Synch: Forum on Collaborative Practices will be undertaken at the CCP Multi-Purpose Hall, August 17, 1-3 pm. This informal roundtable event brings together Filipino artists from

various disciplines and persuasions to come and share experiences about working outside the single author/auteur/artist framework. Coming from a diverse range of engagements in visual arts, performance, film, video, new media, music, and art organizing, the discussion is expected to revolve around notions of control, process, and interaction in relation to concept, and realization of intended reception.

Roundtable participants include Cynthia Alexander, Rica Arevalo, Yason Banal, Fatima Lasay and Ramirez who will be sharing about their specific experiences in collaboration. An open forum follows their presentations.

The installation is Transcultural Exchange's donation to the Cultural Center of the Philippines visual art collection. The Tile Project is made possible by the support of distinguished organizations such as the United Nations Educational, Science and Cultural Organization, the Asian Cultural Council, the Open Society Institute (Soros Foundations Network), and locally through El Kapitan Premium Epoxy. Please consult the project website at <http://www.transculturalexchange.org/index2.html> for further details.

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Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
http://mail.korakora.org/mailman/listinfo/kurokuro-l_korakora.org

End of Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 2, Issue 1

From: Kurokuro-l-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 2, Issue 2
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org

Today's Topics:

1. Conflict in Collaboration (Fatima Lasay)

2. Modelling conflict collaboration (Fatima Lasay)
3. Conflict in Collaboration (Fatima Lasay)

Message: 1

Date: Mon, 08 Aug 2005 18:05:27 +0800

From: Fatima Lasay <digiteer@ispx.com.ph>

Subject: [Kurokuro-I] Conflict in Collaboration

To: Kurokuro-I@korakora.org

Message-ID: <6.0.0.22.1.20050808180527.01eadb78@localhost>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"; format=flowed

Aug/06/2005

[] PHT04:23:15, Categories: Learning Reflections, 353 words []

http://korakora.org/weblog/index.php/t-learning/2005/08/06/conflict_in_collaboration

Conflict in Collaboration

The most valuable learning that I have experienced transpired outside formal education. This is because formal education blocked what I think is one of the most important elements of learning: conflict.

It is within the dynamics of learning and conflict that I look upon the meaning of collaboration.

Collaboration, like cooperation or partnership, has often been regarded as benign or positivist, even as the language of cooperation especially at the international level, is used to obscure power and inequality from which conflict may arise. The altruistic language of collaboration, cooperation and partnership is used precisely to block that important element of learning: conflict.

In my experience, international collaborative art projects often denied the presence of conflict. It was always crucial to give a semblance of creative cross-cultural transformative harmony. Like the mental prison of formal education, collaborative art projects (as are curator-artist relationships) often needed to exude positive feedback and, as much as possible, reject (kick out) or rehabilitate (tutor), if not altogether deny, failure.

But failure, like conflict, are conditions that need to be openly discussed if problems are to be redressed and if the parties to any collaboration are to be empowered to take action for change. This empowerment I call self-intervention. I call it self-intervention in order to emphasize and raise an awareness of the presence and dynamics of dependency and imperialism (export of surplus and symbolic resources from periphery to center) in collaboration. The concept of dependency

and imperialism enables an analytical position of collaboration as a form of capital export.

As with learning, I see collaboration within the conceptualisations and practices of development. Artists, curators, funding and art institutions, engage in collaborative art projects in terms of what such projects can contribute to cultural development and transformation. As with collaboration, there is a prevailing optimism about the nature of development especially within the international multi-cultural sphere. If conflict entered the dominant positivist model of collaboration, then we would have began a questioning of the conventional conceptualisations and practices of development. To allow conflict to enter the conventional model of collaboration means to articulate an alternative and appropriate paradigm.

[] Posted by: Fatima Lasay
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http://korakora.org/weblog/index.php/t-learning/2005/08/06/conflict_in_collaboration

Message: 2
Date: Mon, 08 Aug 2005 22:06:31 +0800
From: Fatima Lasay <digiteer@ispx.com.ph>
Subject: [Kurokuro-l] Modelling conflict collaboration
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Message-ID: <6.0.0.22.1.20050808184850.01eb23b0@localhost>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"; format=flowed

Aug/08/2005

[] 05:24:42 pm, Categories: Learning Reflections, 334 words []
http://korakora.org/weblog/index.php/t-learning/2005/08/08/modelling_conflict_collaboration

Modelling Conflict Collaboration

Conflict comes for the Latin com-, together and fligere, to strike. The term means a sharp disagreement, as in interests or ideas. Conflict is difficult because of the emotional and psychological tension that it entails. But conflict can also be empowering because of the action and solidarity that ensues from it.

Model reconstruction in collaboration

As negative feedback loop, collaboration can be seen as a deviation

counteracting mutual causal process. In this model, collaboration minimizes deviation and becomes a tool for integration and assimilation. As positive feedback loop, collaboration can be seen as a deviation-amplifying process, thereby amplifying conflict. In both cases, there is a circular stimulation of collaborators and motivations, but even if the initial conditions are similar, there is no certainty that their effects will be similar. There is no certainty likewise, that dissimilar results come from dissimilar conditions. Social processes like partnerships and collaborations take place under conditions of uncertainty and not simply towards a coherent rational or normative developmental path.

The danger is in the altruism of designing an international transcultural community that facilitates understanding and cooperation through mutual knowledge thereby obscuring the processes of hegemony of one culture over another. This approach relies on utilitarian knowledge and normative philosophy. The danger there becomes apparent when we place knowledge within the context of interest and power, when it becomes clear that collaborative practices are not benign or normative - that they occur in conditions of uncertainty, inequity and distributed interests, and that under such conditions, manipulation gains importance.

In a model reconstruction of collaboration, we need conceptual tools for analyzing contextual factors - endogenous and morphogenetic processes - which both define and influence the nature of collaboration in practice. We need a conceptual framework that analyses conditions in terms of the social organization and the relationships between classes, gender and race. We need an approach that can explain individual behaviour and experience in the collaborative setting in relation to the wider socio-historical context. We need an approach that takes conflict into consideration.

[] Posted by: Fatima Lasay
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http://korakora.org/weblog/index.php/t-learning/2005/08/08/modelling_conflict_collaboration

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Message: 3
Date: Mon, 08 Aug 2005 22:06:08 +0800
From: Fatima Lasay <digiteer@ispx.com.ph>
Subject: [Kurokuro-l] Conflict in Collaboration

To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Message-ID: <6.0.0.22.1.20050808180527.01eadb78@localhost>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"; format=flowed

Some thoughts (will be sent in a few installments) about collaboration - for the forum at the Cultural Center of the Philippines this coming 17th - and especially in the context of "learning and technology/media art" for our Working Group on education in the Pacific Rim New Media Summit. Comments, ideas, suggestions, from WG members and everyone on the list are most welcome. Also, if you would like to have a blogspace on Korakora <<http://balikatan.korakora.org/>>, please email me directly <digiteer@ispx.com.ph>.

Cheers!
Fatima

Aug/06/2005

[] PHT04:23:15, Categories: Learning Reflections, 353 words []
http://korakora.org/weblog/index.php/t-learning/2005/08/06/conflict_in_collaboration

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[] Posted by: Fatima Lasay
Leave a comment Trackback (0)

http://korakora.org/weblog/index.php/t-learning/2005/08/06/conflict_in_collaboration

Kurokuro-1 mailing list
Kurokuro-1@korakora.org
http://mail.korakora.org/mailman/listinfo/kurokuro-1_korakora.org

End of Kurokuro-1 Digest, Vol 2, Issue 2

From: Kurokuro-1-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-1 Digest, Vol 2, Issue 3
To: Kurokuro-1@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-1@korakora.org

Today's Topics:

1. An Open Letter to the Open Source Community by: Trevor Batten (Fatima Lasay)

Message: 1
Date: Tue, 09 Aug 2005 23:28:20 +0800
From: Fatima Lasay <digiteer@ispx.com.ph>
Subject: [Kurokuro-l] An Open Letter to the Open Source Community by:
Trevor Batten
To: kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Message-ID: <6.0.0.22.1.20050809232601.01ef8818@localhost>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"; format=flowed

Aug/04/2005

[] 18:31:49, Categories: Rants and Raves, 1846 words []

An Open Letter to the Open Source Community

[] Posted by: Trevor Batten

http://korakora.org/weblog/index.php/journal/2005/08/04/open_letter_open_source

Which needs does Open Source actually address? Is it time for the Open Source community to reprogramme itself?

-A Failed and Failing Movement:

As far as I can see, the main achievement of the Open Source community has been to take a conceptually elegant operating system (Unix/Linux) and bury it under an increasingly absurd number of non-functional additions to the visual interface.

This is symptomatic of a commercially conditioned approach to computers -one which does its very best to isolate the user as much as possible from the way the system actually functions. When programmers and hackers adopt this approach (as they apparently have) then all hope of a conceptual regeneration are lost for ever -because all understanding of the social relevance of the way the technology functions is being lost and the general public can only become even more alienated from the machines which increasingly control their daily lives.

For years we have been told by the commercial computing industry that we "don't need to be aware of what happens under the motor cap when driving the car". In the meantime, there is an increasing awareness that pollution from motor vehicles is causing serious hazards to both human health and the global climate. Perhaps a little more attention to what happens under the motor cap is essential to any socially successful technological innovation.

How can people make democratic decisions with regard to their lives and lifestyles if the basic information and understanding upon which these decisions need to be made is not available to them?

-A Necessary Paradigm Shift:

If the Open Source movement is to move beyond "free software" (as in free beer) towards "free software" (as in socially liberating software) then it needs to dump the (relatively modern) paradigm that computing is about "information" (and the production of "content") and return to the older paradigm that computing is about "process" (including the processing of data and information).

In my view, it is the separation of "content" from "procedural infrastructure" (the division between content and form) that is the fundamental tool used by the dominant (American) political and commercial system to alienate consumers from anything that might give them a critical understanding of the structural system that is manipulating and exploiting them on a global and daily basis.

-Back to Simplicity, Modularity, Elegance and Transparency:

From intuitive experience, it seems to me that the history of commercial computing is one in which commercial violence continually displaces technically better products in favour of the poorer products of the economically more powerful companies.

The simple elegance of Algol gave way to Fortran -and the conceptual rigour of Lisp virtually disappeared from mainstream view (and yet later developments in language design seem heavily in debt to these "failed" products). The elegance of Motorola (and the 6809 series) became forced out by Intel (with less efficient backward compatibility, I'm told). The Amiga -the original multi-processor, multi-tasking GUI based desk-top video machine (once used for sketching purposes by many commercially successful animation companies) has been forced out by Wintel (who introduced their own multi-media Windows system much later than Apple, Atari or Amiga).

Personally, I don't see how so many good products can disappear from the market -unless the whole process is driven by consumer ignorance (carefully kept in place by the whole computer community -including Open Source programmers who subscribe to paradigms apparently based on those used by the commercial companies).

Focusing on what a product does -and ignoring the importance of how it does it seems to me to be the best recipe for both poor system design and an alienated public: In the words of the old song "Baby, it ain't what you do -it's the way that you do it -that's what gets results".....

-Elegance is about structure and not appearance:

One of the things that attracted me to computing was the philosophical implications of conceptual elegance:

It seems to me that the real "value" of computer programming lies not in the practical use of the programmes (although this can be useful enough for

many people in many different situations) -but the really important (potential) social contribution is in the way the discipline of programming forces one to think in certain ways that are otherwise less common.

Conceptually, programming is primarily concerned with the construction of definitions and the consequences of the structural relationships between the various definitions. Programming skills involve being able to separate the various conceptual and practical domains -and the ability to reintegrate them in flexible and useful ways. These are useful cognitive skills that have a wide range of potential applications outside programming -it is therefore a waste of social potential to keep these skills entirely in the hands of a small group of elite programmers.

Once upon a time, cybernetic based "system theory" was concerned with the study of the consequences of wide range of structural relationships within a wide range of social, political, technical, psychological and philosophical contexts. Now ICT seems to concentrate on providing amusing "content" for the jaded masses. One suspects that the economic elite are using cybernetic theory to programme the mass consumer via the ICT paradigm.

Perhaps the time has come to state that automation is not primarily concerned with "interaction" -it is concerned with defining the conditions that permit or deny human intervention. Computing is not about "information" -it is about defining and creating the contexts and processes which define and process "information" and "data".

In practise, the underlying (linguistic and cognitive) philosophy of any computer programme has enormous practical consequences for the user as well as cognitive value for the programmer. Programmers should concern themselves with the both the practical and philosophical value of programming -and should be involved with introducing these skills to the general public -and not hiding them away under a bushel of useless frills.

-Social and Political Implications:

I'm sure the invasion of Iraq, the problems of trying to sustain a fundamentally unsustainable global economy and the debacle of the new European Constitution would all have worked out completely differently -if politicians, journalists and public had been trained to ask more practical and critical questions about the exact nature of the structural procedures and processes involved. The road to Hell, they say, is paved with good intentions: Surely, it is our basic ignorance of the real nature of the paving material that keeps turning an intended stairway to heaven into an unavoidably slippery downward slide.

