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Ambassade de France aux Philippines et en Micronésie
AU CŒUR DES TÉNÈBRES,
IL SUFFIT D’UNE PETITE LUEUR
POUR TOUT ILLUMINER

« Le monde n’a plus le temps d’espérer, ni
d’aimer, ni de rêver. Ce sont les pauvres qui
espèrent à sa place ». Ces mots de Georges
Bernanos ne sont assurément pas uniquement
une constatation, aussi pertinente soit-elle, mais
un appel : celui d’ouvrir enfin les yeux sur un
monde qui ne sait plus apprendre, un monde qui
ne sait plus s’émerveiller, un monde qui ne sait
plus espérer.

Pourtant l’espérance — la petite fille espérance
de Péguy — est devenue indéniablement le
grand défi de nos sociétés : non pas l’espoir vain
que tout ira mieux — l’actualité internationale
vient tristement et régulièrement nous rappeler
cette chimère — mais l’espérance ancrée
fermement dans la certitude que l’amour est
absolument vainqueur. D’aucuns m’opposeront
légitimement les mêmes sombres actualités, les
guerres, la misère... la victoire apparente du mal.
Mais si cette question reste une impasse
insupposable qui condamne à admettre
humblement qu’aucune explication ne peut
nous satisfaire, il n’en demeure pas moins vrai
qu’elle nous presse aussi d’y répondre. On
n’explique pas le mal, mais il faut y répondre.

Et ce sont les pauvres qui espèrent à notre place,
pour reprendre les mots de Bernanos, ce sont
eux qui viennent nous montrer l’exemple, eux
qui nous enseignent. Saurons-nous disposer nos
cœurs aux leçons des plus petits ?

La fondation ANAK-Tnk qui œuvre à Manille
depuis 1998 auprès des enfants des rues et des
bidonvilles de la capitale philippine a dû
s’adapter, tout au long de ces années, aux
besoins grandissants, à une misère galopante.
L’âge moyen des enfants des rues en forte baisse,
la multiplication du nombre de filles laissées-
pour-compte aussi, et l’apparition de personnes
âgées abandonnées dans les rues de la capitale
sont les signes les plus inquiétants de cette
malheureusement évolution. Il faut donc se
battre... et nous nous battrons !

Pourtant, ces 25 dernières années nous ont aussi
appris qu’au cœur des ténèbres, il suffit d’une
petite lueur pour tout illuminer. La discrète
espérance vient implacablement désarmer le Mal
qui veut régner sans partage sur notre monde.
Les petits actes d’amour nous rappellent
l’essentiel : c’est un sourire retrouvé, un pardon
donné, une joie partagée ; c’est aussi l’enfant
protégé, le malade accompagné, l’isolé que l’on
visite... Tous ces petits actes qui passent
inapercus au regard de l’esprit du monde, mais
portent de si merveilleux fruits au regard de la
soif inapaisable de nos cœurs. Je ne peux,
comme prêtre, oublier le Site du Christ en Croix,
le « J’ai soif » qu’il a prononcé dans un dernier
souffle, un appel plus qu’un désir : que nos
cœurs se remettent à battre.

Soyons des passionnés du prochain !

POUR VOUS INSCRIRE À NOTRE
MAGAZINE MENSUEL,
CLIQUEZ SUR CE LIEN :
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POUR TÉLÉCHARGER
LE LIVRET 2022,
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ABBÉ MATTHIEU DAUCHEZ
Directeur exécutif de la
Fondation ANAK-Tnk
IN THE HEART OF DARKNESS,
IT ONLY TAKES A LITTLE LIGHT
TO ILLUMINATE EVERYTHING

"The world no longer has time to hope, or to love, or to dream. It is the poor who hope in its place." These words of Georges Bernanos are certainly not just an observation, however relevant it may be, but a call: to finally open our eyes to a world that no longer knows how to learn, a world that no longer knows how to marvel, a world that no longer knows how to hope.

