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and many more...
PROTÉGÉ
The Battle for the Big Break
A reality-singing competition where 10 music icons train their protégés for a chance at stardom.

The Judges
Louie Ocampo
The Virtuoso
Joey De Leon
The Legend
Bert De Leon
The Director

The Mentors
Jay-R
Ms. Claire Dela Flente
Rachel Anne Go

Jaya
Jaano Gibbo
Ms. Inelda Pasion
Aiza Seguerra

GMA Pinoy TV™
The ratings are out and the results are astoundingly clear—Kapuso Network GMA 7 leads the way among local channels once again in the race towards the topmost spot!

Respected and recognized ratings service provider Nielsen TV Audience Measurement recently came out with the August data (August 28 to 31 based on overnight ratings), and the outcome favors GMA by a 4.1 point margin over its longtime rival ABS-CBN, which has a 30.9 standing. Meanwhile, despite its aggressive marketing, TV5 capped off the month with 16.1 share points.

Let the Numbers Talk

The lead of 4.1 points means that GMA had almost 155,000 more TV households from all over the country watching its shows. Using an assumption of five viewers per household, the lead would translate to GMA having about 774,000 more viewers over ABS-CBN. Compared to TV5, GMA had about 709,000 more TV households or an estimated advantage of roughly 3.5 million more viewers.

As always, GMA is ahead in Urban Luzon and Mega Manila, comprising the bulk of total television households nationwide at 77 percent and 58 percent, respectively. GMA's total day performance in Total Urban Luzon scored 38.8 share points, higher by double digits compared to ABS-CBN's 26.1 points, and TV5's 17.1 points. This reveals that GMA is the preferred channel of about 368,000 more households and that it may have almost 2 million more viewers over the competition. Its lead over TV5 translates to an estimated 630,000 more households and could reach about 3 million more viewers for GMA.

In viewer-rich Mega Manila, GMA remains matchless with 39.5 share points, again higher by double digits compared to ABS-CBN's 24.8 points and TV5's 17.8. This translates to GMA winning more than 300,000 more households and more than 1.6 million more viewers compared to ABS-CBN. Relative to TV5, GMA had nearly half a million more households and more than 2.4 million more viewers in the said area.

About Nielsen

The Nielsen TV Audience Measurement used by GMA is also utilized by 21 companies including two other local networks, namely, TV5 and Solar Entertainment; Faulkner Media; CBN Asia; 13 advertising agencies and three regional clients. On the other hand, ABS-CBN is the only local major TV network reportedly subscribing to Kantar Media, formerly known as TNS.

In Mega Manila alone, the Nielsen TV Audience Measurement has a sample size of 800 homes as compared to Kantar Media’s 770 homes. Nationwide, Nielsen has a total sample size of 2,025 homes compared to the lower sample size of 1,370 utilized by Kantar Media.

The top rating programs from GMA Network can be seen worldwide via its flagship international channel, GMA Pinoy TV!
THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK, GMA Network’s campaign to promote the responsible use of social media, was recently honored with the 2011 Civility Star Award by the Civility Counts Project, a global initiative of the Association of Image Consultants International (AICI).

The Kapuso Network became the first broadcast news organization in the Philippines to take a stand against cyberbullying when it launched the campaign last July.

Olen Juarez-Lim, Managing Director of OJL Consulting Group and Director of Affiliate for the Philippines for Civility Experts Worldwide said, “The OJL Consulting Group, the premier Image Consulting Company in the Philippines, nominated GMA Network Incorporated for the 2011 award. This prestigious award is given to corporations or organizations that have demonstrated outstanding leadership by promoting civility in their community, thereby contributing significantly to the betterment of society. Civility is defined by the 3 Rs: Respect, Restraint and Responsibility. We are pleased to recognize GMA Network for their contribution to social responsibility and raising awareness about considerate and respectful use of the Internet and social media.”

“We are grateful for this great recognition and the support we received from all the personalities involved in the project,” said Sheila Paras, Head, Creative Imaging, News. “We’re also extremely happy with the positive response the campaign has received from various sectors. We appreciate that a number of social media users continue to embrace this concept and are now thinking twice before tweeting or posting anything online.”

To learn more about Think Before You Click, please log on to www.facebook.com/ThinkBeforeYouClick.