The "Information/Communication" paradigm opens the way for alienating propaganda (because it avoids the contexts which might criticise or undermine the assumptions in the message) successively -while the "Procedural" paradigm forces understanding and knowledge by tracing the relationships between the various contexts (demonstrating how "meaning"

develops out of those contexts and not independent of them).

A fair and honest society is dependant on the breaking down of the barrier between those who know how to design, manipulate and control new structures and those who can only use the structures they are provided with.

-The Next Generation?

Many of the older (pioneering) generation of programmers got hooked by cutting their teeth on (by today's standards) simple, grungy, systems. Many look back on a misspent youth playing with ZX80's, Commodore Vic's and bizarre self-build kits.

Today we are faced by a plethora of high-level conceptual products that pile sophisticated meta-level upon sophisticated meta-level until almost nobody is able to scale the lofty heights of the resulting product. The emacs tutorial is itself a maze of esoteric mystery -but how on earth is one to use Open Office without years of study (just to discover what it's supposed to do, let alone understand how one might actually do it)? Java may have replaced spaghetti programming -but has now itself become a fully fledged spaghetti programme with the conceptual elegance of a flea market. Ant, Python and Anaconda are out there somewhere fighting in the Open Source jungle, but what do they actually do and when does one really need them?

Exactly mirroring the consumerist society the Open Source community is supposed to counterbalance -we are faced by a plethora of poorly described Open Source consumer products all fighting for our attention -and it is becoming increasingly difficult for the well-intentioned outsider to find a practical path through the maze. Linux may well be easy to install nowadays -but what does one do with it when one has it?

Once upon a time, one could buy a cheap machine such as the Amiga 500, 1000 or 2000 (although, unfortunately, not the later models) which were already supplied with the Basic programming language and with little real effort (once one understood the basic principles) start programming (in Basic, C, or perhaps other simple, elegant, languages). Since then, computer programming has become more esoteric, complex and sophisticated (and apparently almost entirely reduced to the construction of interfaces). As a result it has become increasingly difficult for an interested beginner to get involved -because the interfaces have successively and successfully removed access by the user to the underlying process.

I believe this (technically and socially) dangerous development should be reversed: "Free Software" should be about liberating the consumer by helping them to understand the technical, linguistic and epistemological/ontological principles and problems which underly the ubiquitous machine which is increasingly ordering and controlling our lives. It should not be about adding even more interfaces to obscure and obfuscate the underlying conceptual structure.

If "democracy" is concerned with "transparency" -then democracy cannot be served by defining "transparency" in terms which actually obscure, rather than reveal, the underlying structure (in either machine or society).
Ultimately, we don't just need operating instructions and simple interfaces -we also need the chance to gain freedom by learning to programme our own lives in our own ways.

-The New Literacy:

Literacy brings freedom, but literacy requires the ability to write -as well as to read and have passive access as a consumer.

In order to become trully computer literate one requires not just programmes but also knowledge to enter the public domain. We need well crafted conceptual structures -that reflect, not hide, their inner structure. We also need a carefully composed hierarchy of abstractions, tutorials and meta-languages -organised in ways that allow one to begin on a simple level and progress up through the higher levels as the need and skills develop.

The new literacy involves giving people the skills and encouragement to develop their own languages and meta-languages -instead of remaining disenfranchised consumers who can choose the colour of their wall paper but not the design of their house.

-The way Forward:

Surely, it is the task of the Open Source community to provide conceptually elegant and practical alternatives to Microsoft -not to imitate poor commercial products. One cannot provide a real alternative through imitation -one needs to dare to explore alternative paradigms if one is going to find new directions to work in.

In my view, the Open Source community needs to develop and promote useful new paradigms and skills -and stop hiding behind decorative frills!

Trevor Batten
Manila, 04/08/2005

[] Posted by: Trevor Batten
Leave a comment Trackback (0)
http://korakora.org/weblog/index.php/journal/2005/08/04/open_letter_open_source

Kurokuro-I mailing list

Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
http://mail.korakora.org/mailman/listinfo/kurokuro-l_korakora.org

End of Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 2, Issue 3

From: Kurokuro-l-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 2, Issue 4
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org

From: Kurokuro-l-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 2, Issue 6
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org

Today's Topics:

1. call for wrting (again) (skonto merdeka)

Message: 1
Date: Fri, 12 Aug 2005 08:51:08 -0700 (PDT)
From: skonto merdeka <yeyeshitozen@yahoo.com>
Subject: [Kurokuro-l] call for wrting (again)
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Message-ID: <20050812155108.97775.qmail@web30204.mail.mud.yahoo.com>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=iso-8859-1

Hi,
Sorry it failed to attach the other day.
I received this from pimataalk which is an e-group that
was created by students of the Performance and
Interactive Arts Program in Brooklyn College, CUNY.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pimataalk/>

Stanley

Call for Essays and Articles
for
Feathers and Scales:
An Interdisciplinary Arts Reader

neoNuma Arts is looking for essays from artists who work in more than one art form or combine art forms for their work. These essays might explore (but are not limited to):

Difficulties in "switching gears" between projects or media.

Challenges for the artist to gain recognition in more than one medium.

What/how one medium communicates differently or better for the artist.

Theories or applications of combining two or more media.

Challenges/rewards for the audience in interpreting interdisciplinary work.

Essays may be personal manifestos on being an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary artist or they may be more scholarly in nature.

Articles about or interviews with inter or multidisciplinary artists are welcome, as well.

Essays or articles may have been previously published, but not previously anthologized. Author must be able to verify she or he has the rights to re-offer the piece for publication. Authors will be paid a royalty percentage on sales.

Audience: Artists who are or who are considering pursuing more than one creative discipline and are looking for inspiration or models.

Deadline: January 15, 2006. Notification of acceptance or rejection by March 15, 2006.

Send completed essays to:

neoNuma Arts
P.O. Box 460248
Houston, TX 77056

Enclose a s.a.s.e for reply.

Kurokuro-l mailing list
Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
http://mail.korakora.org/mailman/listinfo/kurokuro-l_korakora.org

End of Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 2, Issue 6

From: Kurokuro-l-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 2, Issue 7
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org

Today's Topics:

1. Go coconets! (Fatima Lasay)

Message: 1
Date: Thu, 25 Aug 2005 02:56:16 +0800
From: Fatima Lasay <fats@korakora.org>
Subject: [Kurokuro-l] Go coconets!
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Message-ID: <430CC2D0.6070900@korakora.org>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed

Fw from a friend, go coconets! :)

Fatima

Magandang araw po! The Philippines Coconut Geotextile (a.k.a. coconets) for soil erosion control has been chosen as one of the 12 finalists in Newsweek and BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) World Challenge.

The World Challenge is basically a competition/search designed at identifying groups or individuals all over the world whose projects have contributed great impact at grass roots level.

A documentary about Philippine Coconut geotextile or coconet industry will be shown on the BBC World cable channel on September 24 around 8:30 GMT and will also be featured in the August 29 special issue of

Newsweek.

The World Challenge already offers a tremendous exposure and publicity to our flourishing Philippine coconut geotextile industry and to our Philippine coconut fiber exporters. But it would be great liberation for our country, which has been getting very bad publicity nowadays, to win this prestigious competition.

To vote, please open <http://www.theworldchallenge.co.uk/finalists.html> and click the picture of Philippine Coconets.

Please help us campaign for more voters by forwarding this message to your co-worker, friends and relatives.

Thanks

Preventing landslides in the Philippines using waste coconut husks

In little more than two generations the Philippines has seen nearly all its jungle vanish. With little regard to the future, loggers and squatters have destroyed watersheds. The inevitable result has been landslides sweeping away topsoil. In 1995 agricultural engineer Justino Arboleda started Juboken Enterprise to combat soil erosion. The company makes nets that act as surrogate tree roots by holding loose soils together. Juboken's coconut plantations provide the fibre. The nets are made from waste coconut husks: an eco-friendly solution to a developing eco-disaster. The 'coconets' were rapidly taken up throughout the Philippines, and Arboleda began to develop other uses for the different waste products generated on his coconut farms. These included doormats, stuffing for car seats and mattresses, and fertiliser (made from coconut dust) suitable for organic farms. But the flagship product is still going strong: coconets are now being produced at a rate of 30,000 square metres per month for markets throughout the world. This continuing success has improved the lives of more than 1500 families in the Philippines: each family involved in the project earns an additional income of around US\$5 dollars per day. These achievements have been honoured by the President of the Philippines, who in 2004 presented Juboken Enterprise with a special award.

Coconets will appear on BBC World Saturday 17 September at 08:30 GMT, 13.30 GMT, 20:30 GMT.

The finalist advertorial will appear in the international Newsweek editions (EMEA, Asia, Latin America): On Sale 15 September

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-Korakora- Knowledge, Technology, Autonomy - <http://www.korakora.org/>
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Kurokuro-l mailing list
Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
http://mail.korakora.org/mailman/listinfo/kurokuro-l_korakora.org

End of Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 2, Issue 7

From: Kurokuro-l-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 3, Issue 1
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org

Today's Topics:

1. call for papers OurMedia conference (Aileen Familara)

Message: 1
Date: Wed, 31 Aug 2005 12:24:21 +0800
From: Aileen Familara <aileen@isiswomen.org>
Subject: [Kurokuro-l] call for papers OurMedia conference
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Message-ID: <431530F5.3010105@isiswomen.org>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=windows-1252; format=flowed

OURMedia / NUESTROSMedios
5th International Conference

www.ourmedianet.org

An International Conference
Bangalore, India
5-9 December 2005

CALL FOR PANELS

*** DEADLINE: August 31, 2005 ***

OURMedia/NuestrosMedios is a transnational network with over 400 academics, activists, researchers, practitioners and advocates working across every continent and in more than 40 countries. Its aim is to work towards the strengthening of media and information/communication technologies (ICTs) that support social justice, human rights, community autonomy and grassroots empowerment.

Our work spans many fields: community media, independent media, radical media, citizens media, grassroots networking, telecommunications policy, copyrights regimes, internet governance, indymedia activism, cultural and digital arts, communications theory, social-movement research, sociology, anthropology, cultural studies, development communication and communication for social change. Our annual meetings take place since 2001 and have become active spaces of strategic collaboration and analysis. Past conferences have been organized in Washington D.C (2001), Barcelona (2002), Barranquilla, Colombia (2003) and Porto Alegre, Brazil (2004). This year we are calling for panel proposals to meet in Bangalore, India from December 5-9, 2005.

Find more about us at

www.ourmedianet.org/general/about_us.html

VENUE

This year OM Conference is being hosted by the Department of Communication of the United Theological College, Bangalore.

The address and contact details are

Rev Dr Joshva Raja

Associate Professor and Chairperson

Department of Communication

United Theological College

63, Miller's Road, Bangalore - 560 046, India

Phone 0091 80 2333-3438/2333-0502 (Office)

Fax is 0091 80 2333-0015

joshvajohn@hotmail.com

joshvajohn@yahoo.co.uk

For Emergency please call my residence number 0091 23545307

CONFERENCE THEME AND OBJECTIVES

In line with previous meetings, Our Media 5 Conference Democracy and the Media is aimed at building strategies and collaborations among researchers, non-governmental organizations, practitioners, artists and advocates for the promotion of communication rights, effective access to ICT, and community and citizen participation in the media. This years special focus is on community and grassroots communications for social

change in India and South East Asia where we expect to learn and showcase current models and experiences in community participation and advocacy on media and ICT in the region.

In moving to Asia for the first time, OM 5 will continue its efforts to develop experiences of facilitating horizontal linkages between people engaged in communication action and theorization.

Presentations in panels at OM V will be documented to be posted in the OURMedia website which currently holds a wide-ranging series of resources in a multiplicity of topics.

For more information go to: www.ourmedianet.org/general/resources.html

Presentations will be mainly in English, with translations to Spanish to be confirmed closer to the conference dates.

PANELS AND CONFERENCE STRUCTURE

The Conference Planning Committee is seeking proposals for three types of sessions:

1)PANELS: There will be 10-12 moderated panels allocated during the 3-day conference which may be organized around individual paper presentations, or small roundtable debates/discussions where panelists respond to a series of questions/problems set up in advance.

2)PARTICIPATORY PROJECTS: are being framed as facilitated discussion groups, or group presentations on major case studies of relevant projects action plans, program implementations.

3)SCREENINGS: media projects or excerpts of no more than 20 minutes that reflect the topics of the organization and annual conference theme.

The conference will be opened by the local organizing committee and OM founding members who will welcome this years guest keynote speaker (To Be Confirmed).

Day 4 is planned for a FIELD TRIP to Budhikote- Narmmadhwani Project (community radio project of Voices). There will be a hands-on experience with the Community based media initiative. The area is located 3 hours drive from Bangalore. The return cost of the trip is \$US15 per person and includes registration fee and bus fare.