Yet hope - Péguy’s “little daughter” hope - has undeniably become the great challenge of our societies: not the vain hope that everything will get better - international news sadly and regularly reminds us of this chimera - but hope firmly anchored in the certainty that love is the absolute winner. Some people will legitimately oppose me with the same dark news, wars, misery... the apparent victory of evil. But if this question remains an unbearable impasse that condemns us to humbly admit that no explanation can satisfy us, it is no less true that it also urges us to answer it. Evil cannot be explained, but it must be answered.

And it is the poor who hope in our place, to use the words of Bernanos, they are the ones who come to show us the example, they are the ones who teach us. Will we know how to dispose our hearts to the lessons of the least of these?

The ANAK-Tnk Foundation, which has been working in Manila since 1998 with street children and slum dwellers in the Philippine capital, has had to adapt throughout these years to the growing needs and rampant poverty. The average age of street children is falling sharply, the number of girls left behind is increasing, and the appearance of elderly people abandoned on the streets of the capital is the most worrying sign of this unfortunate development. So we have to fight... and we will fight!

However, the last 25 years have also taught us that in the heart of darkness, it only takes a little light to illuminate everything. Discreet hope relentlessly disarms the evil that wants to reign unchallenged in our world. Small acts of love remind us of what is essential: a smile, a forgiveness, a shared joy; a child protected, a sick person accompanied, a lonely person visited... All these small acts that go unnoticed by the spirit of the world, but bear such marvellous fruit for the unquenchable thirst of our hearts. As a priest, I cannot forget the Sitio of Christ on the Cross, the "I thirst" that he uttered with his last breath, a call more than a desire: that our hearts should begin to beat again.

Let us be passionate about our neighbour!

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ABBOT MATTHIEU DAUCHEZ
Executive Director of ANAK-Tnk Foundation
AFD Deputy CEO Bertrand Walckenaer’s mission confirmed the full mobilization of the group (AFD, Expertise France, Proparco) to support the Philippine government in its sustainable, low-carbon and climate-friendly development, in partnership with other partners in the country.

This is the first visit of AFD chief executive level official since the country office started its operations in 2010.

Through exchanges with the ambassadors of the European Union, Japan, South Korea, and New Zealand on their priorities in the strategic framework of Indo-Pacific, Mr. Walckenaer experienced the unique way in which development issues play their role in the Filipino geopolitical context.
A field visit to a project of the civil society for street children illustrated the profound inequalities that mark the country’s economy.

Finally, the mission could strengthen strategic and operational links with several partners, including JICA, the Philippines’ largest bilateral official development assistance provider and the Asian Development Bank, with which AFD successfully co-finances many operations in Asia (nearly 70 projects over the past 20 years).

During meetings with several leading Filipino economic and political figures (including the Secretary of Finance, the Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources), the very significant needs of the Philippines in terms of investment and economic reform were discussed and areas for collaboration in the agricultural, water management, transport, energy and biodiversity sectors were identified.
Delegates from the French Embassy led by Ambassador Michèle Boccoz met with scientists at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity, and SEARCA to continue the bilateral cooperation in environment, One Health, agriculture, and food security in the Philippines.

Since the launch of the One Health Approach and the Nagoya Protocol update in the region last September, France advances the dialogue in supporting coastal and marine biodiversity conservation in the Philippines through the collaboration with the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity. As the protection of environment and food security are two of France’s main priorities, the meetings with IRRI and SEARCA reaffirm and deepen the research cooperation between the two countries.

The visit at the International Rice Genebank, Makiling Botanical Garden, and SEARCA Museum contributes further to scientific and institutional partnerships to help Filipinos in climate change mitigation and sustain protected areas in ASEAN.

Ambassador Boccoz also met with Chancellor Jose V. Camacho, Jr. to discuss the scientific research and projects conducted at the UPLB and future plans on scholarship grants together with French higher education institutions.
During his visit to France on April 7, 2023, Gustav Aïtaro, Foreign Minister of State of the Republic of Palau, meets with Chrysoula Zacharopoulou, French Minister of State for Development, Francophonie and International Partnerships.

