



ROTARY INSTITUTE 2019

**MANILA**

PROCEEDINGS

CHAPTER 9

**FUN ACTIVITIES**



# CHAPTER 9 FUN ACTIVITIES

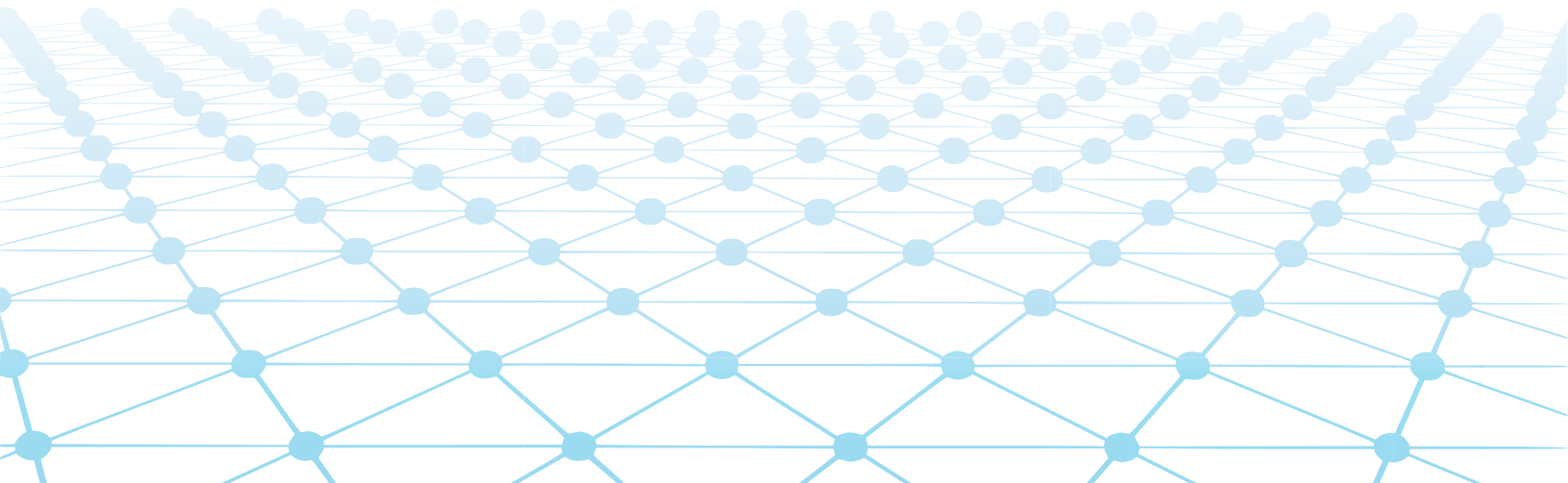


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More than just training and exchanging ideas, it was important for the **2019 Manila Rotary Institute (MARI)** to provide an unforgettable experience.

Pre-institute activities were planned for Rotarians to bond with one another while discovering more about the Philippines.



# The House of Friendship Experience

The **2019 MARI House of Friendship**, chaired by PDG **Samuel “Sam” Pagdilao**, kicked off with a grand opening.

RI President-Elect (RIPE) **Holger Knaack**, TRF Trustee Past RI Director (Past RID) **Sangkoo Yun**, Institute Convenor RID **Rafael “Raffy” Garcia III**, and Institute Chair PDG **Isidro “Sid” Garcia** led the ceremonial ribbon cutting. A dance troupe rendered Philippine folk dances and the area was later used for karaoke.



RIPE Holger Knaack and TRF Trustee Sangkoo Yun dubbed the House of Friendship as the biggest they have seen so far in a zone convention, even comparable to Rotary International Convention standards.

44 vendors from the Philippines, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan occupied the lobby of the Marriott Grand Ballroom, offering a wide array of local food and delicacies, clothing, handcrafted bags and accessories, jewelries, innovative toilet implements, agricultural produce, wine and spirits, cheese and preserved olives, indigenous fabrics, handicrafts and Rotary merchandise. Delegates enjoyed unrestricted shopping with onsite credit card facilities.