TOPIC AREAS

For Presentations and Participatory Sessions, the Conference Planning Committee is seeking proposals that address one or more of the following

topics:

ICT and Communication for Social Change local, regional, international
ICT for Development
Communication Rights advocacy, campaigns, strategies - global overview
Community Media / Citizens Media theory and practice
Connecting Research and Advocacy for Citizens' Media case studies
Media Policy, Transnational Governance and copyright regimes
Media Education / Communication and Learning
First Nations / Indigenous Communications and Media
Interactive media in collaborative and participatory research and practice.
New media arts activism and tactical media
Politics of media production and distribution processes
Technology and Knowledge
Health communications
Comparative media studies
Media diversity and democratization of media and IT
Peace and community building through media
Grassroots networking

HOW TO APPLY / SUBMIT PROPOSAL

Please prepare a short proposal to be submitted by email. Your proposal must include:

- * Name(s) of presenters, panelists AND session coordinator/moderator
- * Contact information (organization, address, phone/fax, email)
- * Short bio (150 words or less) for each participant named, including country where they are based, institutional affiliation, nature of their work and/or field of expertise or study
- * Description/abstract of your session (no more than 500 words) that includes: title, topic to be covered and detailed session plan. Please be sure to reference the relevant topic areas as listed in this announcement and to indicate why you think this session meets our selection criteria.

Please indicate if you are already an OURMedia member and if you have attended past OM conferences.

DEADLINE

Proposals must be submitted by WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 31, 2005

Send complete proposal as email text, Microsoft Word, PDF or RTF document to the three addresses listed below

Juan Francisco Salazar	j.salazar@uws.edu.au
Sergio Rodriguez	srodriguez@geomargroup.com
Rev Dr. John Joshva Raja	joshvajohn@hotmail.com

COSTS AND FEES

The Conference full registration fee is \$200 USD per person for the 3 days of conference sessions and one day of field trip. This includes basic food and accommodation for 5 days and 4 nights at the United Theological College. An additional US\$15.00 is payable to cover transport costs for field trip on day 4.

Kurokuro-l mailing list
Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
http://mail.korakora.org/mailman/listinfo/kurokuro-l_korakora.org

End of Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 3, Issue 1

From: Kurokuro-l-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 3, Issue 2
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org

Today's Topics:

1. Cultural Futures: Place, Ground, Practice (Fatima Lasay)
2. Last reminder: Call for participation: UNESCO Digital Arts Award 2005 (Fatima Lasay)
3. CFP: Asia Europe Journal (Fatima Lasay)

Message: 1
Date: Sun, 04 Sep 2005 23:55:36 +0800
From: Fatima Lasay <fats@korakora.org>
Subject: [Kurokuro-l] Cultural Futures: Place, Ground, Practice
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Message-ID: <431B18F8.2080303@korakora.org>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed

Date: Fri, 26 Aug 2005 10:09:31 +1200
From: Danny Butt <db@dannybutt.net>

Kia ora koutou. Please circulate. Apologies if you receive this more than once.

CULTURAL FUTURES: PLACE, GROUND AND PRACTICE IN
ASIA PACIFIC NEW MEDIA ARTS

Hoani Waititi, Auckland / Tamaki Makaurau, Aotearoa/ New Zealand
December 1-5 2005

<http://culturalfutures.place.net.nz>

AUGUST UPDATE: 1) confirmed participants, 2) registration fees, 3) publication news.

1) What is Cultural Futures?

Cultural Futures: Place, Ground and Practice in Asia Pacific New Media Arts is an event exploring cultural issues in the emerging new media environment. It brings internationally significant artists to Auckland / Tamaki Makaurau for dialogue, workshops and exhibitions.

Confirmed participants include:

Albert L Refiti (Aotearoa)
Amanda McDonald Crowley (Australia)
Chaz Doherty (Aotearoa)
Cheryl L'hirondelle (Canada)
Creative Combat (Australia / Aotearoa)
Fatima Lasay (Philippines)
Jenny Fraser (Australia)
Lisa Reihana (Aotearoa)
Rachael Rakena (Aotearoa)
Raqs Media Collective (India)

Information on presenters is available at <<http://culturalfutures.place.net.nz/presenters.html>>

2) Registration fees are now set.

\$NZ280 (waged) and \$NZ150 (full time student or unwaged)
registration will give you access to five full days, including:

- * Two nights accommodation and all meals included at Hoani Waititi marae (Friday night, Saturday and Sunday).
- * A pre-conference forum on new media curatorial practice with luminaries from the field on Friday 2 December.
- * Post conference workshops.

* Entry to a great closing party.

There is a strict limit of 200 people for the event. Sign up to the mailing list on the website to keep updated on registration details.

3) Publication reminder - broadsheet contributions are due August 30th

<<http://culturalfutures.place.net.nz/publications.html>>

We would like to get as many text and/or image contributions as possible for the broadsheet. We're looking for material that is related to the themes of the conference, that will set up a context and starting point for korero (oratory) at the conference. See the website for contribution details.

We have also received interest from international academic publishers about a book related to conference themes to be published in 2006. We'll be releasing a call for chapters at the beginning of September.

* "Can I submit a paper?"

We've had a lot of interest from people wanting to submit papers for the symposium, but we've opted for a "no papers" model for the event. The invited guests present their work on Friday and Saturday and Sunday is moderated open discussion. Outside of the discussion sessions, there will be extensive opportunities for conversations between speakers, attendees, and our hosts. The marae is a space for korero, and we're certain you'll find ample opportunity to contribute to a weekend full of stimulating dialogue.

Should you require a letter of invitation to attend for funding or visa purposes we will be glad to assist - please contact us with your full name, affiliation, and contact details.

For more information, please contact the organisers at info@culturalfutures.place.net.nz

Naaku noa nei, na

Danny Butt
Jon Bywater
Nova Paul

Organisational Group,
Cultural Futures
info@culturalfutures.place.net.nz
<http://culturalfutures.place.net.nz>

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-Korakora- Knowledge, Technology, Autonomy - <http://www.korakora.org/>

-Collaboration Space- <http://balikatan.korakora.org/>

-Discussion Group- <http://kurokuro.korakora.org/>

Message: 2

Date: Sun, 04 Sep 2005 23:56:14 +0800

From: Fatima Lasay <fats@korakora.org>

Subject: [Kurokuro-I] Last reminder: Call for participation: UNESCO
Digital Arts Award 2005

To: Kurokuro-I@korakora.org

Message-ID: <431B191E.3070007@korakora.org>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=windows-1252; format=flowed

- French version below -

Last reminder: Call for participation: UNESCO Digital Arts Award 2005

Young artists from around the world are invited to take part in this years award devoted to the theme of City and creative media.

Organized in collaboration with Art Center Nabi (Seoul, Republic of Korea), the Award would be delivered to non-realized project proposals in order to embrace a wider audience of creators, who have the innovative artistic ideas but not necessarily the means.

The call specifically aims at encouraging young emerging artists to cultivate new forms of expressions using new media and technology in reflecting on how urban spaces and city environments could be transformed into creative outlets.

The submission deadline is 14 September 2005. All project proposals should be submitted online at the official website of submission <http://www.nabi.or.kr/unesco_award>, where participants will also be able to find further detailed information (description of sub-themes, general guidelines, submission criteria, etc). All submissions should be in English.

The total prize money is US \$10,000, which would be divided into and given to more than one laureate, in some cases a group of artists. An additional US \$10,000 will be granted by the Art Center Nabi , as production costs, to the winner(s) of a Special Honorary Mention awarded for projects already realized that can be re-embodied within the urban context of city Seoul. The funds are also to cover the travel costs of the 1st winner of the UNESCO Award to the International Workshop in October organized by Nabi.

The award-winning projects would be selected by an international jury, assembled on this occasion representing the five geo-cultural regions

(Africa, Arab States, Asia/Pacific, Europe/North America, and Latin America/Caribbean).

For more information, contact:

unesco_award@nabi.or.kr

digiarts@unesco.org

UNESCO DigiArts portal: <<http://portal.unesco.org/digiarts>>

Dernier appel: Appel des candidatures: Prix UNESCO des arts numériques 2005

Les jeunes artistes du monde entier sont invités à participer à l'édition 2005 du prix UNESCO des arts numériques consacré au thème La ville et les médias créatifs. Organisé en association avec le centre d'art Nabi (Soul, République de Corée), le prix sera attribué des propositions de projets non complètes afin de s'adresser au plus grand nombre d'artistes, notamment ceux qui disposent parfois des idées créatives, mais pas nécessairement des moyens pour les réaliser.

L'appel de candidature a pour principal objectif d'encourager les jeunes artistes à cultiver de nouvelles formes d'expression grâce aux nouveaux médias et la technologie. Le prix vise à encourager une réflexion sur les possibilités de transformation créative des espaces et des environnements urbains.

La date limite de soumission des candidatures est le 14 septembre 2005.

Toutes les propositions de projet devront être renvoyées via Internet sur le site officiel de candidature

<http://www.nabi.or.kr/unesco_award>, où les participants pourront aussi trouver un complément d'information sur le prix (description des sous-catégories, consignes générales, critères de candidature, etc.). Les candidatures doivent être soumises en anglais.

La somme totale des prix offerts est de 10,000 \$ US. Ce montant sera divisé et attribué à plusieurs lauréats, individuels ou groupes d'artistes. Un montant additionnel de 10,000 \$ US est offert par le centre d'art Nabi. Ce montant sera divisé en plusieurs lauréats d'une mention honorable extraordinaire pour des projets déjà réalisés pouvant être reproduits dans le contexte urbain de la ville de Soul. Les fonds serviront à couvrir les frais de reproduction des œuvres dans la ville de Soul. Une partie de ces fonds servira également à financer la participation du lauréat du premier prix UNESCO à la réunion organisée par le centre d'art NABI en octobre.

Les lauréats seront désignés par un jury international réuni pour l'occasion et représentant les cinq grandes régions géoculturelles (Afrique, Pays arabes, Asie/Pacifique, Europe/Amérique du Nord et Amérique latine/Carabes).

Pour plus d'informations, contacter:

unesco_award@nabi.or.kr

digiarts@unesco.org

Portail UNESCO DigiArts: <<http://portal.unesco.org/digiarts>>

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-Korakora- Knowledge, Technology, Autonomy - <http://www.korakora.org/>

-Collaboration Space- <http://balikatan.korakora.org/>

-Discussion Group- <http://kurokuro.korakora.org/>

Message: 3

Date: Mon, 05 Sep 2005 11:36:29 +0800

From: Fatima Lasay <fats@korakora.org>

Subject: [Kurokuro-I] CFP: Asia Europe Journal

To: Kurokuro-I@korakora.org

Message-ID: <431BBD3D.5080304@korakora.org>

Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed

Asia Europe Journal | <http://www.asef.org/aej>

CALL FOR PAPERS

If you are:

an Asian scholar writing about Europe, or

an European scholar writing about Asia

We are calling for contributions covering bi-regional relations in the fields of politics, history, economics, culture and communication.

Articles should be no longer than 7,000 words, footnoted with an abstract. Submissions should be in English and previously unpublished.

Upon publication, an honorarium of 300 euros will be granted.

For further information, please see attached PDF advertisement or visit

the website at <http://www.asef.org/aej>

Please send contents enquiries or articles to:

Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Albrecht ROTHACHER, &
Editorial Assistant, Ms SOH Lai Yee (Tel: +65-68749729)

E-mail: asiaeuropejournal@asef.org

The Asia Europe Journal is produced by the Public Affairs Department of
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Kurokuro-l mailing list
Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
http://mail.korakora.org/mailman/listinfo/kurokuro-l_korakora.org

End of Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 3, Issue 2

From: Kurokuro-l-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 3, Issue 3
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org

Today's Topics:

1. CFP: Edutainment 2006 (Fatima Lasay)

Message: 1
Date: Mon, 05 Sep 2005 22:41:17 +0800
From: Fatima Lasay <fats@korakora.org>
Subject: [Kurokuro-I] CFP: Edutainment 2006
To: Kurokuro-I@korakora.org
Message-ID: <431C590D.6060305@korakora.org>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed

Call for Papers

Edutainment 2006
International Conference on E-learning and Games
April 16-18, 2006, Zhejiang University, China
Homepage: <http://www.cad.zju.edu.cn/vrmm/edutainment>
E-mail: edutainment06@cad.zju.edu.cn

INTRODUCTION

Edutainment-2006 is an international conference on research and development on E-Learning and digital entertainment. The main purpose of the conference is the discussion, information and opinions exchange on development and use of such systems. It will provide a very interesting opportunity for researchers that want to attend or present communications at these events.

The conference will include plenary invited talks, workshops, tutorials, paper presentation tracks and panel discussions. Participation is open to everyone, not requiring submission of a paper.

The conference is sponsored by Zhejiang University, and China Society of Image and Graphics. It is co-sponsored by EUROGRAPHICS (pending), and IFIP SG on Entertainment Computing (pending). Edutainment-2006 will be hosted by the Digital Entertainment and Animation Center, Zhejiang University, China.

The Proceedings will be published by Springer as Lecture Notes on Computer Science (SCI indexed).

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Edutainment-2006 will present traditional technical sessions in the respective areas with a lineup of plenary sessions, invited talks, tutorials, poster sessions, workshops, and exhibits.

Papers

Papers related to the following topics are solicited. However, any paper dealing with a pioneered or significant development in animation, virtual reality and multimedia is also encouraged.

