

Arête



Welcome Message

Welcome to our 5th issue of the Arete newsletter!

In this newsletter, we highlight the events of our very busy end of year in 2019 — from the hosting of the SEA Games on home ground, to the NOA Workshop and OLY Party during the SEAG, and our monthly clinics with the children of Childhope. POA Treasurer also gives us a glimpse of his work as deputy chef de mission for the SEAG...

We continue to press in and move forward, making a difference as Filipino Olympians. We hope to see more of you in 2020!

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Olympian Stephen Fernandez relishes the experience as Deputy Chef De Mission at the 30th SEA Games

Serving the nation through sports has always been in the heart and mind of Olympics veteran Stephen Fernandez.

That is why when the call to be deputy chef de mission (DCDM) for Team Philippines in the 30th Southeast Asian Games last year came, the 1992 Barcelona Olympics bronze-winning taekwondo jin never hesitated to raise his hand for the crucial position.

Fernandez, who was appointed by the Philippine Olympic Committee, worked hand-in-hand with SEA Games chef de mission and Philippines Sports Commission Chairman William Ramirez. With them were fellow DCDMs and PSC commissioners Ramon Fernandez, Charles Maxey, Celia Kiram and Arnold Agustin who ensured the successful hosting of the biennial meet.

Handy experiences

Fernandez's varying experiences as an athlete, coach, manager, sports director and a high-ranking official of a national sports association came in handy in fulfilling his job as a DCDM.

He had the steady mindset of an Olympian, the wisdom of a mentor and the decisiveness of an officer. But as Fernandez noted, one principle common to all the roles was servanthood.

"Whether you're an athlete, coach or official, all that we do is for our countrymen, family and God," the director of College of Saint Benilde's center for sports development stressed.



DCDM Stephen Fernandez with the Philippine delegation at the opening of the SEA Games



DCDM Stephen Fernandez with CDM and PSC Chairman William Ramirez. "We Win as One."

"At the end of the day, our talent in sports is a gift from God and we must use it to its fullest potential," he added.

And he made sure to instill this in the Filipino athletes.

"Your motivation must be to represent your sport in the best way possible while giving honor to flag and country."

“At the end of the day, our talent in sports is a gift from God and we must use it to its fullest potential.”

DCDM Stephen Fernandez

Facing the challenges

This was the first time for Fernandez to hold such a big position, which naturally had its challenges. Keeping an open mind aided him in this new task.

“Of course, I was also asking the other officials for consensus with regards to making decisions. ‘Is this according to the protocol? Is this in compliance with what we have to do?’ I did that so I wouldn’t make wrong decision that would affect the whole delegation,” he said.

Fruitful endeavor

All of the hard work, of Fernandez and the entire Philippine delegation, eventually bore fruit. The host country was able to showcase a world-class opening ceremony at the cavernous Philippine Arena which was just the start as the Filipino athletes went on to rake in gold after gold during the 11 days of action.

“We achieved our main goal. We really thanked the Lord for helping us pull through,” said Fernandez. For the Olympian, serving as a DCDM was a rewarding experience.

“It was really a voluntary task, and the experience of being part of the 2019 Southeast Asian Games was priceless especially as it was held in our country. I am fortunate to now have a lot of new friends because of it,” he said.



DCDM Stephen Fernandez with the many delegates, officials and technical officials of the SEA Games

Answering a new call

While his DCDM role ended as the curtains of the 30th SEA Games closed, Fernandez emphasized that his service to the country never stops.

The board member of World Taekwondo Asia and secretary-general of the ASEAN Taekwondo Federation said he will be quick to answer should a new call of duty arise.

“If ever there is an opportunity again, I will accept it and take it as another mission for the country,” he beamed.

For now, Fernandez is focused on the projects of the different sports associations and organizations that he is connected with, including the annual activities of the Philippine Olympian Association.

“Sports has always been my passion, it’s a way of life for me. And through sports, I’ve found my colleagues. I’m happy to have met and work with the people that I do,” he said.

“I hope to continue serving in my own little way.”



POA-PSC CHILDHOPE SPORTS CLINIC 2019

The POA, through the assistance of the PSC, continued with their sports clinics for the children of Childhope. A series of clinics were held on May 25, June 29, August 17, September 7, and November 7 at the College of St Benilde and Canonigo Basketball court in Paco, Manila. We culminated the year with a Christmas gathering on December 7. A highlight of the clinics was a generous donation from APACS, courtesy of Mr Ariel Duldulao, who donated brand new badminton rackets and cocks for the children. We thank all our dedicated coaches and staff for continuing to share their time and talent, and for the PSC who continue to make it happen for us and the children!



SEAG NOA WORKSHOP AND OLY PARTY



The SEAG NOA Workshop and OLY Party was successfully held on 4 December 2019 at the Century Park Hotel Manila. Filipino Olympians came in full support of the event which turned out to be a wonderful reunion for many. We were also blessed to have representatives from the regional NOA's—Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, India and Thailand, the latter of which is starting their very first NOA.