Photo shows (from left) Joan del Rosario, Assistant Manager, Project Management, Post-Production; Joan Tan, Project Manager, Program Support Department (PSD); Clarence Acob, Videographics Artist, Post-Production; Jaimee Igarta, Writer, Program Support Department; Javin Tarun, Art Director, Program Support Department; Bessie Gonzales, Associate Creative Director, Program Support Department; Sheila Paras, Head, Creative Imaging, News; Al de Leon, AICI Assoc Member; Jan Chavez-Arceo, the US Jefferson Awarddee as first Ambassador of Goodwill; Olen Juarez-Lim, Managing Director of OJL Consulting Group and Director of Affiliate for the Philippines for Civility Experts Worldwide; Miakka Lim, OJL Consulting Senior Consultant, and Vince Gealogo, Director.
The 2011 Excellence in Multicultural Marketing Awards (EMMA) of the National Association for Multi-Ethnicity in Communications (NAMIC) which recognizes members of the television cable industry and their efforts in reaching different cultural segments through their creative and innovative marketing strategies including print, commercials, and other marketing materials, recognized two GMA efforts!

This recent recognition is the latest addition to GMA’s winning streak. In 2006, NAMIC awarded 1st Place to “Comcast San Francisco Bay Area GMA Pinoy TV Launch” in the Cable Study Cable Category for being “the most successful cable network launch in Comcast Bay Area history, dramatically exceeding goals.” The Kapuso international channel also bagged the 1st Place in Marketing Tactics for Network Internet/New Media category for its website www.gmapinoytv.com. In 2010, GMA Pinoy TV and GMA Life TV landed 1st Place in Direct Mail Marketing Tactics for “Time Warner GMA Pinoy TV and GMA Life TV launch postcard” and 2nd Place in both Direct Mail and Print Marketing Tactics for “Comcast GMA Life TV Upsell.” The awarding ceremony took place last October 5 at the 25th Annual Conference of NAMIC at Hilton New York.

Another significant recognition was given to GMA just recently in the 32nd Telly Awards - the silver award, the highest honor given by the prestigious New York City-based organization, to “Planet Philippines” for the Nature/Wildlife category. The documentary also garnered the bronze medal in the 2010 New York Festivals Film and Television Awards.

GMA Pinoy TV’s flagship newscast “24 Oras,” in turn, received the bronze award in the News or News Feature category for its comprehensive coverage on the havoc brought by Super Typhoon “Juan.” Multi-awarded newscast “Saksi” received a bronze award in the same category for its special coverage on the Vizconde Massacre case. “Reporter’s Notebook’s” “Huling Hantungan” episode, meanwhile, won for the Kapuso Network its third bronze award in the News/News Feature category.

“Art Angel,” on the other hand, received the bronze award in the Children’s category for its special episode celebrating the National Children’s Book Day. The show was recently replaced by the new children’s program “Sababayadog.”

The US International Film and Video Festival also awarded “Imbestigador” the only USIFVF award for a Philippine program this year.
Manny’s Million Peso Heart

Last July 16, everyone waited with bated breath as Manny Pacquiao boldly entered a ring that he has never fought in before. In Manny Many Prizes, our Pambansang Kamao takes on a different role, a combination of host-celebrity-hero-Santa Claus all rolled into one. Even if he is already busy with being a father, public servant, and record-breaking athlete, our real life hero still wants to give back to the country that he so obviously loves. “Makabawi man lang sa suportang ibinibigay ng sambayanan sa akin.” Manny heartfully says.

Pambansang Ninong

In the pilot episode alone, over 2 million pesos worth of giveaways and prizes were given away. “Walang uuwing luhaan sa show” is the main man’s credo. One night, 61 year-old contestant John Reidan made an incorrect choice in the final round, but Manny gave him the house-and-lot prize anyway. How’s that for giving back to supporters? Another big winner was pedicab driver James Villanueva, who was awarded with a ‘panghahayagan package’ worth 60,000 pesos. Not surprisingly, the Pambansang Kamao was dubbed Pambansang Ninong after just one night of his Manny Many Prizes.

Join Manny Pacquiao and his posse of good-looking elves Paolo Contis, Rhian Ramos, Isabelle Daza, Gladys Guevara, Chyck Velasco, and Boobay in the show where everyone wins!

