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**LEAD Council 14.** Last 23 August, the District Council convened its 14th meeting together with the District Leadership Team at Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia. Much of the meeting was devoted on the plans for the upcoming 1st LEAD Mission Assembly, 2nd LEAD Brothers' Assembly, the 2nd District Chapter, and the LEAD Asian Lasallian Renewal Program.

Information and updates on these activities shall be communicated to everyone through electronic mail. The Council also attended the ground blessing of the St. Joseph's Institution International School Malaysia (Tropicana PJ Campus) the day before the meeting. Details on this event will be shared in the next issue of LEAD Story.



## Kagoshima and Hakodate Visit.

I paid a visit to Kagoshima and to Hakodate to interview the "younger" Brothers, Domingo and Victor who, for the first time since coming to Japan, are now in separate communities. It was also a good time to see how the Brothers are since the passing away of Br. Ohtomo and Br. Fujikami on June 23.

I landed in Fukuoka on the 15th and was met by Domingo. This coincided with the last week of Japan's summer break and a substantial number locals were returning from vacations. We travelled by train to Kagoshima and was met there by Rodrigo and Jose who arrived that night from his home visit to Mexico. August at this time of the year in Japan is warm and humid and while temperatures were in the low 30s the humidity was high. Rodrigo and I flew to Hakodate on the 17th and we were met by the Director, Andre Labelle and Victor. Like Kagoshima, Hakodate La Salle was preparing for the return of the students.

Both Brothers are teaching. Domingo team teaches with Jose and Victor team teaches with some teachers in LS Hakodate. They also have

moderatorships. They continue to learn, discover and be enriched by the ministry in Japan. All in all it was a good visit as I was also able to interview most of the brothers.

Thanks to Rodrigo for the organization; to Domingo and Victor who looked after me; to the two Directors, Jose and Andre and to Fermin who showed me a nice walking path around Hakodate.

**La Salle Home Sendai.** "Following our Strategic Plan and after some years of reflection, discernment and consultation, the Sector of Japan put into practice the decision to ask a lay partner to be the Director of La Salle Home, starting on April 1st 2014. As all you know, La Salle Home is a foster home for children, established by the Brothers in 1948 and the first Lasallian institution in Japan following a continuous effort since 1932 of the Brothers from the Canadian Montreal District. La Salle Home is a residential foster home for children aged from 2 to 18 years old, an institution with a current capacity for 80 children in residence. From its foundation until recently it was solely for boys, but since 2003 changed to a coed institution receiving girls as well, with the intention of attend more properly the family situation of the kids.





“Although established and run under the responsibility of the Brothers, La Salle Home is part of the national social welfare children protection system that currently encompasses a little more than 578 houses around the country. As such, it is safe and correct to say that La Salle Home is fully subsidized by the government, although it receives the grace of

some donors and benefactors, regularly from members of Lasallian family. The Board of Trustees goes under the name of La Salle and it goes with it the final responsibility on the legal, social, and administrative matters.



“Since its foundation the Director has been a Brother with the exception of the period from April 1993 to March 1997 when after Br. Ishii stepped down as Director a lay person was appointed for the post. Following the decision taken by the Brothers four year ago, from April 2014 Ms. Otsuka, a lay partner who has been working at La Salle Home for more than 25

years, was appointed Director of the institution in replacement of Br. Rodrigo.

“Although there is not a Brother on the current payroll of La Salle Home, two Brothers are part of the eight members’ Board of Trustees, and Br. Rodrigo remains also as Assistant Director of the institution. We are facing up front new challenges already considered during our discernment and now in need of concrete plans and decisions to be implemented, such as the continuation of a Lasallian spirit in the institution attending both the staff members as the children as well; Lasallian formation of the personnel and the implementation of the Christian values in the organization and projects; administrative measures to guarantee the presence of the Brothers, among others.

“We are confident on God’s will that will lead us on the better ways to continue our Lasallian Mission in Japan, helping us to move forward into our project trusted to Him.” *(Br. Rodrigo Treviño | Sector Leader, Japan)*

**In The News.** The following are excerpts from three different articles recently featured in broadsheet newspapers and a television network in the Philippines:

**St. Benilde re-opens renovated hotel school.** “Hotel Benilde Maison De La Salle re-opened its doors last week in Manila after undergoing a major renovation that cost at least P250 million.

“Pioneering the “hotel school” concept in 1996, the newly refurbished hotel serves not only guests who want to enjoy five-star amenities at three-star prices, but more importantly the students of the De La Salle-College of St. Benilde’s School of Hotel, Restaurant, and Institution Management who use it as a hands-on



laboratory. “The school needed to walk the talk,’ said Br. Dennis Magbanua, president and chancellor of DLS-CSB, during the hotel’s reopening. As one of the premiere schools in hotel and restaurant management in the country, the hotel-school aims to provide students a shorter learning curve with facilities at par with industry standards, as well as a faculty roster of industry practitioners.” [READ MORE at http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/lifestyle/08/24/14/st-benilde-re-opens-renovated-hotel-school#.U\\_1FvEmp\\_pl.facebook](http://www.abs-cbnnews.com/lifestyle/08/24/14/st-benilde-re-opens-renovated-hotel-school#.U_1FvEmp_pl.facebook)



**Br. Gus Boquer, FSC Take a leap of faith and He will provide.**

“Oftentimes, people are faced with situations that are seemingly impossible to go through. For many, they would just turn their backs and leave to avoid wasting time, energy and resources on something unachievable. For some, however, it only takes a leap of faith.