The visit serves as an opportunity to work together in support of the four pillars of the Indo-Pacific strategy, most notably on climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable management of oceans.
Palau Foreign Minister Gustav Aitaro and Chargé d’Affaires Keith Sugiyma (Embassy of the Republic of Palau to the Philippines) also met with Caroline Ferrari, Deputy Secretary General of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and Gilles Barrier, Deputy Director for Oceania at the MEAE.
LYCEE FRANÇAIS DE MANILLE (LFM) WINS ANTI-BULLYING POSTER CONTEST

Grade 11 high school students of the LFM won ‘The Agency for French Education Abroad’ (AEFE) contest for the "Fight Against Bullying", their proposal was selected among other submissions from French high schools around the world. On April 13, a ceremony was held at the LFM with the presence of cultural attaché Mr. Martin Macalintal of the French Embassy to reward student with AEFE’s official certificates.

By providing students with many opportunities to participate in civic initiatives, the LFM allows its students to develop social skills, and favors a positive sense of responsibility and engaged citizenship. As part of a broader school policy to prevent and combat harassment, students worked closely with their teachers to create posters that raises awareness about the fight against bullying in schools.

The jury states: "The poster presented by the French School in Manila was created by grade 11 students. Here too, the jury appreciated the graphic approach - contrast between the red and the dark background - to denounce silence."

SCHOOL YEAR 2023-2024
THE REGISTRATION AND RE-ENROLMENT IS OPEN!

From the Très Petite Section (TPS, preschool from 2 years old) to the Terminale (grade 12 high school), the Lycée Français de Manille (LFM) offers a rigorous and well-rounded education in both French and English.

The registration and re-enrollment procedure is done completely online from a portal dedicated to families. To initiate, continue or complete the process with our institution, you must log on to the EDUKA portal: https://lfmanille.eduka.school/login

Our address is 75 Swaziland Street Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque, 1711 Metro Manila. For any questions or to schedule a visit please contact: contact@lfmanille.ph
France presents its condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Albert del Rosario and to the Filipino people.

Former foreign secretary, attached to international law, charismatic diplomat, he was key in the cooperation between the Philippines and France.

It was during the term of Sec. Del Rosario when French President François Hollande visited the Philippines in 2015, the first ever by a French Head of State.

During the same year, President Aquino also made a trip to France, the first official visit of a Philippine Head of State to France since 1994.
Mr. Arthur Tselishchev is a Ukrainian artist, interior designer and creative director based in Manila. He originally came to the Philippines in 2015 as a model and started his art career a few years ago. He started painting at the age of 10, eventually majored in design and architecture and graduated from National Polytechnic University in Zaporizhzhya, Ukraine.

In an interview with the French Embassy, Mr. Tselishchev talked about his life in the Philippines, initiatives to help Ukraine, the state of Ukrainian art scene, among others.

because, obviously, I was experiencing all kind of emotions from anger to hate or desperation... So, I decided to shift my attention and my energy to something better, what I thought could help Ukrainians.

I started to paint Ukrainian women dressed in national dresses, then others covered in blue fabrics (as a part of our flag), then I came up with another concept showing bombings of the condominiums as their heart or parts of their bodies.

And then my Filipino friends who saw these paintings, suggested to make an exhibit to then raise funds. My goal, aside of actual help, is really to motivate people to stay strong, brave and to stand with Ukraine in these challenging times.

What can you say about the art scene in Ukraine?

I think the art scene in Ukraine is quite big and vibrant although it's not really well known, but the education there is really great. Some artists go abroad to do their exhibits, some go to different countries to teach, just like what happened to me when I got here in the Philippines. After, I think, two or three years of doing full time modeling here, I was invited to become an art instructor to teach academic drawing, academic painting and character design.

Most of my students were already professional digital artists, but they needed classical fundamentals. That's why I got invited to teach human anatomy for artists with academic approach, in a word - classic rules. It was helping a lot to do their digital art, animation projects and 3D modeling.

How do you use your artworks to help Ukraine?

When the war started in February 24 last year, I couldn't really find the peace of my mind...
The exhibit was held in Rockwell Power Plant Mall and featured 15 paintings I made within 3 months of non-stop work. So many guests, diplomats, ambassadors of different countries, my friends, and celebrities blessing the event with their presence. It was very heartwarming.