Watch Manny Many Prizes weekends on GMA Pinoy TV!

Meanwhile, charming Rocco Nacino recalls how he prepared for the role. “what i did was to take gymnastics classes to learn to tumble”, he laughingly shares. He quickly switches to serious mode though as he relates his will to enrich his character further. “Just last night, the choreographer and i discovered that i can do the back flip and our director shot it aged. Really fulfilling since i see this as an opportunity to prove that i am worthy of the role.”

When Kris Bernal was asked about similarities between her character Shania and herself in real life, the answer came easily enough. “Similar kami in a way ako biang Shania sa Time of My Life, gagawa ko ang lahat para marating ko pagpaparang ko. Ako na Krista, galing ko rin ang lahat para maging character. Ang dami naming kapalit pero nakakap na maniyo pang Anting Anting namita.”

Watch as these three dynamic talents dance for their life and love! Catch Time of My Life in Asia Pacific, Middle East, U.S., and Canada only on GMA Pinoy TV! Call your preferred pay TV operator now to subscribe!
When you first heard that you will be the Head of Production Design for Amaya, what was your reaction?

After the initial euphoria came sheer panic (laughs), I mean, it is one thing to have the singular honor of being tapped for the network’s flagship project for the year—the very first epic-serye on Philippine television, widely anticipated to be a gamechanger in the genre. It is another matter to strategize and organize a workflow for the research, design and execution of the massive amount of required work. For this, I tapped the knowledge in all aspects of period-specific costuming: from the design, cut, and detailing. It took about 4 weeks to build a facsimile of the ideal specification albeit somewhat smaller—about 100 rowers on outriggers mounted on sides. We settled for a slightly smaller version that the look and feel of Amaya is consistent.

How difficult was it to mount or implement the designs— from the drawing pad to real life?

Planning the logistics of creating the various sets was very difficult. For example, the main tribal villages were constructed as location exteriors in Laguna in order to take advantage of the local scenery—a lush jungle and a river delta that supposedly leads out to sea (which is in Bataan). This was necessary since one of the tribes in the story was seafaring and we had to establish the water element in a way that suggested that their village was conceivably connected to the sea. Constructing the main sets on location by the sea as originally planned, was not practical since the rainy season, ergo typhoons, was fast approaching. Also, in anticipation of the rains and typhoons, the interiors of the main tribal structures in Laguna had to be constructed as soundstage sets at a converted warehouse in Bulacan.

One of the biggest props in the pilot, the KARAKOA, was constructed at a fishing village in Zambales to be shot in Bataan. Add to all these the fabrication of props, weapons, set dressing, etcetera, needed for the major battle scenes which were going to be shot in Bohol.

Can you share a story behind one of the clothes/costumes in Amaya?

I cannot cite just one in particular but an interesting bit of trivia in the making of the costumes is how Gino, our costume designer, got so concerned to the point of O.C. about the tiniest of details (rightfully so) that he had to fly out of the country in order to secure fabric material that would have the right drape and texture for the lead costumes. He also had to have the small accessories such as jewelry, hair embellishments, and so on, hand-crafted on sheet metal by metal workers who are experts on relatively smaller pieces such as altars and carvings. I believe the results speak for themselves.

What are your preparations? What kind of research was made by the production design group to complement the head writer’s stock knowledge about history? What was the basic concept for the costumes and props?

As soon as I got the preliminary story map and got over the initial concept meeting with the head writer Suzette and her team, as well as with the program manager Cheryl Ching- Sy for budget: my team and I set about collecting all available historical research materials on Pre-Hispanic Philippine civilization we could get our hands on.

I expedited the research process by organizing teams and point persons to fan out to libraries, museums, and the internet to find both visual and literary archival reference materials on the various aspects that define Pre-Hispanic Philippine culture in general, and editing the material to more specific issues as we progressed. Aspects which include ethnic vernacular architecture, domestic implements and weaponry—things for everyday life, anything that would contribute to physically realize the period environment we wanted to create to support the narrative.

The list goes on and on....

The design of the costumes and accessories is another very crucial factor in making the environment we wanted to create, believable. For this, I tapped the creative genius of one of the country’s top costume designers for theatre, Gino Gonzales, whom I have collaborated with on several period genre projects. No detail is ever too insignificant for Gino, who came on-board fully-loaded with knowledge in all aspects of period-specific costuming: from the design, cut, and material of the attire for our principals, to jewelry and various accoutrements, down to hairstyle and embellishment.