A **Projects Fair** from 33 participating Rotary districts, clubs, partners and upcoming institutes and conventions put into the spotlight the global grants projects from Rotary Clubs of the Philippines, Singapore and Pakistan. Also included was a **Holiday Bazaar** that featured Christmas decorations and gifts.







# Living Traditions through Golf

The 2019 MARI wouldn't be complete without the traditional **Pre-Institute Golf Fellowship** organized this time by the **Philippine Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation (PRFGF)** chaired by PDG **Angelito "Lito" Colona**.

77 players converged at the Villamor Air Base Golf Club, a prestigious championship course conveniently located near the Manila Marriott Hotel.

The tournament ended with a hearty serving of Filipino roasted pig lechon courtesy of Past District Governor (PDG) **Rafael "Butch" Francisco**, the Institute's Vice Chair for Ways and Means. Special prizes were raffled off including a 43" Samsung LED television set from District Governor Nominee Designate **Mildred Vitangcol**, a microwave oven from Champion President **Flore Gatpayat**, 30 gift certificates from Charter President



**Prescy Yulo**, 100 pieces of golf umbrellas from ISolutions International, Inc., and P20,000 cash from Past President **Buddy Madrigal**.

The event's major sponsors included **Eagle Express Lines, Isolutions International, Inc., Kolonwel Trading, and IT Depot, Inc.** The hole-in-one sponsor was the **Travellers Insurance and Surety Corporation** and the hole sponsors were the **Philippine College of Rotary Governors (PCRG)** Board in Rotary Year (RY) 2019-2020, and the PRFGF Board in RY 2019-2020.

Three winners were awarded per category except for the ladies' division, the low net champion, and low gross champion.





# A Glimpse of the Philippines

The organizers led by Chair **Conrado “Junjun” Dayrit** were pleasantly surprised when 45 people showed up on the morning of the **Manila City Tour**. The participants hailed from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Taiwan, Singapore, United States, and the Philippines.

At exactly 8:30 A.M., the tour bus was on its way to visit Rizal Park, simply known as *Luneta*. The 58-hectare park is considered one of the largest in Asia with the monument of Philippine national hero, Jose Rizal, as its central attraction. The group did not leave without taking photos and selfies in front of the national hero’s statue.

Not far away is the old walled city of Manila, *Intramuros* (Within Walls), where the historic Manila Cathedral is located. Built in 1571, the cathedral is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

The group then walked to nearby Fort Santiago, named after Saint James, the patron saint of Spain, which colonized the Philippines for 333 years. Fort Santiago served as the premier defense fortress of the Spanish government. The group enjoyed an interactive history lesson on the Philippines from pre-Spanish times to the Spanish and American conquests, followed by the brief Japanese occupation during World War II that led to Manila’s liberation.



The half-day tour ended with a lunch buffet and a stroll at the Mall of Asia complex.









# A Trek to the Mount Pinatubo Volcanic Crater

After being dormant for over four centuries, everyone was left in shock when the Pinatubo Volcano began emitting steam and sulfur in 1991. Close monitoring of the volcano saved many lives but around 900 lives were not spared and thousands of Filipino families were displaced. Rotarians all over the world promptly pitched in and offered aid to its victims.

28 years after, Mt. Pinatubo and its crater is now a site of natural beauty. Led by President **Eduardo “Ed” Jarcia** and Past President **Ralph Lim** of the **Rotary Club of Makati Magilas**, the nature-loving Rotarians



blazed the breathtaking trail of Mt. Pinatubo dotted with rivers and valleys leading to the most beautiful crater lake ever created by a catastrophic volcanic eruption. Everyone including 70-year-old Past President **Mark Wang** of the **Rotary Club of Singapore** made it to the summit.


A highlight of the trek was the visit to the **Rotary Monument** built by the **Rotary Club of Makati Magilas** on the slope of the volcano. The Rotary Monument has since become a tourist destination for trekkers, campers, and mountaineers.





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MANILA

Rotary   
Zones 1B, 9,10 (A,B,C)