Affective Interaction in Games

Animation techniques
Augmented Reality, Mixed Reality
Collaborative Environments
Collaborative Learning
Digital Heritage
Digital Museum
Education and remote classrooms
Effectiveness of VR for education
E-Learning Platforms and Tools
E-Learning Standards
Game AI and Artificial Life
Game Design and Development
Game Engine Development and Customization
Game Physics
Game Rendering/Animations
Learning Resource Management
Life Long Learning
Mobile learning
Online/Mobile Game/Video Game
Practice and Experience Sharing
Remote Group Simulations
Storytelling and Game Narrative
Virtual Characters/Agents
Virtual Reality in Education

Papers should describe original and unpublished work about the above or closely related topics and should not exceed 10 pages single-spaced in length including images, figures, tables and references. Each paper should also include the title of the paper, authors names, affiliations, postal addresses, e-mail addresses and the contact person for the paper.

Important dates

Submission Deadline: Nov. 15, 2005.
Notification of acceptance: Dec. 20,2005
Camera-ready papers: Jan. 15, 2005
Conference: April 16-18, 2006

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Kurokuro-l mailing list
Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
http://mail.korakora.org/mailman/listinfo/kurokuro-l_korakora.org

End of Kurokuro-1 Digest, Vol 3, Issue 3

From: Kurokuro-1-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-1 Digest, Vol 3, Issue 4
To: Kurokuro-1@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-1@korakora.org

Today's Topics:

1. Fwd: NGOs Organize Open Sessions on Free/Open Source Software(FOSS) > 14-16 September/Dusit Hotel, Makati (Fatima Lasay)

Message: 1
Date: Thu, 15 Sep 2005 01:16:58 +0800
From: Fatima Lasay <digiteer@ispx.com.ph>
Subject: [Kurokuro-1] Fwd: NGOs Organize Open Sessions on Free/Open Source Software(FOSS) > 14-16 September/Dusit Hotel, Makati
To: Kurokuro-1@korakora.org
Cc: art_forum@yahoogroups.com
Message-ID: <6.0.0.22.1.20050915011331.01eade78@localhost>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="us-ascii"; format=flowed

A bit late, but could be of interest - please join us on day 2, and particularly day 3 (Sept 16) of Track 4, where we discuss FOSS and the Creative Practices. Track 4 is free and open to the public.

Regards,
Fatima

(Apologies if you receive this more than once. Please disseminate widely)

You don't have to be a techie to come...because Free Software is everyone's concern.

LINUXWORLD PHILIPPINES 2005
14-16 September 2005, Dusit Hotel, Makati City
www.mediag8way.com/linuxworld

LinuxWorld Philippines is the country's biggest event highlighting Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) for government, private enterprises, and development organizations. Organized by Media G8Way, the country's biggest publisher of IT publications (Computerworld, PC Digest, Enterprise, Stuff, IT Resource), it offers various technical and non-technical sessions for executive officers,

technical staff/developers, and end-users: TRACK 1: Introduction/Business Applications; TRACK 2: Technical Systems Administration; TRACK 3: Tutorial and Workshops

TRACK 4: PUBLIC INTEREST/ ADVOCACY

Track 4 is targeted at participants who want to go beyond the traditional tracks of business applications or technical competency. It hopes to get the traditional Linux/FOSS constituency interested in public policy and advocacy while also targeting a potential new emerging one-the nonprofit/NGO constituency, who are into Linux/FOSS also for its social and political implications.
Track 4 is open to the public.

TRACK 4 SESSIONS:

Wednesday, 14 September 2005

10:45 am-12:15pm

** FOSS @ GOV.PH: Linux & Free/Open Source Software (FOSS) in Government
Panelists: Comm. Tim Diaz de Rivera/Grace Amberong (National Computer Center-Commission on ICT); Dr. Denis Villoriente (ASTI-DOST); and Greg Igaya (Institute of Popular Democracy)

This session will give a report on the state of FOSS initiatives in government organizations, feature interesting cases/experiments, highlight learnings from current initiatives, and pinpoint particular challenges faced by FOSS advocates in government, including local government units. This will also be an opportunity to build/strengthen the FOSS/Linux Community of Practice in government.

1:30-3:00 pm

** FOSS @ EDU.PH: Linux & FOSS in Education
Panelists: Melizza Tan (Commission on ICT); Joseph Paul Shianghao (Philippine Open Source Initiative); Dr. Rommel Feria (UP Diliman); Dr. Emmanuel Lagare (Mindanao State University-IIT)

This session will give a report on the state of FOSS initiatives in educational institutions and in the Human Capital Development Group of the Commission on Information and Communication Technology (CICT). It will also feature interesting cases/experiments, highlight learnings from current initiatives, and pinpoint particular challenges faced by FOSS advocates in the education sector. This will also be an opportunity to build/strengthen the FOSS/Linux Community of

Practice in education.

3:15-4:45 pm

** FOSS @ HEALTH.PH: Linux & FOSS in Health

Panelists: Dr. Alvin Marcelo (UP Manila); Dr. Inocencio Maramba (UP Manila); Dr.

Ayedee Ace Domingo (Synapse)

Health is a basic human right. It is an area where FOSS can reinvigorate the current health system to benefit the majority of Filipinos, by providing affordable access to important applications and knowledge/content. The session will contextualize this within efforts of medical practitioners to democratizing access through FOSS, and in situating FOSS in important issues which impact on health information and informatics (e.g., ethics, privacy/confidentiality; standards and interoperability; etc.).

5:00-6:15

** FOSS @ ORG.PH: Linux & FOSS in Development Organizations

Panelists: Celeste Cinco (Women's Hub); Dong Calmada (Peace Foundation); Alan Alegre (Foundation for Media Alternatives); Horacio Cadiz (Philippine Network Foundation)

This session will give a glimpse of FOSS initiatives in development/public interest organizations and surface learnings from FOSS advocates in civil society organizations and NGOs. Organizations using FOSS in different development sectors (e.g., human rights, rural development, environment, etc.) will be asked to share experiences, and a popular suite of FOSS NGO applications compiled as "NGO-in-a-Box" will also be introduced.

Day 2: 15 September 2005

9:00-10:30 am

** POLICY FORUM/DIALOGUE:

Should the Philippine Government Adopt an Open Source Policy: Policy Dilemmas, Development Imperatives?

Panelists: Comm. Damian Mapa (CICT); Dr. Jay Sabido IX (Easix); Alan Alegre (FMA); Atty. Michael Angelo Dizon (UP-Law Internet & Society Program)

This session will pose one of the more crucial (and controversial) issues in FOSS advocacy in the Philippines. It aims to present an overview of FOSS Policy initiatives undertaken in different countries, and its implications in terms of policy options for the Philippines. It will put FOSS advocates in dialogue with policy makers to explore possible recommendations. A multi-stakeholder panel (government, private sector, civil society) will be convened.

10:45 am -12:15 pm

**** From Open Source to Open Content: Issues and Alternatives in "Intellectual Property" and the Public Domain**

Panelists: Atty. JJ Disini (UP Law-ISP); Atty. Jimmy Soriano (Creative Commons-PH); Atty. Rissa Ofilada (UP Law-ISP); Manny Amador (Open Minds); Dr.

Tilman Baugartel (UP College of Mass Communications)

This session will tackle the problems brought about by the restrictive intellectual property regime and how this "permission culture" can be transformed into a vibrant free culture by utilizing Creative Commons and other more open models for using and licensing intellectual property rights.

1:30-3:00 pm

**** Legal Issues in FOSS**

Panelists: Atty JJ Disini (UP Law ISP) and Atty. Bong Dizon (UP Law ISP); representative from Microsoft

This session will discuss the legal issues relating to FOSS. Particular attention will be given to FOSS as a licensing agreement. The session will tackle among others: relevant provisions of GNU GPL and other FOSS licenses, copyleft, legality and enforceability of FOSS licenses under Philippine law, the SCO case, and the philosophical underpinnings of the FOSS movement as manifested in the GNU GPL.

3:15-4:45 pm

**** FOSS/Linux for Advocacy (A Learning Session)**

Resource Persons: Dong Calmada (Philippine Linux Users Group); Celeste Cinco (Women's Hub)

This session will orient and introduce CSOs and other public interest organizations to basic FOSS tools to fulfill one of the basic functions of development organizations: Advocacy. The Philippine Linux Users Group will share their experience, and FOSS advocacy tools will be demonstrated.

5:00-6:15 pm

**** Secure Computing and Online Communications Using FOSS Tools (A Learning Session)**

Resource Persons: Horacio Cadiz (PH Net); Nina Somera (FMA)

This session will orient CSOs and other public interest organizations on privacy

and security issues and threats in today's wired and wireless environment, and introduce basic FOSS tools to address these (encryption, firewalls, anti-sniffing/anonymizing; anti spam/adware/malware).

Friday, 16 September 2005

9:00-10:30 am

** FOSS, Linux and Gender

Panelist: Celeste Cinco (Women's Hub); Women of PLUG

Where are the women in the FOSS environment in the Philippines? What roles do they play in this arena? How can women benefit from using FOSS? How can the FOSS movement benefit from women's equal participation in it? What are the barriers in women's full engagement in FOSS? How can we build capacities among women so that they may be able to use FOSS more strategically? Are there really gender issues in relation to FOSS and Linux? Through presentations and open discussion, this session aims to begin answering these questions towards coming up with recommendations / approaches / strategies to encourage women to utilise FOSS more effectively.

10:45 am -12:15 pm

** Linux/FOSS in the Creative Practices

Panelists: Danny Escasa (POSITIVE) and Fatima Lasay (Korakora.org)

This session proceeds from the assumption that Linux and FOSS are also viable tools in the arts and creative practices. There will be a session on "Writing for Linux/Linux for Writers"; and another one on "FOSS and Defining the Creative Space: Knowledge, Technology, Autonomy", both to be given by well known academics and FOSS advocates

3:15-5:30 pm

** Nurturing and Sustaining the Philippine FOSS Ecosystem: The Way Forward

Panelists: Comm. Emmanuel Lallana (CICT); Reuben Ravago (Advanced Software Foundation); Track 4 session moderators/Organizing Team

This aims to end the track/conference with a general community meeting in a town hall format, to pose the question on what needs to be done to promote FOSS in a strategic and programmatic way. It will be a self-critical look at the current state of the FOSS "ecosystem" in the country, and will seek to pinpoint gaps for short- to medium-term action. This could serve as a venue to devise/validate an

"action plan" for the FOSS community to benchmark our work for the future. This will be a venue where various recommendations and plans surfaced in the previous sessions will be collated and organized.

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The Public Interest and Advocacy track is organized by BUKAS, a group of public interest organizations and NGOs advocating FOSS use. BUKAS includes the Advanced Software Foundation (ASFI), Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA), Open Source Advocates in NGOs (OSANG), Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD-DOST); Philippine Linux Users Group (PLUG), Philippine Network Foundation (PH Net), Philippine Open Source Initiative (POSITIVE), UP Law Internet and Society Program (UP Law ISP), and UP Manila National Telehealth Center; and Women's Hub.

Track 4 is being coordinated by the Foundation for Media Alternatives (FMA).

For more information, contact:
Anne or Carla: MediaG8Way (Tel: 812-8401 to 03 loc. 164);
avgeneroso@mediag8way.com
Nina/FMA (Tel 435-6684); ninasomera@fma.ph

Kurokuro-l mailing list
Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
http://mail.korakora.org/mailman/listinfo/kurokuro-l_korakora.org

End of Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 3, Issue 4

From: Kurokuro-l-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 3, Issue 5
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Date: Sat, 24 Sep 2005 12:00:23 +0800

Today's Topics:

1. Artist-in-Residence program at IAMAS, Japan (Fatima Lasay)

Message: 1
Date: Fri, 23 Sep 2005 02:14:00 +0800
From: Fatima Lasay <fats@korakora.org>
Subject: [Kurokuro-1] Artist-in-Residence program at IAMAS, Japan
To: Kurokuro-1@korakora.org
Message-ID: <4332F468.3060505@korakora.org>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed

Apologies for cross-posting.

Call for artists

Artist-in-Residence program at IAMAS, Japan

The Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences and the International Academy of Media Arts and Sciences (IAMAS) conducts an Artists-in-Residence invitational program. We call for applications twice a year. Now we are calling for the next term. We prefer a fresh communicative artists who can encourage to students.

Term: Term: 1st Apr. 2006 - 30st Sept. 2006

Person: 1

Application deadline : 31st Dec 2005

See the detail: <http://www.iamas.ac.jp/SC/E/index-air2.html>

Residency artists in the past:

<http://www.iamas.ac.jp/SC/E/index-air.html>

* Ms Shiho Fukuhara, a member of Biopresence, will be the residency artist from this October. Inquiry: info@iamas.ac.jp

Please apply with the prescribed application forms which can be obtained on the above website.

Best regards.