How does the production design team work to ensure that the look and feel of Amaya is consistent?

I organized task specific teams of designers working on specific areas: sets, props and dressing, etc. This is because of the story, one thing that can be bought as a finished product over the counter. Everything has to be fabricated specifically for the show, down to the smallest detail. Another team headed by my On-set Art Director does all the placement and moving to camera of everything that was passed on to them by the advance team.

I personally hate working in a muddle and given the scope of the requirements of AMAYA, I had to devise this system that ensures that actual work is properly coordinated and organized. That is why I made sure that nothing is left to chance because it’s so easy to have one small detail amiss hundreds spoil a whole scene.

It is apparent in the spectacle that is Amaya that a meeting of engineered brilliance is in constant grind! Do not miss this legendary epic-serye!

AMAYA airs worldwide, weekdays on GMA Pinoy TV. To subscribe, call your preferred Pay TV operator now!
GMA celebrates the rich Filipino culture of magical stories of myth and lore with Iglot—a new fantaserye that the entire family will surely enjoy! Meet Iglot—fluffy and fun, cute and cuddly—a friend that every child can only imagine having. Luningning is the lucky little girl who gets to befriend this magical egg-borne.

Five-year-old Milkcah Wynne Nacion stood out among over a hundred hopefuls for the role of Luningning. Her fresh face and promising raw talent is a must-watch as she and Iglot find themselves in the most exciting exploits and journeys that only director Gil Tejada Jr. can deliver.

Backed by a formidable cast of award-winning actresses and actors, young Milkcah is sure to get tips for her first foray into acting. Claudine Barretto, Marvin Agustin and Jolina Magdangal head the list, playing characters caught in a triangle of love and deception. Luis Alandy, Pauleen Luna and Patrick Garcia grace the screen with their unwavering talent and steady presence as well. And if that is not enough, respected veterans whose experiences are unmatched complete the star-filled cast—Romnick Sarmenta, Sylvia Sanchez, Jaime Fabregas, Perla Bautista, Mel Martinez, and, the one and the only, Ms. Celia Rodriguez.

A spin-off of one the Kapuso Network’s most unforgettable fantaserye to date, Mulawin, Iglot spreads love and inspiration via GMA Pinoy TV. Call your preferred pay TV operator now!
A side from airing top-notch entertainment and news programs, GMA Pinoy TV has also partnered with some Pinoy-owned media companies to produce programs that reflect the value and worth of being a Pinoy abroad.

Just recently, GMA Pinoy TV and Prowave Media, a wholly Pinoy-owned media company in Silicon Valley, launched “Power ng Pinoy”. The show introduces and salutes successful Pinoy movers and shakers who continue to make a difference.

This will also highlight the featured guests’ contribution to society as they give back to the community, a very signature Pinoy trait worth sharing to the rest of the world.

Meanwhile, “Pusong Pinoy sa Amerika”, with San Francisco-based lawyer Lourdes Santos Tancinco is now on its sixth season. The show tackles diverse immigration law topics that are geared toward the welfare of Pinoy migrants and their families. Themed “Looking Back, Moving Forward”, this season will focus on the past waves of Pinoy pioneers -- sacadas, pensionados, veterans, professionals, and other workers -- who struggled, survived, and succeeded in laying the foundations for Pinoy in the US.

“Kaya Mong Gawin”, on the other hand, provides handy and practical tips from Pinoy who have made names in their chosen fields. The show will give Pinoy insights on where to invest, which business to pursue, which to buy, and just about anything of general interest to its viewers.

M Studio, a recording and resto-bar business for a number of years and now we are branching out to act as a talent agency service as it take on the challenge to co-produce a TV show with GMA Pinoy TV. M Studio now conducts ongoing audition and screentest for its upcoming television show “Barkada”.

Another TV program that is currently making waves is the docu-reality-comedy series Mommy Elvie at 18 featuring the loveable and cool Mommy Elvie Villasanta and funny guy Ariel Villasanta. “Mommy Elvie@18” was conceptualized and co-directed by multi-awarded director Aleah Aliporo-Eugenio. The aim of the show, Aleah said, is to inspire people to fulfill their dreams. This 30-minute weekly show is produced by AV Productions and RedAnts Media, Inc.