“This was what La Salle Bro. Gus Boquer, FSC, EdD, held on to upon his reassignment as the president and chancellor of De La Salle Health Sciences Institute (DLSHSI)—a medical and health institution that provides premium health education, research and health care. ‘It’s an awesome experience that the Lord brought me here seven years ago, because I simply said yes to the invitation, without knowing so much about what I was going to get into in years to come,’ he shares.

“In the medicine and health-related programs that are here, we always have to take a leap of faith, he says, explaining that looking for funds is always a challenge. Its hospital arm, the De La Salle University Medical Center, is a private institution that always strives for the betterment of services, and takes in an average of around a thousand outpatients daily, with a significant number of charity patients. You get to see the faces of men, women and children in the hospital, and you know God is there looking at you and asking, ‘Will you help me?’ If you say yes, and the Lord sees you responding, then He will provide.” [READ MORE at http://www.businessmirror.com.ph/index.php/en/features/marketing/37634-br-gus-boquer-fsc-take-a-leap-of-faith-and-he-will-provide](http://www.businessmirror.com.ph/index.php/en/features/marketing/37634-br-gus-boquer-fsc-take-a-leap-of-faith-and-he-will-provide)

**Being himself and more.** “God pulls a rug from under your feet and life changes inevitably,” Br. Ricardo P. Laguda FSC said in a recent speech to the general assembly at De La Salle University (DLSU) Manila. Laguda, who was appointed chancellor in 2010 and became concurrent university president in 2012, leaves for Rome today to assume new responsibilities. He has been elected general councilor, one of five who will be assisting the likewise newly elected superior general of the Brothers of the Christian Schools.



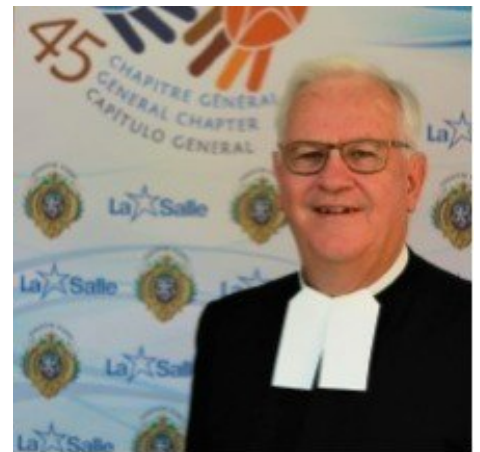
“One part of my portfolio will be the Asia-Pacific region. My official address will be in Singapore. I will travel to Rome only four times during the year,” Laguda said. The 45-year-old Christian brother received his basic education from, well, the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City. But perhaps not very many people know that the man who would be DLSU president earned his Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy degree from Ateneo de Manila University in 1992. That same year, his roots claimed him back from the Jesuits when he began his postulancy at Lasallian Center. Laguda subsequently received his master’s degree as well as his Ph.D. from DLSU and served as teacher, formator and administrator in the religious order whose main ministry is education. [READ MORE at http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/632558/being-himself-and-more](http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/632558/being-himself-and-more)



## Pacific Asia Regional Conference

**ANZPPNG Visitor.** Br. Robert Schieler FSC, Superior General, has announced the appointment of Br. David Hawke FSC as the new Brother Visitor for the District of Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan and Papua New Guinea for the next four years. Br. David has just completed his term as General Councillor for the PARC Region, a position which he held for seven years. Br. David was previously Visitor of the ANZPPNG District from October 1996 to December 2004. The commencement date of the appointment will be confirmed later this week after discussion with the Brother Superior General.

Our warmest congratulations to Br. David! We pray for graces that he will need to fulfil his new responsibility and as he responds to the challenges and hopes of the ANZPPNG District.



**1st PARC Alumni Leaders' Congress.** Last June 27, 2014, was a unique gathering of men and women -- different nationalities, different walks of life, but all with a common purpose. Overlooking the breathtaking view from the summit of Mt. Hakodate, the Alumni leaders and representatives of PARC gathered to discuss and explore how they can engage in the Lasallian mission together as a region. Br Lavin described the affair beautifully when he said, "high above the reality of our everyday world...we can see ourselves with a new vision as Lasallians." Mr. Henry Atayde, President of UMAEL, expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the JLFSAA for responding



to the global Lasallian challenge by painstakingly and generously organizing the First PARC Alumni Leaders' Congress. Mr. Toshiki Kudo, Mayor of Hakodate who was himself a former student, graced the occasion and proudly told the story of how he had just met two other Mayors from Kagoshima and Rhode Island, USA who were likewise fellow Lasallians.