Also, one of my recent initiatives for Ukraine is to develop some product merchandising with my art on T-shirts and tote bags, to raise funds.

At first we were selling them at International Bazaars together with Ukrainian Consulate in Manila. Now I decided to use my own social media as well to organize sales and I honestly was so surprised with the great feedback and support of Filipinos and other expats in Manila.

What is the situation of the art scene in Ukraine right now?

Just like me, everyone is trying to help as much as they can, some with their art, some by spreading the word, some just working double hours. People of Ukraine do need funds at these hard times. Some painters also do exhibitions abroad.

More and more countries are being more open to Ukrainian art, because people are more aware that Ukraine does exist not just on a political, but also on a cultural map as independent country.

Maria Prymachenko

I would like to talk about one artist, who passed away in 1997. She's was a national artist of Ukraine. Her name is Maria Prymachenko.

Until her death, she wasn’t even aware that she actually became legendary and famous globally. The whole art world knew about her. Her style was very unique. It's called naïve art... It's complex, but it has some resemblance with childish drawings or paintings. It's quite vibrant.

On the first days of the war, the museum dedicated to her village of Ivankiv in Ukraine’s Kyiv region was bombed by rockets. Although the museum was already on fire, all the neighbors started to run inside to save her paintings-they were able to get 12 paintings.

Kazimir Malevich

I would like to talk about Kazimir Malevich too. If you look up his name on the Internet, you will see he is a painter from the Soviet Union or Russia - but he was born in Ukraine. His identity was always Ukrainian... He had the biggest influence on me and even on Zaha Hadid, recognized as major figure in architecture of late 20th – early 21st century for her intensely futuristic structures.

Malevich was the founder of Ukrainian avant-garde. Now, all Russian museums, Russian teachers as a part of their propaganda usually appropriate Malevich for their own cultural history. But of course, now we know the actual facts: where he was working and teaching, where he was based, what he was portraying in his paintings and his Ukrainian identity as well.
Are pro-Russian views still present in Ukraine?

Pro-Russian views are almost don’t exist on Ukrainian territories, because even people who were pro-Russians before due to the high level and quality propaganda changed their opinion completely. After witnessing all the atrocities, which we thought could only happen in WWII or in the movies - nothing can be hidden anymore. So Ukrainians aside of being resilient, standing like a strong shield protecting Europe and also are very certain in our victory and working hard to bring it closer.

In conclusion, we just want Ukraine to be part of civilized world, part of democracy, and part of Europe. That’s all we actually need. And then, of course, to defend our rights.

On November 26, 2022, members of the Ukrainian Community in Manila attend a candle lighting ceremony organized by the Honorary Consulate of Ukraine to pay tribute to the victims of the Holodomor genocide in the 1930s.
FRANCE HELPS EVACUATE FOREIGN NATIONALS, INCLUDING FILIPINOS, IN SUDAN

France continues its evacuation operations launched in Khartoum for French nationals and citizens of other countries, including the Philippines, wanting to leave Sudan.

Since the start of the operation, 538 people have been evacuated: 209 French nationals and 41 foreign nationals.

France had evacuated a significant number of citizens from other countries, in particular from Europe (12 Member States, Great Britain, 3 European Economic Area countries and Moldova) but also from Africa (South Africa, Burundi, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Uganda, Rwanda and Sudan), America (United States, Canada) and Asia (India, Japan, Philippines).

At least 39 nationalities have benefited from the French operation: 12 EU Member States have nationals who have used French resources (Belgium, Finland, Germany, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Sweden etc). Other nationals from friendly countries in difficulty, such as a group of nationals from Niger.

France stands in solidarity on the ground by answering the call of many European and allied partners who reported their nationals in Sudan. The French Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS) contacted them to locate them and proceed as quickly as possible to their evacuation.

The French navy frigate Lorraine also assisted the United Nations in the evacuation operation underway in Port Sudan.