Traveling takes centerstage in the program World Premiere produced by Mercator Model Management’s top honcho Jonas Gaffud. World Premiere is a travel show focusing on the participation of Filipino movies in Film Festivals abroad. The program is hosted by Bb. Pilipinas-Universe 2006 Lia Andrea Ramos and Kapuso actor Mikael Daez.
GMA Pinoy TV & GMA Life TV bring sports action to Pinoy homes abroad

Whether as an athlete or a fan, Pinoy fans are known the world over to be passionate about sports. Sports has become one of the mainstays through which Pinoy strength, determination, and perseverance are displayed - Manny Pacquiao, Paeng Nepomuceno, the RP Gilas and the Philippine Azkals being some personifications of these.

To ensure that Pinoy sports action is not missed out on the action and excitement from the comforts of their homes, GMA Pinoy TV and GMA Life TV aired several sporting events such as Brian Viloria and Dodie Boy Penalosa Jr’s boxing matches, the RP Gilas in the 33rd Jones Cup, the Shakesy’s V-League, and the Philippine Rugby Team – the Volcanoes – in their recent tourney in China.

“It is such a treat for boxing aficionados like me to witness the rise of a new breed of Pinoy boxers. Gone are the days when I had to rely on the internet for updates. Thanks to GMA Pinoy TV for airing these matches,” says Saudi-based engineer Meliton. He adds that he is extremely happy that GMA Pinoy TV aired several matches of Pinoy boxer Brian Viloria’s “The Hurricane” Julian. “Seeing how Anna Jihana inside the ring shows the world that Pinayos are not only beautiful and smart women, but are strong as well!”

Meanwhile, Fli-Aussie Vernon, a GMA Pinoy TV subscriber and a rugby supporter from Melbourne, is delighted that the Volcanoes are doing well in international tourneys, saying, “I hope the team will someday qualify for the Rugby Union World Cup (held in New Zealand this year).” Pinoy rugby fans like Vernon are now in for a treat from GMA Pinoy TV as it aired the volcanic games of the Philippine Volcanoes last September 11.

Pinoy volleyball lovers are in for a treat as GMA Life TV features the first international airing of the Shakesy’s V-League Open Conference, a premier women’s volleyball league that aims to further raise the level of women’s volleyball competitions. We want to give the fans the best competition in women’s volleyball so we’re including non-schools in this conference,” shores Sports Vision Management Group Inc. Chairman Mayong Martelino, the organizing committee behind Shakesy’s V-League.

Joseph T. Francia, Vice President and Head of Operations for GMA International, adds, “We welcome this opportunity for us at GMA Life TV to partner with Sports Vision and Shakesy’s Pizza in this endeavor. We are excited to bring this sports event, for the first time in its history, beyond our country’s borders with its international launch.”

Log on to www.gmapinoytv.com for further updates on these sports coverage, or visit www.facebook.com/gmapinoytv and http://twitter.com/GMAPinoyTV for the best in Pinoy entertainment, news and sports!
Real Life Revisited on GMA Life TV

Ups and downs, tears and laughs – such are the spines and twists of Pinoy life!

This is the variety of programs in GMA Life TV, where Pinoys worldwide may enjoy the latest Kapuso shows and catch up on episodes which they may have missed due to their hectic schedules. Such a spectacular way of being transported back to their beloved Philippines! This initiative is in line with our thrust to make GMA Life TV’s programming even more relevant to the needs of its growing viewership around the world, shares Joseph T. Francia, Vice President and Head of Operations for GMA International.

To look forward to is the newest roster of GMA Life TV programs, 8 genres that are sure to relate to the multi-faceted Pinoy and his equally colorful life.

STORIES OF LIFE
The First-Ever English-Dubbed Pinoy Series

Providing Filipinos abroad the chance to once again enjoy two of the most sought-after Philippine television dramas, the English-dubbed versions of “Impostora” (“The Impostor”) and “Una Kang Naging Akin” (“When You Were Mine”), promise to make the programs available to non-Filipino speakers and younger Pinoy viewers who find comprehending the native language a bit of a challenge.

