

NEWS RELEASE

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration

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Frontline nurse in Abu-Dhabi receives prestigious 'Natatanging Bagong Bayani Award'

A nurse working at the frontline services amid the COVID-19 pandemic in Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) was hailed as the highest awardee for an overseas Filipino worker (OFW) in this year's Bagong Bayani Awards.

The Bagong Bayani Foundation, Inc. (BBFI) conferred the "Blas F. Ople Award para sa Natatanging Bayani" to Ms. Divina Digap for her outstanding achievement in the medical field and her extended professional assistance and guidance to fellow Filipino healthcare workers abroad.

Digap was also recognized because of her tireless involvement in the provision of medical assistance to distressed OFWs before and amid the global pandemic.

"May the passion and excellence of our Bagong Bayani Awardees serve as an exemplar of limitless potential of our Filipino workforce. They are truly an inspiration to all of us," said Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III, who is the Honorary Chairperson of the BBFI, in coordination with POEA and OWWA.

Other outstanding OFWs who embodies the Filipino professionalism, excellence, and social responsibility to the OFW community, were also awarded in three other categories.

Among the awardees in the category of Community and Social Service are Rodelia Pedro, a Household Service Worker in Hongkong; Rosalie Regalado, the Administrative Service Department Head in OCTAL SAOC FCZ in Muscat, Oman; Rodney Queman, a Production Operator in South Korea; Lito Doblado, the People Development Manager in Bahrain Public Transport Company WLL; and Engr. Restituto Sibug, a Business Development Director in Riyadh, KSA.

Two Master Mariners namely Capt. Victor Distor of Inter-Orient Maritime Enterprises, Inc. and Capt. Felipe Langcauon of Trans-Global Maritime Agency, Inc. were also awarded in the same category.

Recipients of the Bagong Bayani Outstanding Employee Awards are Ronaldo Endozo, the Director of Operations of Fraser Suites in Dubai, UAE; Engr. Arnel Aguas, the Electrical Department Head of Consulting and Design Engineering in Riyadh, KSA; Alfredo Salvador Jr., an IT Programmer in Ministry of Health in Muscat, Oman; and Alfredo Pacis, a Mixer Truck Driver of AML Limited Allied Concrete in New Zealand.

Maria Vallejos, a Ballet Teacher in En Pointe Academy of Dance in Brunei Darussalam, and Jophel Ybiososa, a Master Photographer of Magsaysay Maritime Corporation were awarded as Bagong Bayani Awardees for Culture and Arts.

The Bagong Bayani Awards is an annual event that recognizes the significant efforts of OFWs in bringing pride to the Filipino nation, as well as appreciate their valuable contributions to the economic development of the country. ###