Miki Fukuda

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Center for Media Culture (CMC)
Institute of Advanced Media Arts and Sciences (IAMAS)
3-95 Ryoke-cho, Ogaki-shi, Gifu 503-0014 Japan
<http://www.iamas.ac.jp/>

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-Korakora- Knowledge, Technology, Autonomy - <http://www.korakora.org/>
-Collaboration Space- <http://balikatan.korakora.org/>
-Discussion Group- <http://kurokuro.korakora.org/>

Kurokuro-l mailing list
Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
http://mail.korakora.org/mailman/listinfo/kurokuro-l_korakora.org

End of Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 3, Issue 5

From: Kurokuro-l-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 4, Issue 1
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Date: Thu, 13 Oct 2005 12:00:27 +0800

Today's Topics:

1. Luis V. Teodora: Visiting "Amerika" (Fatima Lasay)

Message: 1
Date: Sun, 09 Oct 2005 23:09:16 +0800
From: Fatima Lasay <fats@korakora.org>
Subject: [Kurokuro-l] Luis V. Teodora: Visiting "Amerika"
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Message-ID: <4349329C.7010703@korakora.org>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed

COMMENTARY
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Sept. 30, 2005

VISITING "AMERIKA"

By Luis V. Teodoro

THE United States is "America" to most people. But that word refers to the continent, and when applied to the US is better spelled with a "k," as in "swastika".

It's the country most Filipinos want to visit. But if you've ever been involved in any group or activity faintly progressive; if you have relatives or friends who have been; or you're from a country the US says harbors "terrorist groups", it's tempting fate to go. No matter how vague or past your involvement, it can earn you a strip search, an interrogation session with the FBI or immigration, summary deportation, or even indefinite detention.

Retired Philippine Army general Raymundo Jarque and his wife Xenia found this out last week when they landed in Dallas. Singled out for interrogation, the Jarques, at 67 years old just the right age for terrorists, were also denied food while awaiting deportation, and jailed in their underwear. The charge: possible terrorist links because Jarque was a National Democratic Front consultant in peace talks in the 1990s.

The Jarques went to the US to visit relatives. Like many Filipinos, they're linked by blood to that country through sons and daughters, cousins and uncles, nieces or nephews who live there.

The US is not a nice place for non-whites and dollar-poor people to visit even in the best of times. You don't really want to live there-not if you think there's more to life than McDonald's, a gas-guzzling car, Mickey Mouse prancing around Disneyland, and indulging one's earthly appetites at the cost of one's dignity and self-respect. But I confess: I've visited the US several times to see relatives, and even briefly lived there during arguably better times.

In 1978 Jimmy Carter was US president. Carter had inherited the US policy, in place since the Johnson administration, of supporting dictatorships. But the US tolerated opponents of dictatorship within its borders. Many Filipino exiles opposed to the Marcos regime were there in the late 1970s, and they could lobby Congress, publish anti-dictatorship tracts, and hold public discussions without fear.

But while dissenters were tolerated, the US government continued to support Marcos with economic and military aid. The conflict was between the US' supposed adherence to democratic rights and the demands of its imperial interests. Those interests the architects of its foreign policy sought to defend and advance at all costs, including mass murder.

Since the Reagan presidency the contradiction has been resolved in favor of repression at home and naked aggression abroad. As well as self-determination among nations, the Republican gang of George W. Bush has also savaged due process and other individual rights on the excuse that it's necessary to defeat "international terrorism".

If Nixon bombed Vietnam and Cambodia, and George W. Bush Iraq, the Democrats' Bill Clinton did the same to the Sudan and the former Yugoslavia. It's in the policies at home, not abroad, where the Republicans and the Democrats differ. At least at home minority and immigrant rights as well as those of visitors were to some extent respected by Democratic administrations.

US immigration treats every visitor from a poor country as a potential overstaying alien whatever party is in power. But nowadays if you're Asian, or just look different, you're likely to be regarded as a possible terrorist as well. The worst thing to be is Muslim and/or Arab, which makes Indonesians, Malaysians, some Filipinos, but especially Middle Eastern folk likely victims of racial profiling at US immigration counters.

There are enough horror stories on the treatment of "terrorists" to fill a hefty volume, among other reasons because the US Patriot Act permits the summary deportation or indefinite detention of suspected terrorists without the benefit of lawyers and visits by relatives.

But the scramble to visit and live in the United States continues because the poverty rampant in the US world order (800 million people go to bed hungry daily) drives millions from their countries to look for opportunities abroad-- especially in the US.

And yet poverty is no stranger to millions of US residents. Some 37 million are poor, and millions of US children often go hungry. Also an extremely violent place, some 30,000 people are shot dead every year in the US, and 65,000 more injured. School shootings by students have been described as "an epidemic." Assaults, rapes and armed robberies are common, with one violent crime for every 47 US residents occurring yearly. Two million people are in US prisons, in the construction of which it excels as it does in war and mayhem.

Racism is as common as grass in the US, where everything's right if you're white, but everything can be wrong if you're not. And they

start them young. Grade school children blithely hurl such racial epithets as "Nigger", "Spic", "Chink" etc. at each other when they quarrel. It's a habit of thought that stays with them all their lives, whether on the job, in school or on the street-- where your being a "Slope" (Asian) or a homosexual can earn you a beating by racist gangs.

"America" isn't in the heart. It's in the colonial mind, "Amerika" being the reality. You don't really want to live there, and visiting it is like visiting Nazi Germany in the 1930s. Except that today you don't have to be Jewish, just different. --##

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-Korakora- Knowledge, Technology, Autonomy - <http://www.korakora.org/>
-Collaboration Space- <http://balikatan.korakora.org/>
-Discussion Group- <http://kurokuro.korakora.org/>

Kurokuro-l mailing list
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http://mail.korakora.org/mailman/listinfo/kurokuro-l_korakora.org

End of Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 4, Issue 1

From: Kurokuro-l-request@korakora.org
Subject: [BULK-SPAM] Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 4, Issue 2
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Date: Fri, 14 Oct 2005 12:00:26 +0800

Today's Topics:

1. UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowship Programme (Fatima Lasay)
2. Antolohiya ng mga Kuwentong Manggagawa (Fatima Lasay)
3. SPIEGEL INTERVIEW WITH AFRICAN ECONOMICS EXPERT (Trevor Batten)

Message: 1
Date: Thu, 13 Oct 2005 22:03:52 +0800

From: Fatima Lasay <fats@korakora.org>
Subject: [Kurokuro-I] UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowship
Programme
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Message-ID: <434E6948.9080300@korakora.org>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed

<French and Spanish versions below>

DIRECTOR-GENERAL INVITES YOUNG RESEARCHERS TO APPLY FOR
UNESCO/KEIZO
OBUCHI FELLOWSHIPS

UNESCO invites young post-graduate researchers in developing countries with a Master's degree (or equivalent) to apply for fellowships, each worth a maximum of US\$6,000 to US\$10,000, through the UNESCO/Keizo Obuchi Research Fellowship Programme, financed by Japan through funds-in-trust dedicated to the development of human resources.

The programme - named after the late Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi who was known for his commitment to development issues - offers a total of 20 fellowships to researchers active in one of four fields:

- 1.Environment
- 2.Intercultural dialogue
- 3.Information and communication technologies
- 4.Peaceful conflict resolution.

UNESCO Director General Ko?chiro Matsuura has written to UNESCO National Commissions, Permanent Delegations to UNESCO and to the Organization's regional offices asking them to invite young researchers to apply for the fellowships through their country's National Commission. Each Member State may nominate a maximum of two candidates, no older than 40.

The deadline for applications to reach UNESCO is January 13th, 2006.

Application form and further information :

[http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-
URL_ID=14635&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html](http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=14635&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html)

National Commissions Contact Information:

http://erc.unesco.org/cp/nclist_portal.asp?language=E

LE DIRECTEUR GENERAL INVITE LES JEUNES CHERCHEURS A
POSTULER POUR
LES BOURSES UNESCO-KEIZO OBUCHI

L'UNESCO appelle les jeunes chercheurs de niveau universitaire supérieur (titulaires d'une maîtrise, Master's degree, ou d'un titre équivalent) des pays en développement à poser leur candidature pour les bourses - d'une valeur maximale de 6 000 à 10 000 dollars chacune - du Programme des bourses de recherche UNESCO-Keizo Obuchi, financé par le Japon à travers des fonds-en-dépense consacrés au développement des ressources humaines.

Ce programme qui porte le nom de l'ancien Premier ministre japonais, Keizo Obuchi, connu pour son engagement en faveur du développement, offre un total de 20 bourses aux chercheurs dans quatre domaines:

1. l'environnement
2. le dialogue interculturel
3. les technologies de l'information et de la communication
4. la résolution pacifique des conflits

Le Directeur général de l'UNESCO, Koïchiro Matsuura, a appelé les Commissions nationales, les Délégations permanentes auprès de l'UNESCO, ainsi que tous les bureaux régionaux de l'Organisation à inviter les jeunes chercheurs à déposer leurs candidatures par l'intermédiaire de leur Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO. Deux chercheurs, âgés de 40 ans au plus, seront choisis par chaque Commission nationale pour l'UNESCO.

Le 13 janvier 2006 est la date limite à laquelle toutes les candidatures devront être arrivées au siège de l'Organisation à Paris.

Pour la demande de bourse et les renseignements:

http://portal.unesco.org/fr/ev.php-URL_ID=14635&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Pour contacter votre commission nationale pour l'UNESCO:

http://erc.unesco.org/cp/NClst_portal.asp?language=F

EL DIRECTOR-GENERAL INVITA A LOS JOVENES INVESTIGADORES A
QUE SE
PRESENTEN AL PROGRAMA DE BECAS DE INVESTIGACION
UNESCO/KEIZO OBUCHI

La UNESCO invita a los jóvenes investigadores posgraduados de los países en desarrollo a presentar sus candidaturas para las becas del Programa de Investigación UNESCO-Keizo Obuchi, dotadas con sumas de entre 6.000 y 10.000 dólares y financiadas por Japón mediante fondos fiduciarios destinados al desarrollo de capacidades en materia de recursos humanos.

Este Programa, que lleva el nombre del ex primer ministro japonés Keizo Obuchi, reputado por su compromiso con el desarrollo, ofrece 20 becas a los investigadores en cuatro áreas:

1. Medio Ambiente
2. Dialogo Intercultural

Información y comunicación tecnológica
Resolución pacífica de conflictos

El Director General de la UNESCO, Koichiro Matsuura, llama a las Comisiones Nacionales de la UNESCO, a las Delegaciones Permanentes de la UNESCO y a las oficinas de las organizaciones regionales para invitar a que los jóvenes investigadores soliciten esta beca a través de la Comisión Nacional del país de procedencia. Cada Estado miembro nombra un máximo de dos candidatos, no mayores de 40 años.

La(s) solicitud(es) debe llegar a la Sección de becas de la UNESCO antes del 13 de enero 2006.

Formulario de solicitud e información adicional :
http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=14635&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Información Contacto Comisiones Nacionales:
http://erc.unesco.org/cp/nclist_portal.asp?language=E

Section for Youth - Section pour la Jeunesse
UNESCO
Fax: 33-1-45.68.57.90 - e-mail: ucj@unesco.org -
Website: <http://www.unesco.org/youth>

Message: 2
Date: Thu, 13 Oct 2005 22:09:38 +0800
From: Fatima Lasay <fats@korakora.org>
Subject: [Kurokuro-l] Antolohiya ng mga Kuwentong Manggagawa
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Message-ID: <434E6AA2.7060406@korakora.org>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed

Antolohiya ng mga Kuwentong Manggagawa

Kasalukuyan kaming naghahanap ng mga maikling kuwentong nasusulat sa wikang Filipino hinggil sa manggagawa at kilusang paggawa sa Pilipinas. Sa gitna ng tumitinding krisis pamupulitika at pang-ekonomiya ng bansa (e-vat, oligopolyo, pagpapaalis kay PGMA, political aggression, pagpatay sa mga lider-manggagawa tulad ni Ka Fort ng unyon ng Nestle, pagtaas ng presyo ng kuryente, kawalan ng trabaho at permanenteng trabaho), ang isa pinakamalaking naapektuhan ay ang sektor ng mga manggagawa.

Nais taluntunin ng antolohiyang ito ang kasaysayan ng kilusang paggawa sa Pilipinas (at ang koneksyon nito sa pandaigdigang kilusang paggawa), ang mga isyu ng manggagawa tulad ng kontraktwalisasyon, subkontraktwalisasyon, "rationalization" ng mga ahensiya't institusyon ng pamahalaan, relasyon ng kapitalista at manggagawa, relasyon ng mga manggagawa, unfair labor practices, sexual harassment sa pagawaan, mga personal (at pulitikal) na testimonya, at ang pagbubudyong ng vanguard class ng isang kolektibong pagkilos upang makamit ang tunay na kalayaan at demokrasya. At marami pang iba.

Bahagi rin nito ang pagpapakita o pagpapatampok ng pangkulturang gawain ng mga manggagawa pagdating sa panitikan, sining, musika atbp.

Sa ganang ito, humihingi kami sa sinumang interesado, laluna sa mga manggagawa at maka-manggagawa na magsumite ng kanilang mga maikling kuwento at dagli para sa proyektong ito. Mangyaring pakipadala lamang sa mangiglap@yahoo.com o mangewan@gmail.com hanggang sa October 31, 2005. Maaaring magpadala ng higit sa isang kuwento kada awtor. Ilakip ang maikling tala hinggil sa inyong sarili (bionote o profile). Maaari ring magpadala ng printed version pero lakipan ng diskette o CD copy. I-atensyon kay Joey Baquiran at/o Mykel Andrada ng UP Departamento ng Filipino at Panitikan ng Pilipinas, 2nd Floor Faculty Center, College of Arts and Letters, UP Diliman. Para sa mga katanungan, magpadala ng e-mail o di kaya'y magtext sa 0915-4413324 at 0919-6384488. Maraming salamat!