These programs are topbillied by some of the most versatile Kapuso language speakers and younger Pinoy viewers who find comprehending the native language a bit of a challenge.

FOOD FOR LIFE
A hefty serving of scrumptious GMA Life TV food programs are “Sarap At Home” anchored by Sam Oh; “Delicioso” with real-life best friends Sam Oh and Chef Jade Ang Ajo; “Quickfire” with Chef Rosebud Benitez; “My Favorite Recipes” with Chika Cojuanco; and “Idol Sa Kusina” with Master Chef Pablo “Boy” Logro.

KIDS
Kids are never left out on GMA Life TV and they are sure to learn more about life by tuning in to these shows – “Amazing Cooking Kids”, a reality cooking competition for kids hosted by Carmina Villarroel; “Tropang Potchie”, a kiddie variety, talent, and game show all rolled into one; and “Favorite Recipes” with China Cojuancco; and “Idol Sa Kusina” with Master Chef Pablo “Boy” Logro.

FACTS AND WORDS OF LIFE

REALITY AND TALK
Another genre in GMA Life TV comprises the following must-watch reality and talk programs: Ate Selma in “Personnael” which gives a daily dose of heartfelt discussions about life’s real stories and lessons; the wacky tandem of Carmi Villamil and Mike “Neo” Naica in the public affairs program “Day Off”; and Pinoy Rock Legend Pepe Smith and his children Queenie, Sanya, and Beepoe in “The Smiths”.

GMA International’s Joseph Francia summarizes GMA Life TV’s thrust perfectly – “We at GMA Life TV desire to provide our subscribers abroad a complete television viewing experience that suits the Filipino taste. With our new programming genres, we are confident that the viewers will have the chance to sample all the exciting LIFE flavors we offer on the channel.”

Pinoy mountaineer completes Seven Summits expedition in December

Filipino pride Romi Garduce will soon complete his bid of accomplishing the revered Seven Summits in mountaineering circles as the first Filipino to scale and summit the seven highest mountains in seven continents!

Embracing the cause of environmentalism by raising awareness through his treks, Garduce will have conquered the seven peaks based on the Bass List and the Messner List in December 2011. “It takes more than competence and training to be a winner in this adventure sport. We obtain meaning only if we back the summit with a cause,” Garduce enthuses. Since his days as a member of the University of the Philippines Mountaineers (UPM), his list of successful climbs included Africa’s Mt. Kilimanjaro (Tanzania, 2002); South America’s Mt. Aconcagua (Argentina, 2005); Asia’s Mt. Everest (China and Nepal, 2006); Europe’s Mt. Eibros (Russia, 2007); North America’s Denali Peak (United States, 2008); and Australia’s Mt. Kosciuszko (Australia, 2008).

Mountaineers consider Castnera Pyramid as the tallest peak in the Australasia/Oceania geographical region and in July 2011, Garduce established that he is the Pinoy mountaineer to beat as he scaled all 16,023 feet of it (Indonesia, 2011). He is currently getting ready for his mission in December – to reach the summit of the Vinson Massif, a 16,067-foot mountain near the base of the Antarctic Peninsula in harsh, below-zero temperatures. By climbing these two peaks, Garduce completes the Seven Summit feat, joining an elite group of the present 179 mountaineers who have done the same.

“The expedition is a testament that we Filipinos value our tenancy on Earth. This is also my serious attempt to put the Philippine flag on this world renowned record,” Garduce proudly declares.

Catch detailed accounts of Garduce’s Seven Summits expedition on GMA Pinoy TV! Log on to www.gmapinoytv.com for further updates on the Seven Summits expedition or visit www.facebook.com/gmapinoytv and www.twitter.com/gmapinoytv for the best in Pinoy entertainment, news and sports.
Our modern-day heroes

My friend Gus Infante, who left the Philippines two years ago and now lives in Ottawa, Canada with his family, emailed me a couple of days ago. He mentioned some insights about the Pinoy OFW.

"It (entrepreneurship) is the first step in the road to self-reliance and being able to hold up our heads with pride. Given the downturn in the world's economic outlook, one wonders how long the Philippines can continue to survive on the backs of the OFWs. One wonders if the level of remittances will continue to hover around the $20 billion mark or will this slowly start to dwindle as the global recession persists."