To coordinate the operation, the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs’ CDCS, which set up a crisis unit on April 15, has been in permanent contact with French nationals on the ground and all partners.
In Sudan, the French Crisis and Support Centre (CDCS) evacuated by air and by sea the French citizens and foreign nationals since the set up of a coordination and crisis unit on April 15, 2023.

The French navy frigate Lorraine also assisted the United Nations in the evacuation operation underway in Port Sudan.
Mr. Jérôme Samuel is the Director of the Institute for Research on Contemporary Southeast Asia (Institut de Recherche sur l'Asie du Sud-Est Contemporaine or IRASEC), a French research center based in Bangkok under the supervision of the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and the National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS). IRASEC develops research in the humanities and social sciences in Southeast Asian countries and the region as a whole.

Mr. Samuel visited the Philippines in April and held exchanges with research and higher education institutions, such as the University of the Philippines, where he gave a lecture on sociolinguistics.

In an interview with the French Embassy, Mr. Samuel introduces the projects of IRASEC where Filipinos could participate in, as well as the institute's publications available to the public.

How can Filipino students participate in the doctoral training that will take place at the end of the year? What does this training consist of?

The winter doctoral school, which will be held from the 27th of November to the 9th December 2023, will be devoted to migration in Southeast Asia. It is aimed at students who are at the end of their Master's degree or who already have a Master’s degree, and at those who have just started a PhD. The idea is to offer theoretical and methodological training, with an update on the major current and future themes on a given topic; and, on the other hand, to train them in field research with practical sessions.

We will bring together no more than twenty students, mainly from South-East Asia, but other nationalities are not excluded. In addition to the academic and field training itself,

If this leads them to establish scientific relations with research partners in other countries, all the better! The 2023 edition of this winter school will be held in Bangkok and then in Kuala Lumpur.

Can Filipinos submit their proposals or manuscripts for publication by IRASEC?

We are always on the lookout for good manuscripts, especially from young South-East Asian authors. Our publications are published online on our website and on a platform for humanities books, with free access. All proposals and manuscripts will be considered and we are always happy to respond positively if the manuscript is worthy of publication.

For more information: bit.ly/IRASECBooks2023
What are some of the publications of IRASEC available to the public?

Publications de l’IRASEC (IRASEC Publications)

More broadly in terms of publications, it should be borne in mind that IRASEC has long been essentially a publisher of research books on South-East Asia, alone or in cooperation with other publishers.

For more information: bit.ly/IRASECPub

L'Asie du Sud-Est 2023 (South-East Asia 2023) (in French)

Positionnement des États sud-est asiatiques face à la guerre en Ukraine (Positioning of Southeast Asian states in relation to the war in Ukraine) (in French)

This is an "IRASEC Note" written by a young researcher, Emma Josso. In addition to its link with the most immediate news and to meet a need for expertise for students or professionals wishing to understand the positioning of South-East Asian countries in relation to the situation in Ukraine, this "Note" also responds to our wish to publicize the work (and the profile) of young researchers.

The Panditas of the Philippines

It is the work of a young Filipino researcher, J.V. Baldoza, a doctoral student at Princeton University. Using Spanish and American sources, he is interested in the figure of the panditas, who are scholars and teachers of Philippine Islam, but whose origin is clearly pre-Islamic, as their name, of Sanskrit origin, indicates.

This publication has been in existence since 2009. Mainly written by French-speaking European (French, Belgian, Canadian) and South-East Asian researchers, it aims to take stock of the past year in the eleven countries of the region and to provide keys to understanding the dynamics at work in these countries during the past year, in order to better anticipate future developments.

For more information: bit.ly/IRASECPanditas
What events are organized by IRASEC this year?

In the immediate future, we are planning a round table on the current situation in Burma (18th of May), a seminar on current or recent electoral processes in Southeast Asia, including the Philippines (22nd of May), and a seminar on innovation in October.
This exhibition showcases a range of maps with utmost and strategic importance to the Philippines, including the famous “Murillo Velarde Map” of 1734, considered as the “Mother of All Philippine Maps”.