Message: 3
Date: Thu, 13 Oct 2005 23:57:28 +0800
From: Trevor Batten <trevor@tebatt.net>
Subject: [Kurokuro-l] SPIEGEL INTERVIEW WITH AFRICAN ECONOMICS EXPERT
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Message-ID: <434E83E8.8070104@tebatt.net>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=us-ascii; format=flowed

SPIEGEL INTERVIEW WITH AFRICAN ECONOMICS EXPERT
<<http://service.spiegel.de/cache/international/spiegel/0,1518,363663,00.html>>

"For God's Sake, Please Stop the Aid!"

The Kenyan economics expert James Shikwati, 35, says that aid to Africa does more harm than good. The avid proponent of globalization spoke with SPIEGEL about the disastrous effects of Western development policy in Africa, corrupt rulers, and the tendency to overstate the AIDS problem.

Horst Friedrichs

Economist James Shikwati: "Despite the billions that have poured in to

Africa, the continent remains poor."

SPIEGEL: Mr. Shikwati, the G8 summit at Gleneagles is about to beef up the development aid for Africa...

Shikwati: ... for God's sake, please just stop.

SPIEGEL: Stop? The industrialized nations of the West want to eliminate hunger and poverty.

Shikwati: Such intentions have been damaging our continent for the past 40 years. If the industrial nations really want to help the Africans, they should finally terminate this awful aid. The countries that have collected the most development aid are also the ones that are in the worst shape. Despite the billions that have poured in to Africa, the continent remains poor.

SPIEGEL: Do you have an explanation for this paradox?

Shikwati: Huge bureaucracies are financed (with the aid money), corruption and complacency are promoted, Africans are taught to be beggars and not to be independent. In addition, development aid weakens the local markets everywhere and dampens the spirit of entrepreneurship that we so desperately need. As absurd as it may sound: Development aid is one of the reasons for Africa's problems. If the West were to cancel these payments, normal Africans wouldn't even notice. Only the functionaries would be hard hit. Which is why they maintain that the world would stop turning without this development aid.

SPIEGEL: Even in a country like Kenya, people are starving to death each year. Someone has got to help them.

Shikwati: But it has to be the Kenyans themselves who help these people. When there's a drought in a region of Kenya, our corrupt politicians reflexively cry out for more help. This call then reaches the United Nations World Food Program -- which is a massive agency of apparatchiks who are in the absurd situation of, on the one hand, being dedicated to the fight against hunger while, on the other hand, being faced with unemployment were hunger actually eliminated. It's only natural that they willingly accept the plea for more help. And it's not uncommon that they demand a little more money than the respective African government originally requested. They then forward that request to their headquarters, and before long, several thousands tons of corn are shipped to Africa ...

SPIEGEL: ... corn that predominantly comes from highly-subsidized European and American farmers ...

AFP

Ruandan President Kagame has over a million deaths on his conscience,

says Shikwati.

Shikwati: ... and at some point, this corn ends up in the harbor of Mombasa. A portion of the corn often goes directly into the hands of unscrupulous politicians who then pass it on to their own tribe to boost their next election campaign. Another portion of the shipment ends up on the black market where the corn is dumped at extremely low prices. Local farmers may as well put down their hoes right away; no one can compete with the UN's World Food Program. And because the farmers go under in the face of this pressure, Kenya would have no reserves to draw on if there actually were a famine next year. It's a simple but fatal cycle.

SPIEGEL: If the World Food Program didn't do anything, the people would starve.

Shikwati: I don't think so. In such a case, the Kenyans, for a change, would be forced to initiate trade relations with Uganda or Tanzania, and buy their food there. This type of trade is vital for Africa. It would force us to improve our own infrastructure, while making national borders -- drawn by the Europeans by the way -- more permeable. It would also force us to establish laws favoring market economy.

SPIEGEL: Would Africa actually be able to solve these problems on its own?

Shikwati: Of course. Hunger should not be a problem in most of the countries south of the Sahara. In addition, there are vast natural resources: oil, gold, diamonds. Africa is always only portrayed as a continent of suffering, but most figures are vastly exaggerated. In the industrial nations, there's a sense that Africa would go under without development aid. But believe me, Africa existed before you Europeans came along. And we didn't do all that poorly either.

SPIEGEL: But AIDS didn't exist at that time.

Shikwati: If one were to believe all the horrifying reports, then all Kenyans should actually be dead by now. But now, tests are being carried out everywhere, and it turns out that the figures were vastly exaggerated. It's not three million Kenyans that are infected. All of the sudden, it's only about one million. Malaria is just as much of a problem, but people rarely talk about that.

SPIEGEL: And why's that?

Shikwati: AIDS is big business, maybe Africa's biggest business. There's nothing else that can generate as much aid money as shocking figures on AIDS. AIDS is a political disease here, and we should be very skeptical.

SPIEGEL: The Americans and Europeans have frozen funds previously pledged to Kenya. The country is too corrupt, they say.

Shikwati: I am afraid, though, that the money will still be transferred

before long. After all, it has to go somewhere. Unfortunately, the Europeans' devastating urge to do good can no longer be countered with reason. It makes no sense whatsoever that directly after the new Kenyan government was elected -- a leadership change that ended the dictatorship of Daniel arap Moi -- the faucets were suddenly opened and streams of money poured into the country.

SPIEGEL: Such aid is usually earmarked for a specific objective, though.

Shikwati: That doesn't change anything. Millions of dollars earmarked for the fight against AIDS are still stashed away in Kenyan bank accounts and have not been spent. Our politicians were overwhelmed with money, and they try to siphon off as much as possible. The late tyrant of the Central African Republic, Jean Bedel Bokassa, cynically summed it up by saying: "The French government pays for everything in our country. We ask the French for money. We get it, and then we waste it."

SPIEGEL: In the West, there are many compassionate citizens wanting to help Africa. Each year, they donate money and pack their old clothes into collection bags ...

Shikwati: ... and they flood our markets with that stuff. We can buy these donated clothes cheaply at our so-called Mitumba markets. There are Germans who spend a few dollars to get used Bayern Munich or Werder Bremen jerseys, in other words, clothes that that some German kids sent to Africa for a good cause. After buying these jerseys, they auction them off at Ebay and send them back to Germany -- for three times the price. That's insanity ...

SPIEGEL: ... and hopefully an exception.

Shikwati: Why do we get these mountains of clothes? No one is freezing here. Instead, our tailors lose their livelihoods. They're in the same position as our farmers. No one in the low-wage world of Africa can be cost-efficient enough to keep pace with donated products. In 1997, 137,000 workers were employed in Nigeria's textile industry. By 2003, the figure had dropped to 57,000. The results are the same in all other areas where overwhelming helpfulness and fragile African markets collide.

SPIEGEL: Following World War II, Germany only managed to get back on its feet because the Americans poured money into the country through the Marshall Plan. Wouldn't that qualify as successful development aid?

Shikwati: In Germany's case, only the destroyed infrastructure had to be repaired. Despite the economic crisis of the Weimar Republic, Germany was a highly- industrialized country before the war. The damages created by the tsunami in Thailand can also be fixed with a little money and some reconstruction aid. Africa, however, must take the first steps into

modernity on its own. There must be a change in mentality. We have to stop perceiving ourselves as beggars. These days, Africans only perceive themselves as victims. On the other hand, no one can really picture an African as a businessman. In order to change the current situation, it would be helpful if the aid organizations were to pull out.

SPIEGEL: If they did that, many jobs would be immediately lost ...

Shikwati: ... jobs that were created artificially in the first place and that distort reality. Jobs with foreign aid organizations are, of course, quite popular, and they can be very selective in choosing the best people. When an aid organization needs a driver, dozens apply for the job. And because it's unacceptable that the aid worker's chauffeur only speaks his own tribal language, an applicant is needed who also speaks English fluently -- and, ideally, one who is also well mannered. So you end up with some African biochemist driving an aid worker around, distributing European food, and forcing local farmers out of their jobs. That's just crazy!

SPIEGEL: The German government takes pride in precisely monitoring the recipients of its funds.

Shikwati: And what's the result? A disaster. The German government threw money right at Rwanda's president Paul Kagame. This is a man who has the deaths of a million people on his conscience -- people that his army killed in the neighboring country of Congo.

SPIEGEL: What are the Germans supposed to do?

Shikwati: If they really want to fight poverty, they should completely halt development aid and give Africa the opportunity to ensure its own survival. Currently, Africa is like a child that immediately cries for its babysitter when something goes wrong. Africa should stand on its own two feet.

Interview conducted by Thilo Thielke

Translated from the German by Patrick Kessler

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http://mail.korakora.org/mailman/listinfo/kurokuro-1_korakora.org

End of Kurokuro-1 Digest, Vol 4, Issue 2

From: Kurokuro-1-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-1 Digest, Vol 4, Issue 3
To: Kurokuro-1@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-1@korakora.org
Date: Fri, 21 Oct 2005 12:01:04 +0800

Today's Topics:

1. BOOK-ART MAILART PROJECT (Aileen Familara)

Message: 1
Date: Thu, 20 Oct 2005 14:14:12 +0800
From: Aileen Familara <aileen@isiswomen.org>
Subject: [Kurokuro-1] BOOK-ART MAILART PROJECT
To: Kurokuro-1@korakora.org
Message-ID: <435735B4.7000906@isiswomen.org>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed

>
>>
>> //////////////////////////////////english version
>> follows/////////////////////////////////
>> ++++++sigue version
>> espa?ola+++++
>>
>> BOOK-ART Project
>>
>> DEADLINE 31 JANUARY 2006 - NO JURY - NO RETURN
>>
>> Please forward this information to anyone who might
>> be interested!
>>
>> We would like to kindly invite you to participate in
>> the first
>> Artetica's Mail-Art project, on the theme of
>> Artist's Book and Object
>> Books, that means visual art works outcoming from
>> any expressive
>> characteristics of literary text.
>> All the mail-art received on this theme will be
>> exposed in the
>> Artetica's gallery in Rome (Italy).

>>
>> The submission deadline is 31st January 2006.
>>
>> the complete MAILART CALL at the web page
>> www.artetica.org
>>
>> Feel free to contact us if you have any questions
>> concerning the project
>> at artisti@artetica.org
>>
>>
>> Thank you,
>> Associazione di Promozione Sociale Artetica
>> Via Dei Marsi 18 - Roma -Italia
>> www.artetica.org
>> info@artetica.org
>>
>>
>

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End of Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 4, Issue 3

From: Kurokuro-l-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 4, Issue 4
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Date: Sat, 22 Oct 2005 12:00:22 +0800

Today's Topics:

1. coverage of UNESCO convention in US media (Aileen Familara)

Message: 1
Date: Fri, 21 Oct 2005 17:24:33 +0800

From: Aileen Familara <aileen@isiswomen.org>
Subject: [Kurokuro-I] coverage of UNESCO convention in US media
To: Kurokuro-I@korakora.org
Message-ID: <4358B3D1.1050703@isiswomen.org>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=ISO-8859-1; format=flowed

----- Original Message -----

Subject: [commrights-asia] FW: [WG MD] [Fwd: Ecommerce digest, Vol 1 #982 - 5 msgs]
Date: Fri, 21 Oct 2005 10:33:10 +0100
From: Myriam Horngren <mh@wacc.org.uk>
Reply-To: Comm Rights-Asia <commrights-asia@fma.ph>
To: <crisinfo@comunica.org>, <Crisal@comunica.org>, <CRISusa@comunica.org>, "Comm Rights-Asia" <commrights-asia@fma.ph>, "cris-" <Cris-brasil@listas2.rits.org.br>

Dear all

Yesterday vote on the UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity pushed the convention through on 148 votes for, 2 against and 4 abstentions. CRIS members and partners (through the Media Trade Monitor: www.mediatrademonitor.org) as well as all of you who signed up to the statements and demands from the CRIS+ coalition have all in some ways or others been involved in this tortuous process.

The Convention is far from perfect, but many of us feel at least, as one member put it "that it sends a strong message that 151 (148) countries are concerned and will be keeping an eye on cultural sovereignty issues in future trade negotiations."

So I thought of distributing the articles below which have appeared in the US press and that our colleagues from CPTECH in the US have collected. It is interesting to think that the US press has ignored both the UNESCO and WSIS process. But now that they are feeling isolated on both internet governance and cultural diversity, it seems that the national press has suddenly woken up. Some of it will remind you of the good (bad) old days of NWICO.

Enjoy the read!