For the past 14 days, we lived with more than 250 OFWs aboard the Crystal Cruise that toured us from Rome, stopping by seven ports, to London. These kababayans were all over the ship, taking responsibility for almost all its service aspects, greeting us in our native tongue and with the signature Filipino welcoming smile. On the ship's deck, Pinoys were happily cooking our burgers and hotdogs to perfection. Nobu Restaurant which had an outlet on the ship was manned by Pinoy chefs, managers, and service crew and each was careful to maintain the world class standards which Nobu is known for. Even the person who maintains the cooling system, from the air conditioning to the refrigeration, is a Pinoy engineer. During our visit, he was being treated by his big boss in London, as he was the employee of the month.

My pride in my newfound OFW remains inspiring to me to this day. I dream of a country with a higher standard of living, more jobs, and lower government corruption. I dream for my family to be together, and for seafarers back home to have competitive jobs and salaries so that we don't have to work abroad.

- Arnold Jamir

My dream for my country: a decent job for everyone, low cost of living, honest leaders, strict law enforcers, and disciplined countrymen. My dream for myself: have my own house, spend more time with my family, be financially stable, and give proper education for my kids and future kids.

-Rodrindol Tolentino

Dream for our country: unity and trust among people. Dream for myself and family: to have good health, to help people in need, to keep our relationship strong as a family.

-Rico Enriquez

I dream of having a stable economy and a corrupt-free country. I dream of having a business back home to support my family when I finish my career on board.

-Louie Payongayong

I dream for our country to stop corruption and have a peaceful government. I dream for my family and myself to have happiness, good health, and a successful and good future.

-Miguel Edgardo

I dream for every Filipino to have discipline, progress and success. I dream to give my family a good and affluent way of living according to God's plan.

-Kathleen Ann Reyes

I dream for my country to have success, discipline, peace, love and a good leader. I dream for myself and my family to have success, excellent and low profile, and happiness with God's way.

-Ross Ramos

I dream of a better leader for our country and no government corruption. I dream for myself to fulfill a better future for my kids and to provide more precious moments with my wife.

-Joseph Jimenez

I dream for my country to elect the right people who will work for the Filipino and not for themselves. I dream for myself and family to save enough money and to have more time together.

-Rolando Dojie Lejano

I dream for my country to have a strong economy, with no corruption so we can have sufficient income to support our family and so we don't need to work in other countries. My dream for myself and family is good health and more success for the future of my children.

-Walson, OFW

I dream of a nice, green and peaceful country. I also dream of having my own family soon, with good health for each of them.

-Ann, OFW

It is apparent that our OFWs sacrifice being apart from their families just to be able to support their actual needs. Most of those we met on board called us fortunate to be able to travel and bond as a family, an aspiration they have for themselves. It is also evident in their statements above that they dream of a corrupt-free country. They also look forward to starting their own negosyo one day. Hopefully, GoNegosyo and other similar organizations that help improve the negosyo environment would flourish for their sake. We may not be able to influence everyone to start a business, but GoNegosyo can help lead the way for more people to be enterprising.

So my friend Gus, the world is in a shakedown because of the same financial crisis which causes our kababayans to have to work abroad. The World Bank just revised the growth forecast to a bigger negative number and the Philippines is affected. However, this does not stop us from dreaming of a better life. To our OFWs, our modern-day heroes, I pray that you remain resilient because you are an inspiration to all.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all those who sent birthday greetings through Facebook and GoNegosyo emails. My birthday wish is that we may all inspire one another to be able to get through life's challenges. I hope that through this column and through the GoNegosyo advocacy, I am able to help.

Philippines, it's time to dream big! GoNegosyo!

Watch GO NEGOSYO: KAYA MO! weekends on GMA Life TV.

by Joey Concepcion
Founder of the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (Go Negosyo)

I wish is that we may all inspire one another to be able to get through life's challenges. I hope that through this column and through the GoNegosyo advocacy, I am able to help.
GMA News TV Goes International

GMA Network heeds the call of Filipinos abroad for timely and comprehensive local news right from where and when it happens via the launch of its third international channel – GMA News TV International!

The men and women of GMA News and Public Affairs comprise the most trusted broadcast news organization in the Philippines - the only one that has won the most prestigious honor in electronic media, the George Foster Peabody Award.