The replica of the Murillo Velarde map that is displayed is from the private collection of Mr. Mel Velarde, Chairman and CEO of Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication, who will donate it to AFM. All other maps belong to Former Associate Justice Antonio Carpio.

What is the significance of the Murillo Velarde Map?

The 1734 Murillo Velarde Map of the Philippines is the only official Spanish Government map showing the Philippine territory during the Spanish regime. It was printed in Manila and made under the authorship of Fr. Pedro Murillo Velarde, a Spanish Jesuit priest. The artist who drew the map was a Filipino, Francisco Suarez. The engraver of the map was another Filipino, Nicolas dela Cruz Bagay. The map, 44 x 47.24 inches in size, is the “mother of all Philippine maps.”

As we are celebrating our 75th anniversary of our diplomatic relations, this exhibit reminds us that our relations go back much longer than 75 years. As a matter of fact, 3 of the maps shown in this exhibition have been made by French Cartographers during the 17th and 18th Century.

The exhibition is open from Monday to Saturday from 9 am to 6 pm until May 20. Free entrance.
This event opened a dialogue between the Philippines and countries that developed formally or in practice feminist diplomacies, including Germany, France, Finland, Spain and the Netherlands. The event was moderated by Carol Sobritchea of the UP Center for Women's and Gender Studies (UPCWGS). Former DFA Secretary Delia Domingo Albert, the first Filipina at this post, also actively participated to these stimulating discussions.
Following this event and the Women’s Month in March, Ambassador Boccoz accepted to answer a few questions related to women and diplomacy for our magazine.

What are the advantages of being a woman in diplomacy?

I can’t see a particular advantage being a woman in diplomacy, as compared to men, since the skills required for this job are not gendered.

Being a diplomat requires hard work, experience, empathy, adaptation – that are no exclusive to a particular gender.

Are there any disadvantages and challenges? How can one overcome them?

As any activity closely connected to power and political structures, women are still structurally disadvantaged, as their proportion decrease in the higher layers of hierarchy. However, in France for example, proactive policies have been implemented to increase the proportion of women in senior positions in the administration. For example, there are more women ambassadors than before, and the most prestigious embassies are now open to them. In most countries, the male and women ratio is still far from a reasonable balance, and much work is still required.

This is why France adopted a feminist diplomacy, as we believe today more than ever, it is important to reaffirm the importance of women empowerment.
How does the job of a diplomat affect the daily life of her country’s citizens? Will diplomats always be relevant?

It is estimated that about 2.5 French people live abroad. Our consular services are in touch with them every day, including during holidays for emergencies. During the typhoon Odette for example, we worked closely with the French community to help them, but also to rely on them to convey emergency relief to local communities. At the beginning of the Covid crisis, our consular network directly helped 240,000 French citizens to safely go back home. This is as concrete as it gets.

I believe the know-how of our diplomatic traditions will still be relevant, as long as this world remains complex and dynamic.

On the political level, there is no easy way to precisely assess the consequences of our work abroad for the life of our fellow citizens back in France: however, it is our belief, as well as our political tradition, to think diplomacy can leverage resources to expand the cooperation bandwidth with other countries, creating more opportunities, and more solutions to solve the many challenges ahead. Ultimately, this always benefits our people at the end, but as importantly, people of the countries we cooperate with. Climate resilience and ocean protection is a good example for our two countries, and beyond.

On December 1, 2021, Ambassador Bocoz led the first shipment of the 6 million vaccine doses pledged by France for the Philippines’ COVID-19 vaccination program.
RISING TIGERS ASIA’S WOMEN OF SUBSTANCE
AWARDED TO H.E. MICHÈLE BOCCOZ

Ambassador Michèle Boccoz received her award as one of the seven "Women of Substance" from Rising Tigers Asia Magazine.
WOMEN IN FASHION FOR CLIMATE ACTION
BY THE FIBERS COLLECTIVE

The French Embassy participated in "Women in Fashion for Climate Action", which brought together women entrepreneurs to empower them to pursue their dreams in the fashion industry while promoting sustainability. The event was organized by Angat Buhay Foundation, in partnership with FIBERS Collective, the US Embassy, and Spark Philippines.
Father Matthieu Dauchez is the Executive Director of ANAK Tulay ng Kabataan (ANAK-Tnk) Foundation, which provides street and slum children in Manila with education, health, nutrition and protection.