Myriam

-----Original Message-----

From: Wg-md-bounces@comunica.org [<mailto:Wg-md-bounces@comunica.org>] On Behalf Of Sasha Costanza-Chock
Sent: 21 October 2005 07:02

To: active@mediatrademonitor.org; Working Group on Media Diversity
Subject: [WG MD] [Fwd: Ecommerce digest, Vol 1 #982 - 5 msgs]

1. IHT on "US all but alone in opposing" UNESCO CCD (Manon Ress)
2. Seattle story about "US out cold in UNESCO diversity pact" (Manon

Ress)

3. CBC story on UNESCO you know what... (Manon Ress)
4. Reuters on UNESCO... (Manon Ress)
5. George F. Will on UNESCO: 'dimwitted nod to "diversity"' (Manon

Ress)

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Message: 1

To: ecommerce@lists.essential.org

From: Manon Ress <manon.ress@cptech.org>

Date: Thu, 20 Oct 2005 20:22:13 -0400

Subject: [Ecommerce] IHT on "US all but alone in opposing" UNESCO CCD

<http://www.iht.com/articles/2005/10/20/news/unesco.php>

U.S. all but alone in opposing Unesco cultural pact
By Alan Riding The New York Times

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2005

PARIS Choosing to defend Hollywood's interests over joining an international consensus, the United States stood almost alone at Unesco Thursday in opposing a new convention on cultural diversity designed to combat the homogenizing effect of cultural globalization. The convention, the result of two years of heated and occasionally bitter negotiations, was adopted at Unesco's Paris headquarters by 148 votes in favor, with the United States and Israel voting against and just four countries - Australia, Nicaragua, Honduras and Liberia - abstaining.

Even though the convention fell short of the hopes of its original sponsors, Canada and France, its adoption was called an important step in protecting threatened cultures, particularly in developing countries.

However, the Bush administration argued that it could be interpreted as authorizing governments to undermine the rights of minorities and to control both culture and the free trade in ideas and information. Under the convention, governments will be permitted to use subsidies and quotas to promote their culture and, implicitly, to limit the access of Hollywood movies to their markets.

Speaking after the vote, Louise Oliver, the U.S. ambassador to Unesco, said that the United States was the world's most culturally diverse country, but it feared the convention "could undermine, rather than promote, cultural diversity."

However, most of Washington's allies disagreed. Britain's ambassador to Unesco, Timothy Craddock, speaking for the European Union, said, "This is a great day for Unesco." And, without mentioning the United States, he noted: "With one country, we have agreed to disagree on this issue."

Earlier, France's culture minister, Renaud Donnedieu de Vabres, told reporters that, at a time of growing fundamentalism, the convention underlined the importance of cultural diversity for artists and national pride as well as peace.

Unlike the U.S. delegation, which tried not to appear too identified with Hollywood's interests, Donnedieu de Vabres pointed to what he considered the current asymmetry of cultural power. "Hollywood movies account for 85 percent of movie tickets sold around the world," he said. "In the United States, only one percent of shown movies come from outside the United States."

Still, Canada and France were able to win broad support for the convention partly by blurring the question of its impact on trade liberal agreements or future trade talks. For instance, while the convention states that it cannot be interpreted as "modifying rights and obligations of the parties under any other treaties to which they are parties," it also requires government to take it into account international negotiations.

With major movie exporters like India insisting that the convention relates to culture, not trade, many experts believe its principal importance is symbolic: while it has reached no unambiguous definition of cultural diversity and how it should be promoted and protected, it has given voice to widespread concern about the perils of excessive domination by American popular culture.

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Message: 2

To: ecommerce@lists.essential.org

From: Manon Ress <manon.ress@cptech.org>

Date: Thu, 20 Oct 2005 20:26:22 -0400

Subject: [Ecommerce] Seattle story about "US out cold in UNESCO diversity pact"

Thursday, October 20, 2005 =B7 Last updated 1:25 p.m. PT

http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/1103AP_UNESCO_Culture_Vote.html

U.S. out in cold in UNESCO diversity pact

By JOELLE DIDERICH
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

PARIS -- UNESCO's member nations voted overwhelmingly Thursday to approve a pact on protecting cultural diversity after a bitter debate left the United States isolated in opposition to what it sees as a threat to sales of American movies and music.

The convention - championed by the European Union and Canada - aims to promote ethnic traditions and minority languages and to protect those local cultures from the negative effects of globalization, UNESCO said.

The United States argued the convention could be used to erect trade barriers against cultural exports such as films and pop music as well as indirectly curtail free speech.

Calling the text "deeply flawed," the U.S. delegation proposed 28 amendments to the draft, but all were rejected. Delegates voted 148-2 to approve the pact. The United States and Israel opposed it and four nations abstained.

U.S. Ambassador Louise Oliver told the meeting the text was "too open to misinterpretation and too prone to abuse for us to support."

The dispute left the United States isolated just two years after it rejoined the U.N. cultural agency following a 19-year absence over wide-ranging disagreements with UNESCO.

Oliver called the outcome "extraordinarily disappointing" and said it could have lasting consequences on relations between the U.S. government and UNESCO, although she stopped short of threatening a new withdrawal.

"I would say that we're not currently considering any such possibilities, but obviously this process is going to raise some questions that will have to be discussed when I get back to

Washington," she said in an interview.

UNESCO's biannual general conference did reach consensus agreements for a declaration on bioethics and a convention against doping in sports, but U.S. officials said other members weren't willing to compromise on the cultural diversity pact.

"This convention is different. It has been handled differently. It does not have the process of dialogue and openness and transparency that the others have had," Oliver told The Associated Press.

Britain, speaking on behalf of the EU because it holds the rotating presidency of the 25-nation bloc, said Monday that there had been ample debate on the convention and urged UNESCO members to approve the text without changes.

Timothy Craddock, the British ambassador to UNESCO, hailed the text's passage Thursday.

"With this convention, cultural diversity, currently under threat particularly in the poorest countries, will become a right we all share," he said. "Just as much as we shall all share the duty to preserve it."

The convention needs to be ratified separately by 30 member states.

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Message: 3
Cc: Mike Palmedo <mpalmedo@cptech.org>
From: Manon Ress <manon.ress@cptech.org>
Date: Thu, 20 Oct 2005 20:31:07 -0400
To: ecommerce@lists.essential.org
Subject: [Ecommerce] CBC story on UNESCO you know what...

UNESCO passes cultural diversity pact
Last Updated Thu, 20 Oct 2005 15:18:31 EDT
CBC Arts
[http://www.cbc.ca/story/arts/national/2005/10/20/Arts/
UNESCO_culture_051020.html](http://www.cbc.ca/story/arts/national/2005/10/20/Arts/UNESCO_culture_051020.html)

As expected, the UN's cultural agency has overwhelmingly adopted a new convention aimed at protecting cultural diversity worldwide.

Out of the 154 member states belonging to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 148 voted in favour of the new pact, two opposed (the U.S. and Israel) and four countries abstained (Australia, Nicaragua, Honduras and Liberia).

The vote took place Thursday during a week-long plenary session at UNESCO's Paris headquarters.

The convention aims to protect cultural products =96 for instance a nation's film, music and publishing industries =96 from the rules governing international trade. The aim is to recognize that a country's cultural activities, goods and services have more than commercial value and to allow nations to take measures they deem suitable to protect and support their culture.

The most vocal opposition to the new convention has come from the Americans, who have fought the pact's proponents =96 most notably Canada and France =96 until the end.

* FROM OCT. 18, 2005: UNESCO poised to protect cultural diversity

The U.S., which rejoined the cultural agency in 2003 after a 19-year absence, had put forward numerous amendments to the text, but they were rejected almost unanimously by the other member states. Two of the main arguments from the U.S. were that adoption of the convention would amount to a curtailing of its right to freedom of expression and that it could restrict U.S. cultural exports worldwide.

To officially take effect, the convention must now be ratified by 30 countries.

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Message: 4

To: ecommerce@lists.essential.org
From: Manon Ress <manon.ress@cptech.org>
Date: Thu, 20 Oct 2005 21:04:33 -0400
Subject: [Ecommerce] Reuters on UNESCO...

[http://in.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?
type=worldNews&storyID=2005-10-21T043432Z_01_NOOTR_RTRJONC_0_India-
22036
0-2.xml](http://in.today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=worldNews&storyID=2005-10-21T043432Z_01_NOOTR_RTRJONC_0_India-220360-2.xml)

UNESCO backs cultural diversity accord, despite U.S.
Fri Oct 21, 2005 4:42 AM IST172

By Timothy Heritage

PARIS (Reuters) - The United Nations cultural body adopted a treaty to protect and promote cultural diversity on Thursday despite opposition from the United States, which fears it will hit its film and music exports.

The Paris-based U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) overwhelmingly approved the accord, which supporters such as France say will help defend linguistic and cultural diversity from the negative effects of globalisation.

The convention won the backing of 148 countries and was opposed by only two, Israel and the United States, at a UNESCO plenary meeting.

U.S. officials fear the treaty will restrict free trade and the free flow of ideas, but France hailed it as a victory that would help countries defend their national culture and arts.

It also sees the convention as a weapon to fight what many French people regard as a threat of American cultural domination and an onslaught of Hollywood films.

"This is major progress in a world which must protect cultural diversity and organise a dialogue of cultures that respects all," French President Jacques Chirac said in a written statement.

"This convention provides hope for a globalisation that is more respectful of the identities of peoples."

France, which subsidises the arts heavily and sets quotas on national and foreign films, was a driving force behind the convention.

Chirac led international opposition to the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 but has been trying since then to mend U.S.-French ties. He said France should ratify the convention quickly and be vigilant in enforcing it.

The "Convention on the protection and promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions" affirms the sovereign right of countries to shape cultural policies with a view to protecting and promoting cultural diversity.

Countries could seek to use this as justification for quotas to defend the national film industry and cultural identity.

The convention also promotes the rights of women, various social groups, minorities and indigenous peoples to cultural expression. It becomes binding three months after at least 30 countries have ratified it.

The United States has said UNESCO does not have the authority to enforce the agreement but was left isolated when it failed to win support for a series of amendments to the text.

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Message: 5

To: ecommerce@lists.essential.org
From: Manon Ress <manon.ress@cptech.org>
Date: Thu, 20 Oct 2005 21:55:35 -0400
Subject: [Ecommerce] George F. Will on UNESCO:'dimwitted nod to "diversity"'

George F. Will: Dimwitted nod to 'diversity'

By George F. Will

<http://www.sacbee.com/content/opinion/story/13707680p-14550195c.html>

Published 2:15 am PDT Wednesday, October 12, 2005

WASHINGTON —97 Louise Oliver never did anything to injure George W. Bush, yet in 2003 he named her ambassador to UNESCO in Paris. For that presidential cruelty we, although not she, should be thankful.

Not even the delights of Paris can compensate for the tiresome work of tempering the excesses to which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization is prone. Just now UNESCO is reverting to the sort of mischief tinged with anti-Americanism that caused President Reagan to withdraw the U.S. from the organization in 1984. Fortunately, Oliver is alert to the defects of the proposed Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, negotiation of which culminates in the next few days.

It is not a good idea badly executed; it is a pernicious idea executed about as you would expect by people capable of conceiving it. And capable of using words like "interculturality," and of creating an International Fund for Cultural Diversity to finance UNESCO whims. The pernicious idea is that 191 governments can be trusted to sensibly define and prudently cultivate the proper content of culture and artistic expression.

Not even democratic governments should be trusted to do that. And as for unsavory governments, why should they be encouraged to engage in

cultural fine-tuning?

UNESCO, which Oliver says was supposed to be "the intellectual balance to the Marshall Plan," was born of the sunny postwar faith that, whatever their cultural differences, all people want essentially the same things. Therefore wars must arise from misunderstandings. As the American poet Archibald MacLeish wrote for the preamble of UNESCO's constitution, "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed." So UNESCO responded to 9/11 by sonorously declaring that "intercultural dialogue is the best guarantee of peace."

All bromides are banal, but not all banalities are harmless. The convention on diversity is an attempt to legitimize cultural protectionism, and to cloak it in Orwellian rhetoric praising what the convention actually imperils =97 the autonomy of culture left free to flower and evolve without the supervision of governments.

In the Convention's windy preamble =97 the entire document is clotted with the D words, "diversity" and "dialogue" =97 the 9th, 10th and 18th paragraphs suggest the document's surreptitious point. The 18th says "cultural activities, goods and services have both an economic and a cultural nature" so they must not be treated "as solely having commercial value." The 10th emphasizes "the importance of culture for social cohesion." The 9th recognizes "the need to take measures to protect the diversity of cultural expressions including its content."

Translation: Nations can "protect" their "cultural expressions" against diversity arising from cultural imports than can be stigmatized as threats to social cohesion, and can use means that would be forbidden were the movement of cultural goods and services covered by the World Trade Organization's rules that govern the movement of other goods and services. Meaning: Nations such as France and Canada can interfere with imports of U.S. films, television programming, music and publications.

Oliver says that in the 1990s, as the liberalization of world trade increased, so did some nations' interest in a "cultural exception" to allow interference with the free flow of cultural goods and services. Under President Jacques Chirac, France, whose vanity about the glory of its culture is not matched by confidence in the power of that culture to thrive unless protected, has been especially interested in removing cultural goods and services from inclusion in the regime of free trade.

By elsewhere defining cultural goods and services as crucially unlike goods and services that are "solely" economic, the convention implicitly establishes that cultural protectionism is not inhibited by standard free trade agreements. And, worse, it leaves latitude for individual nations to declare some goods =97 wine, coffee, textiles =97

as cultural "expressions," hence eligible for protectionist measures.