WOA Asia Development officer, Jovina Choo, graciously led the whole day workshop. OLY pins were also distributed, and an Olympians for Life recognition given to POA Chairman Rafael “Paing” Hechanova who was represented by his daughter Raissa Hechanova-Posadas. We capped the day with a dinner on the rooftop of Bay leaf Hotel. Many thanks to all who made the effort to be there. We leave you with POA President Akiko T. Guevara’s welcome message.

“A warm welcome to all our delegates, our regional NOA reps, athletes, officials and fellow Olympians! We welcome you to the Philippines and to the 30th SEA Games.

I would like to recognize some VIPS. This event would not have been possible if not for the faithful support of the PSC. Thank you Chairman Butch, who is also our SEAG CDM, for taking the time to be with us and for your trust and support. The PSC has been our faithful partner in our monthly sports clinic with the street children of Childhope.

POC chairman Steve Hontiveros, WOA officer for Asia Jovina Choo (who has been the wind beneath our wings), WOA board member and President of the Asian Sailing Federation Malav Shroff—thank you so much for rebooking your canceled flight to be with us here today.

This workshop was inspired by the NOA workshop at the last Asian Games in Indonesia, pitched at the WO Forum in Lausanne last April, and 8 months later here we are today. Our purpose and goal is to strengthen our NOAs, and our relationship with our regional NOAs to learn from and support one another in the various stages we are in.

Of the 7.53 billion people in the world, over 100,000 are Olympians. Let that sink in. Very few people are Olympians. And while we have worked very hard for this privilege, with this blessing comes opportunity—a platform for us to be heard and listened to. Let’s find ways to be relevant, to be involved and to give back.

On this note, we hope you enjoy this time of fellowship and encourage you to share your ideas of how we can be meaningful and impactful, and we pray you have a memorable stay in the Philippines! Thank you very much, maraming salamat.”



Philippine Olympians with IOC Rep to the Philippines, Ms Mikke Cojuangco-Jaworski





With WOA Board member Malav Shroff and WOA Asia Development officer Jovina Choo



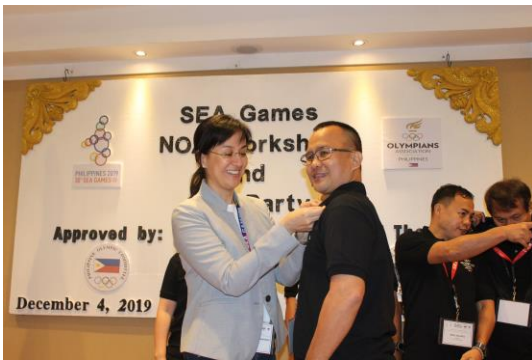
OLY Party at the Bay Leaf Hotel rooftop, post workshop



Mark Chay of Singapore sharing their breakout session discussion



Oly for Life recognition given to POA Chairman Rafael Hechanova, received by his daughter Raissa Hechanova-Posadas



Olympians receiving their OLY pins from IOC Rep Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworkshi



Commitments made by workshop participants



BEING AN OLYMPIAN MEANS...



INSPIRATION
CAMARADERIE
GENEROSITY
EXCELLENCE SHARING PERSEVERANCE
DISCIPLINE **SELF** COUNTRY
KNOWLEDGE **UNITY** LOWS FRIENDSHIP
PERSON **OTHERS** HEALTHY
ATHLETE **BEST** HIGHS
PURSUIT LIVING **BEST** SHARE PRIDE
ORDINARY HELP **BEST** SHARE
CHARACTER EMBODIMENT TALENT HUMILITY
SERVICE EXPERIENCE OLYMPISM
DEDICATION DETERMINATION
COMPETENCE CELEBRATION



BENEFITS FOR OLYMPIANS

Receive your OLY Certificate

In recognition of the accomplishments of Olympians worldwide, World Olympians Association are providing Olympians with an Olympian.org email address and a certificate of recognition with the post-nominal letters - OLY. These are available to global Olympians at no cost.

To obtain your certificate and Olympian.org email address, simply register on the WOA website: <https://olympians.org/olympians/oly/>



Share your passion and earn money!

IOC has teamed up with Airbnb to empower Olympians to earn money doing what you already love and helping to make that dream a reality.

Whether you want to practice your sport with aspiring athletes, host a live viewing party to watch the Games with fans, or open up a room in your home to sports enthusiasts, there's a way for you to share your passion on Airbnb.

Once you register, we'll reach out to help you get started: <https://www.olympic.org/athlete365/airbnb/>

GOING TO TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES?

If you will be in Tokyo as a competitor, fan or work, World Olympians Association has free activities, events, tickets and hospitality space - OLY House exclusively for Olympians!

To find out more, please register here: <https://olympians.org/tokyo-2020/>

The POA is also endeavoring to come out with quarterly newsletters which will be circulated on our Facebook page (Philippine Olympians Association) and sent out to members whose email addresses we have. If you want to be placed on the mailing list, please email us at: philippines@olympians.org



If you would like to get in touch with the Philippine Olympians Association

Email:

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