The foundation was founded by Jesuit priest in 1998 and has since then expanded into 28 shelters for street children, 12 day care centers in the slums, and one home for the elderly in various locations in Metro Manila.

In an interview with the French Embassy, Father Dauchez shared his experience in running ANAK-Tnk, the challenges, the trials, and the lessons he learned from the beneficiaries of the foundation.

What was your first thought when you took the executive director position in 2011?

I was a little bit surprised because when the Jesuit priest [who was then in charge] was called back to France, I became the executive director in one month. I did not have the time to prepare but we are working with a huge team of Filipino professional social workers, psychologists, teachers, and I saw right away that the team was really fully dedicated.

The question is – when will it stop? I am running an institution and my dream is to close it because if we were to close it close it, this would mean there would be no more street children outside. But it’s not the case. There are more and more children and families in need, and we will continue to help.

When we look at the poorest of the poor, when we look at miserable children, we need to understand that they need our help but we also have so many things to learn from them. We have beautiful lessons to learn from the poor so we should not put ourselves as benefactors but we should understand that we are also beneficiaries of the lessons given by them.
What were some of the trials you faced in running the institution?

The worst one is when I had to face the death of a child. It’s a terrible experience. This took a very long time to overcome.

The second one is to face discouragement, especially regarding abuses being perpetrated against children. It is hard to see that people are aware of the need to fight against any kind of abuse, but are not really supporting, and that in fact they don’t really care about these children.

Since the organization was founded 25 years ago, would you know where is the first batch of children beneficiaries are now?

Every Sunday, I have alumni – former children of the foundation – who visit, sometimes with their own children. We have already seen the second generation, the children of the beneficiaries who were here at the beginning. It is one of the greatest consolations. It is not a fatality. Children who experience the worst, sometimes abuses, sometimes the violence of their own parents, become parents themselves. And if they get help, they become loving parents, and that is what I witnessed and it is very, very moving.
What are the lessons you have learned from your experience with ANAK-Tnk?

Along the years, I have realized that what is important is not the success of what we do, but its fruits. When you go in the streets and meet street children, they will not go to the foundation if you will tell them that you will feed them, send them back to school, offer them new clothes, or protection. When a child has been rejected by his parents, he thinks that he is not worthy of love.

They will come because they can feel there will be a family atmosphere with people who are really protecting them – and this is the fruit. When we accompany the children, we let them understand that in spite of what happened, they are worthy to love and to be loved.

YOU MAY ALSO HELP ANAK-TNK VIA

GCash
Tulay ng Kabataan

BANK TRANSFER
TULAY NG KABATAAN FOUNDATION INC.
BPI - KALAYAAN BRANCH
ACCOUNT NUMBER:
1993-2053-85 (PESO)
1994-0682-84 (EURO)
1994-0682-92 (DOLLAR)
The EU-supported CONSULASSIST project helps consular authorities in the detection of documentary fraud in visa applications. France, through the Ministry of Interior’s international cooperation operator CIVIPOL, won the tender to provide this service. Two French immigration experts provide this training (they are immigration liaison officers in Shanghai and Guangzhou). In addition, a liaison officer from the Netherlands was present to provide support.

In parallel to the training course, Mr. Jean-François Redonnet, Regional Liaison Judge for Southeast Asia based in Bangkok was also in the Philippines alongside Mr. Sylvain Joly, Regional Police Attaché based in Singapore, in a series of meeting. Mr. Joly is working the judicial investigations between France and the Philippines, particularly on child sexual exploitation while Mr. Redonnet also handles cases about pedocriminality.

They answered our questions to better explain their role.

The philosophy behind CONSULASSIST is to strengthen the fight against illegal immigration at the very earliest stage of border control, during visa application. It aims to complement the police system by making consular officials more responsible.
Interview of
Mr. Jean-François Redonnet

What is your background and what is your current position?