Hollywood films earn 65 percent of the French box office =97 and 90 percent in the rest of Europe. Canada has fretted about Canadians reading U.S. magazines that absorb Canadian advertising dollars. China and many African and Latin American countries think as France does. But Mexico, Brazil and Venezuela are exporters of soap operas.

Oliver says nations should have the right to "protect" culture if to protect means to nurture it, but not if to protect means to shield it behind barriers to competition from cultural imports. UNESCO's cultural protectionists think she does not play well with others =97 proof that Bush picked the right ambassador.

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End of Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 4, Issue 4

From: Kurokuro-l-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 5, Issue 1
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Date: Tue, 01 Nov 2005 12:00:18 +0800

Today's Topics:

1. Pacific Rim Call for Artworks (Fatima Lasay)

Message: 1
Date: Mon, 31 Oct 2005 23:54:39 +0800
From: Fatima Lasay <fats@korakora.org>
Subject: [Kurokuro-l] Pacific Rim Call for Artworks
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Message-ID: <43663E3F.8050503@korakora.org>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset=windows-1252; format=flowed

PACIFIC RIM 2
<http://isea2006.sjsu.edu/prnmcall2/>

This is an invitation by the ISEA2006 Symposium and ZeroOne San Jose: A Global Festival of Art on the Edge to groups and individuals to submit

proposals for exhibition of interactive art work and projects reflecting on the thematic of the Pacific Rim. This is the second and final call for artworks in this category.

Proposals Due: December 15th, 2005
Final Decisions: Feb 10, 2006

ABOUT THE PACIFIC RIM CALL

The political and economic space of the Pacific Rim represents a dynamic context for innovation and creativity. Convergent and divergent practices involving art, science, architecture and urban planning, engineering, industrial and interior design, communications, literature and performance are being manifested in new forms of cultural production and social experiences.

The complex relations and diversity of Pacific Rim nations is exemplified throughout the hybridized communities that comprise Silicon Valley including local indigenous peoples. As the 10th largest city in the United States, San Jose is an important portal on the eastern edge of the Pacific region, which shares deep historical and cultural connections that range from Latin America and the South Pacific to Southeast Asia and Asia. ISEA2006 and ZeroOne San Jose Festival are highlighting the Pacific Rim defined in the broadest possible sense to include not only those states and nations that border the Pacific Ocean but also the geo-political, economic, social and historical frameworks of which they are part.

We are seeking proposals that address, but are not limited to, art work that emphasize radical and alternative responses to contemporary cultural conditions throughout the Pacific Rim. We want to encourage proposals specifically from emerging artists. Of particular interest are projects that focus on engagements and interaction strategies with Diaspora communities and local context as well as work that enable new discourses, platforms and explorations.

Proposals may reflect works in the form of interactive installations, wearable computing, site works, DIY alternatives, networks and mobile systems, activist projects and public insertions. Proposals should therefore identify target audiences as much as is possible, although it is not necessary to specify a venue. Venues are distributed throughout the city and include galleries, exhibitions spaces and outdoor spaces and theaters. Proposals may consider the use of the City of San Jose's public resources (wireless network, transportation systems, etc.)

Note: There are separate calls for participation for artworks for each of the ISEA2006/ZeroOneFestival Themes: Transvergence, Pacific Rim, Interactive City and Community Domain. There will be a separate call for symposium papers related to the Pacific Rim (and other) themes.

ABOUT THE ISEA2006 SYMPOSIUM AND ZEROONE SAN JOSE FESTIVAL

The 2006 edition of the internationally renowned ISEA Symposium will be held August 5-13, 2006, in San Jose, California.

The Inter-Society for Electronic Arts (ISEA) is an international non-profit organization fostering interdisciplinary academic discourse and exchange among culturally diverse organizations and individuals working with art, science and emerging technologies. Prior host cities include Helsinki, Paris, Sydney, Montreal, Chicago, Manchester and Nagoya.

ZeroOne San Jose is a milestone festival to be held biennially making the work of the most innovative contemporary artists in the world accessible. In 2006 it will be held in conjunction with the ISEA2006 Symposium.

SYMPOSIUM AND FESTIVAL CONTEXT

The CADRE Laboratory at San Jose State University will also host a 2 day pre-symposium, The Pacific Rim New Media Summit, on August 7th and 8th. The Summit is focused on issues influencing new media programs, educational and research centers, and cultural arts initiatives. The primary objective of the Summit is the networking of organizations with the intention of identifying and enabling future cross-cultural interaction. The summit is intended to explore and build interpretive ?bridges? between institutional, corporate, social and cultural enterprises, with an emphasis on the emergence of new media arts programs and initiatives. An important objective is to examine and create new transaction spaces for creativity and innovation. For more information: <http://isea2006.sjsu.edu/prnms.html>

PROCESS

Submissions are due: December 15th, 2005

On line submissions: <http://isea2006.sjsu.edu/register/submission.php>

All entries will be reviewed by an international jury.

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-Korakora- Knowledge, Technology, Autonomy - <http://www.korakora.org/>

-Collaboration Space- <http://balikatan.korakora.org/>

-Discussion Group- <http://kurokuro.korakora.org/>

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End of Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 5, Issue 1

From: Kurokuro-l-request@korakora.org
Subject: Kurokuro-l Digest, Vol 5, Issue 3
To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Reply-To: Kurokuro-l@korakora.org
Date: Sat, 05 Nov 2005 12:00:17 +0800

Today's Topics:

1. Australian Troops (Tony Dedal)

Message: 1
Date: Fri, 4 Nov 2005 21:36:59 +1100
From: "Tony Dedal" <tonydedal@optusnet.com.au>
Subject: [Kurokuro-l] Australian Troops
To: "Kuro Kuro" <kurokuro-l@korakora.org>
Message-ID:
<HBEHLOMDEDELPIDAMCMCGEPPCOAA.tonydedal@optusnet.com.au>
Content-Type: text/plain; charset="iso-8859-1"

AUSTRALIAN TROOPS FOR MINDANAO

The recent announcement by the Australian government to base troops in the Philippines to train Filipino soldiers how to fight Muslim terrorists in Mindanao and Sulu is a development that is raising a lot of eyebrows. Australia's military entry into the Philippines after the agreement is finalized will be similar to that enjoyed by the USA under the status of forces agreement (SOFA). In effect, both the USA and Australia will have joint military presence and influence in the Philippines. In a strategic sense this has a bearing on the dynamics of power in S.E. Asia which the USA once lorded over. The eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991 and subsequent departure of the biggest American bases outside the USA from the Philippines concluded their once mighty position in S.E. Asia. Recent military exercises

promoted by the US with ASEAN countries seem to indicate US and Australian desire to raise their military profile in the region. The question that follows is why they are boosting their image by emphasizing on the military which can be interpreted as an aggressive posture of Australia, reminiscent of an antiquated model of diplomacy. The formula may still be valid when relating to less sophisticated societies where display of armed might can coerce decisions. This kind of display is no longer appropriate in most of South-East Asia today. Rather than emphasizing on military prowess, the emphasis should be on trade and economics, and neighborly help which is not intimidating but friendly, as the Australian image enjoys today.

The Australian plan which was announced by Defence Minister Robert Hill will lead to the establishment of a base in Mindanao in the southern Philippines. It is premised on defeating Islamic militants including Jemaah Islamiya operatives claimed to have joined with Filipino Islamic militants in the country. It is also a way for Australia to vindicate the murder of many Australians on two occasions in Bali in the recent past. The Muslim terrorists in Mindanao together with their Indonesian associates are reported by Manila dailies to be on the run from special units tracking them. They have moved from hideouts in the Liguasan marsh in Cotabato, to safehouses, to mountain hideouts in Mindanao. This indicates that the current pressure on the terrorists is working and they cannot mount an assault big enough for the Philippine government to seek foreign assistance. The trend of terrorist activity in the Philippines, like in other countries recently, is to explode bombs in populated areas. To counter this kind of terrorism require police work rather than SAS commandos.

It may be noted that the conflict in the southern Philippines had been going on since the Spanish colonial days of centuries past when they tried to Christianize the Moros. In the last fifty years there had been many military operations against Muslim militants bent on destroying the government and seceding from the Philippines, to transform Mindanao/Sulu as their own Bangsa Moro. The stakes were raised when some Muslim Filipinos trained under the Al Qaeda in Afghanistan and came back to the Philippines to start a vicious kind of warfare against civilians. They attacked the town of Ipil in Zamboanga and massacred 65 people including a small detachment of soldiers stationed there.

Punitive action by the government against the terrorists is dealt by a combination of the Philippine military. Included are battalions of army personnel and their artillery, navy gunboats, air force jets, and counter insurgency airplanes and helicopter gunships. The power unleashed by this group was awesome. However, the elusive terrorists break up into small groups and literally became invisible to government forces pursuing them. A group of say 50 or less can easily disperse among local farmers and barrios in the areas where they operate. On the other hand, the army and their heavy equipment are very audible and often visible wherever they are. Open confrontation with the concentrated military forces are avoided by the terrorists for obvious reason, unless they have a good ambush position and have an assured escape route in which case they are known to have ambushed

military columns.

On a national level, everytime a big military operation is underway, military expenses accelerate and quickly deplete the limited budget and resources allocated to them. The shortage often includes ammunition and fuel. As a result, the effectiveness of big military campaigns are short-lived which allow terrorists to escape. The weapons most feared by terrorists were the 500 lbs bombs dropped from airplanes aimed at their hideouts. They also feared the scout rangers led by young lieutenants, usually recent graduates of the Philippine Military Academy. The young officers and their men are well trained in stealth and often ambush the terrorists instead of the other way round. These young soldiers suffer heavy casualties because they are in the combat zone most of the time. Nevertheless, their effectiveness and success in combat are legendary, and their heroism worthy of better recognition than what they get today. A story was highlighted by a survivor who was a hostage in a terrorist camp in Basilan in 2002. She narrated that everything seemed normal in the terrorist camp until she noticed the eyes of scout rangers almost within touching distance from her. Then the rangers began shooting at the terrorists while getting the hostages out of harms way. It was a successful operation and the hostages were released and brought back to their families in Lamitan.

When a big military operation was underway against an MNLF campsite in Tabon, Zamboanga in the 1980s, representatives and sympathizers of the militant group in Manila offered peace in exchange for a cease fire. Their concern was to stop the punishment they were receiving from the military. A squadron of T-28s armed with 500 lb bombs flew in from Cebu to attack the MNLF. The civilian government, in their desire to uphold peace higher than a tactical victory, ordered a cease fire to the military action which was still in progress.

When hostilities ended and a semblance of peace started to prevail, the government gave handouts and other concessions to the defeated terrorists. Their leader was given a government position to administer the financial aid that followed. This was the case of Nur Misuari who headed the MILF in the 1980s after he surrendered. He became personally rich and enjoyed national and international exposure representing the Muslims in Mindanao. It was later discovered he double crossed the government and was convicted and jailed.

It does not take long for new factions among the Muslim community in Mindanao to rise and become noticed. Splinter groups are distinct from those who have signed peace treaty with the government. The followers may be the same but the organization and leadership is different. The new group eventually become terrorists. Limited at first but increases as time goes on. Their rise depends on how much help the new group would receive from Muslim sympathizers locally and abroad, and proceeds from ransoms after kidnapping people who can afford to pay.

It is in this environment that Australian troops will come and show off

their military skill in terrorizing the terrorists. With disciplined soldiers, better weapons systems including unmanned aerial vehicles able to pinpoint human movements even under jungle foliage, the odds are Australian troops will be effective against the terrorists group. However, the terrorists will not present themselves in enough numbers like set pieces and will be a frustration for the SAS not to be able to engage them in combat which they are prepared for. The successful use of high technology equipment including unmanned aircraft was used by US forces in 2002 when they assisted in the rescue of American hostages, Martin and Gracia Burnham from their Abu Sayyaf kidnappers. The Americans did not participate directly in ground encounters but provided support like giving information as to the whereabouts of the target group for Filipino commandos to focus on. They successfully followed the movements of the terrorists and their hostages until they were cornered in the hills near Siocon, west of the Zamboanga peninsula. Gracia Burnham was rescued alive but her husband Martin was fatally injured during the exchange of fires.

The insertion of Australia's SAS troops in Mindanao will be a new development that may not auger well for Australia. This new concept of diplomacy was stated by Prime Minister Howard earlier when he said Australian troops may be used in South East Asian countries to pursue terrorists who are working against the interest of Australia. This announcement was a shock to the ASEAN countries who interpreted it as Australia's intentions to invade or meddle in their internal affairs. The statement made Australia look like a bully.

The forthcoming Australian military involvement in the Philippines is fraught with danger. Not so much from what harm the Muslim terrorists can do but what the world at large will think of Australia flexing its muscles in a provocative manner in the region. Opinions among the people of Mindanao will vary. Australia's military presence will be welcome in Christian communities. On the other hand, Muslims will see it as an affront to their territorial integrity and as such, may incite a jihadist type of reaction.

Tony Dedal

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End of Kurokuro-I Digest, Vol 5, Issue 3

These are posts to the Korakora List (July-November 2005) which were deleted from the list server in November 2005 due to an alleged "server security abuse." The discussion group is now actively based at <http://list.korakora.org/>