Bannered by the most respected names in Philippine broadcast journalism – Jessica Soho, Mike Enriquez, Mel Tiangco, Arnold Clavio, Vicky Morales, and Howie Severino – GMA News TV International delivers Serbisyong Totoo with newscasts and public affairs programs all in Filipino – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

This same news organization has been recently awarded a Peabody Award. GMA News and Public Affairs US International Film and Video Festival awardee for a programming with five citations from the Telly Awards and is the only news organization has been recently awarded a Peabody Award.

Comprising the most trusted broadcast news organization is the Los Angeles-based GMA News TV International, GMA Pinoy TV, and GMA Life TV, also has the New York Festivals International Television and Film Awards International Channel Pillars Arnold Clavio and Kapuso Stars Rhian Ramos and Daniel Matsunaga performed to the crowd's delight.

“GMA News TV International is doing very well here in Guam as many of GTA’s Filipino market base have shown overwhelming interest in adding it to their channel line-up. Like GMA Pinoy TV, it has been consistently landing a spot in the top 20 channels due to its significant daily viewership. A year and a half has passed, and I am still singing this song, this time not to woo a girl, but to assure her that I will always be that someone for her. Thanks, AJ!”

“Amaya” as “it is a manifestation of the Philippines’ rich cultural and historical past.”

“Truly, this is GMA's Serbisyong Totoo.”

“A friend recommended that I search for AJ Rafael on YouTube. A Pinoy musician, AJ is an internet celebrity whose original songs have gotten him close to 500,000 followers. His videos have had millions of hits, too. He was nominated to be part of Billboard’s Battle of the Bands. Like wow, those are impressive accomplishments – stuff that makes us Pinoy proud.

LAUGHTER is the best medicine, the good old saying goes. But if that laughter serves a higher purpose such as helping children in need, there is joy which is more lasting than the laughter.

Such is my description of Pinoy comic Jo Koy, once named one of the “10 Comics to Watch” by Daily Variety.

I first witnessed his flair for comedy in “The Tonight Show with Jay Leno” a few years back. I love this certain comical in his acts, his wit especially relevant in his family-inspired materials. Since catching his performances on TV and his live performances in comedy clubs across the country are a luxury of time for me, I contend myself with watching him through his videos on YouTube. In live or electronic media Jo Koy’s act has really come a long way.

I’ve discovered that this Pinoy comic’s antics go beyond entertainment - they are acts of humanity as well. Jo Koy’s Foundation uses the power of laughter to raise funds for less fortunate children.

As a nurse in the US for nearly a decade, I feel proud that one fellow Pinoy is making waves, using his talent for laughter, to spread smiles to those in need.
Cultural adjustment and feelings of isolation are probably necessary in the process of getting used to living in a new environment. The examples given above are experienced by many, if not all of us, who have to adapt to a new set of surroundings. Natural lang ito at hindi dapat pangabala. Adjustment in a new country can usually take a few weeks to about a year. For some it may be easier to adjust, for others it may take longer.

There are Filipinos in almost every corner of the globe and their work experiences are as varied as the individuals themselves. In cases of cultural adjustment and a sense of isolation however, their experiences are common. Although feeling sad in the course of adjusting to a new environment may not necessarily be detrimental to a person, there are also red flags that may indicate a need to seek professional help. These are often associated with the severity, pervasiveness and chronicity of one’s reactions. Kung kaluhtangan ninyong sarili, may aaralin kay isang konsultantedor ng isang doktor, sikolohista o counselor kung ikaw ay nakararanas ng ilan sa mga sumusunod:

- Matinding kalungkutan at madalas na pag-iyak;
- Hinala sa pagtulog sa sobrang tulog sa buong maghapon;
- Feeling giddy and anxious for no apparent reason;
- Feeling worthless and hopeless for most part of the days;
- Losing energy to do anything and feeling listless;
- Unexplained anxiety or extreme fears; and
- Pag-iisip ng kamatayan o kagustuhan mamatay (you need to see someone immediately if you start thinking of suicide).

Kung kailangan ninyong sumangguni sa isang counselor, may libreng online counseling ang Ateneo Psychology Department (www.ofwonline.net).
Learn the basics from the very first Elila executive chief of a 5-star hotel in the Philippines. Chef Pala “Boy” Llagas.

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