After law studies and passing the exam to enter the French National School of the Judiciary, I have been a criminal judge for 30 years and have practiced in various courts and courts of appeal in France and in French overseas territories (Reunion Island, French Polynesia and French Guiana). I have been an investigative judge but also president of criminal courts or president of an investigative chamber in a court of appeal.

In September 2020, I was appointed as a Liaison Judge at the French Embassy in China, Beijing. Currently, I’m posted at the French Embassy in Bangkok as a Regional Liaison Judge for South-East Asia and Far East. I’m in charge of judicial cooperation between France and 8 countries (Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Singapore, China and Vietnam). There are 17 French Liaison Judges or Prosecutors all over the world (essentially in Europe and Africa), but I’m the only one in Asia.

Could you tell us a few words about your work / your mission in the Philippines?

The Liaison Judge (or Prosecutor) tries to facilitate relationships between French prosecutors and judges and local authorities. He follows up on mutual legal assistance requests, extraditions or transfer of prisoners. In the Philippines, its main counterpart is the Department of Justice, central authority for international judicial cooperation.

Most of the transnational cases between France and The Philippines are about cybercrimes and pedocriminality. Next to this this operational cooperation, I’m in charge of the technical cooperation which can take the form of seminars or trainings for law professionals.
Interview of Mr. Sylvain Joly

What is your background and what is your current position?

After a masters of law at university, I passed the examination to be a chief of police in 2001. After the National Police College, I began my career as deputy head of the police station of Chartres, near Paris. Since this first assignment, I had the chance to occupy various postings in the French Ministry of Interior, in which I dealt with miscellaneous areas, such as frontline policing, homeland intelligence or cyber-security. As an example, before being appointed as a Police Attaché in South-East Asia, I was the Deputy Commander of the French National Special Tactics Unit “RAID”.

Since 2021, I am a Regional Police Attaché, based in Singapore. My duty is to promote the homeland security cooperation between the French Ministry of Interior and those from Australia, Brunei, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Timor Leste and Singapore. At first sight it may seem a gigantic task, but I have the chance to have a small team assisting me in Singapore and some other countries of the region. And when I have no liaison officer posted in the countries of my assignment, like in the Philippines, I can rely on the French Embassy services locally to help me.

Could you tell us a few words about your work / your mission in the Philippines?

The French Ministry of Interior has a great concern and commitment in the Philippines. This is the reason why I spend most of my time here, when I am not in Singapore. Indeed, we have numerous judicial investigations going on between France and the Philippines, specifically in the field of child sexual exploitation. Moreover, we are taking care of the cases involving French nationals in the Philippines, no matter if they are offenders or victims.

This is why I have close relationships with all the Filipino police agencies (PNP, NBI, BI, PDEA), but I also work very often with the French Consulate, which remains the point of contact of the French State for the French community in the Philippines. I like working in this country because, even if the criminal challenges are important, I see a deep commitment of my Filipino colleagues to combat them and welcome international cooperation in this matter.
Alliance Française Manille - Philippines PRESENTS

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While planning our itinerary for our 28-day Europe trip involving 7 countries, we dedicated five days for Paris, France. We planned to visit coffee shops and parks, and thought five days will give us ample time to relax and enjoy the city. We were all excited since this is our kids' first ever trip to Europe.

We rode the bus from Belgium to Paris, and upon our arrival, we were welcomed with a chilly weather. It was 10°C, and quite windy! We were bundled up in thick jackets and thermal wear, and it was fun people-watching and immersing ourselves in the beautiful city.

I got really excited and noted down a lot of ideas for future comics stories, since the city's vibe was inspiring and instantly sparked creativity.
On our third day we went to see the Eiffel Tower. The long wait was well worth it, as this provided a 360-view of the whole city of love, which was truly amazing and unforgettable.

The next day, we went to see the Louvre Museum, Sacre-coeur Basilica, and the Montmartre area. We also visited a lot of bookstores and souvenir shops.

We will definitely go back to France, and no matter how many times we get the chance to visit Paris, to me, it will always feel like seeing it for the first time - just like love at first sight.
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