The next day, June 28, 2014, the Congress delegates convened for the meeting proper held at La Salle Hakodate. Br Lavin set the tone for the meeting as he highlighted what he considered one of the most important objectives that the congress had set out to do: To promote the formation of members. He emphasized that this should be the central goal of the new Alumni vision. The purpose of formation he explained, as was expressed in the objectives of the congress, is to support the Lasallian mission -- the education of the last, the lost and the least.

Henry and Dondon Atayde of UMAEL opened the first session with a formation module on the purpose of a true Lasallian Association. The module served as a point of reflection on how the respective associations of the congress participants fared in terms of their faithfulness to the Lasallian Mission, essentially indicated by the presence of three key elements: a) The association has its origin in the charism of John Baptist de La Salle; b) The association has a relationship with a Lasallian educational community, their local community, as well as their District, Regional and international community; and c) The vitality of the Association is expressed in Faith, Service, and Community (Fraternity).

The module also demands that the individual as well as the association reflects on the true purpose of a Lasallian Former Student Association with these 5 points:

1. *To aid members in leading a Spiritual life that is coherent with the demands of the Gospel and their own Sacred Texts.*
2. *To help members commit themselves to missionary and apostolic activities.*
3. *To support the Lasallian School*
4. *To participate in the Lasallian Educational Mission.*
5. *To be associated for the Mission.*

Mr. Henry Atayde gave the global perspective for the Congress by discussing the challenges and goals in the context of UMAEL. He explained that the way forward was to “glocalize” or to tackle the global Lasallian mission through local and regional contexts. He discussed how Europe (RELEM) and South America (RELAL), have already made great efforts in this direction. And of course, the Japanese Federation has taken the initiative for Asia in hosting this first PARC Leaders' Congress. In all these efforts, Mr. Atayde emphasized that the Lasallian mission must be kept front and center. This is why UMAEL highly recommends that all its members create a Lasallian Mission and Formation Committee in their respective associations and federations. To push this forward, UMAEL has committed to support these committees by providing materials and guidelines.



Between sessions, the delegates were given a tour of the La Salle Hakodate Campus. The tour was capped off with a remarkable performance by the school's Glee Club and Brass Band. The delegates were greatly impressed, not just by the exceptional gifts of the students, but by the commitment and passion they displayed – a mark of true Lasallians.

Motivated by the inspiring display of talent and dedication, the delegates dove into the second session of the Congress, wherein each of the participating countries were given an opportunity to share their experiences and practices in strengthening their respective associations. Mr. Lester Huang, who represented Hong Kong, shared how their different associations are able to successfully work together despite not being federated. They function by forming ad hoc committees for their joint projects. Mr. John SC Loh, presented how the Malaysian Federation was established and has developed into a strong and influential entity in Malaysian government and society. For Thailand, Mr. Voravit Chansiri related how their Federation has successfully mobilized resources for their priority advocacies.

On the third and last session, there was a lively discussion among the delegates exploring options on how PARC can best further the Lasallian mission as a region. In the end, the Congress unanimously agreed to prioritize the formation of a Lasallian Mission and Formation Committee in their respective associations and federations. They also agreed on how to maintain lines of communication, which should continue to open up opportunities for coordination and cooperation until the next PARC meeting which will be held on June 12 to 15, 2015 at Beauvais, France, during the next UMAEL World Congress. Brother Labelle, in his closing remarks, expressed how the Congress had affirmed their belief that each and every delegate is truly moved to realize the Lasallian mission. This positive outlook continued on through the evening as the delegates joined in fellowship over cocktails and a lively cultural show.

Although the Congress had officially ended, the delegates still got together the following day to see the sights of the charming city of Hakodate. In the midst of all the interesting and unique attractions, one experience created an unforgettable mark in each and everyone. Midway through the summit of Mt. Hakodate, the delegates paid their respects to the first four Brothers who came to Japan in 1932, and braved wars and other challenges in the name of the mission. A deep sense of gratitude overcame the group as they reflected on how the flame of the Lasallian mission ignited, and how the light had spread in ways that went beyond imagination and expectation. The memory of Brothers Marcel, Daniel, Laurent D'teur and Liguori sparked in the delegates meaningful hope on what had been ignited in this Congress. *(Mr. Henry Atayde)*

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**September Birthdays.** Let us remember in our prayers our dear Brothers who are celebrating their birthdays this coming month:

1	Br. Stephen Kan Wongchiree	9	Br. Kennedy Joseph	17	Br. John Niran
5	Br. Hisao Fujita	10	Br. Michael Broughton	18	Br. Matthew Bay
6	Br. Steve Hogan	13	Br. Nicholas Seet	19	Br. Moris Thar Gyi
7	Br. John Tobias de la Cruz	15	Br. Alphonso Danai	24	Br. Lawrence Goh
8	Br. Joseph Daluz	16	Br. Rado Mercado	29	Br. Hyacinth Fitzgerald
				30	Dr. Carmelita Quebengco

Fraternally,

**Br. Edmundo L. Fernandez FSC**  
Hong Kong