



FFCCCI

**Federation of Filipino-Chinese
Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Inc.**

1982

Federation Center, Muelle de Binondo, Manila, Philippines
Tels. 47-49-21 to 25 * P.O. Box 23, Manila



THE FEDERATION OF
FILIPINO-CHINESE
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY INC.

YOU HAVE OPENED YOUR HEARTS TO THE NEEDY AND
STRETCHED OUT YOUR HANDS TO THE POOR

Alvaro
President - 1981-1982



Kilusang Kabuhayan at Kaunlaran
Certificate of Accreditation

This is to certify that this Establishment
Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry

owned and managed by

Mr. Ralph Nubla

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL / ASSOCIATION / CORPORATION

Juan Luna St., M. Manila

PLACE

is accredited and categorized as

MARKET OUTLET

Issued this 26th day of FEB. 1982

Imelda Romualdez Marcos

Madame IMELDA ROMUALDEZ MARCOS
Secretary - General



Republic of the Philippines

The Golden Heart Presidential Award

is hereby conferred on

**The Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers
of Commerce and Industry, Inc.**

*on the occasion of its twenty-fifth year of
distinguished service to the Filipino people*

CITATION

For unflinchingly cooperating with the Philippine Government in the implementation of its national policies since its establishment in 1934;

For consistently demonstrating a high degree of compassion for the less fortunate people of our country especially during times of natural disasters and calamities;

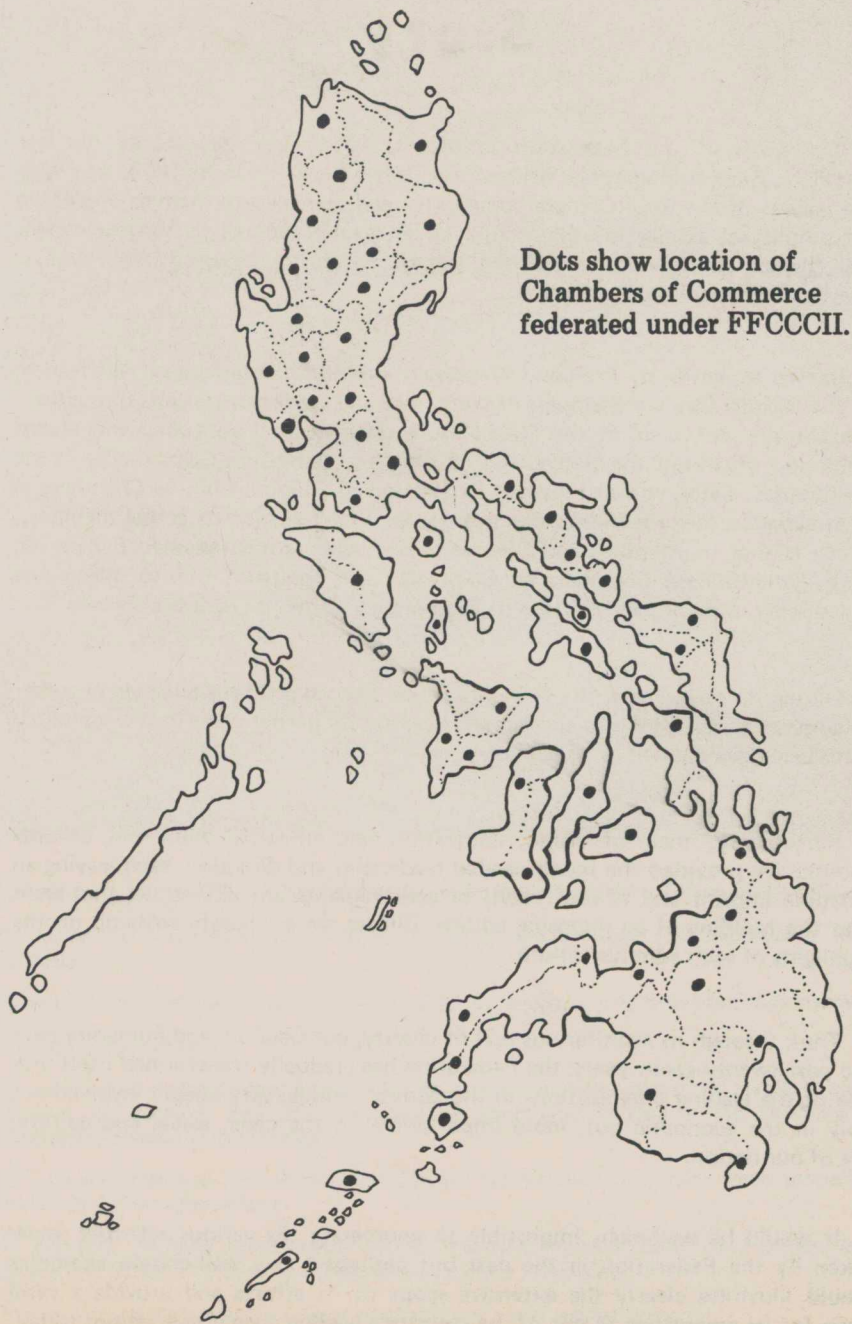
For contributing its share to the education of our youth by its on-going donations of schoolhouses to distressed barrios from Aparri to Jolo;

For unqualifiedly extending its full support to the New Society in the realization of its programs for the development of the national economy and the betterment of the quality of life of our people;

I, Ferdinand E. Marcos, President and Prime Minister of the Philippines, hereby confer on the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. the Golden Heart Presidential Award.

Done in the City of Manila, Philippines, this ~~29~~ 26 day of March, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-nine.

DISTRIBUTION MAP OF CHAMBER MEMBERS



MFCCCI

Story

The birth of the Federation in March, 1954, was inspired by the late President Ramon Magsaysay who, shortly after his election in 1953, met with the leaders of the local Chinese community and appealed to them to organize a more compact association that could render greater support to his government and further strengthen the existing ties of friendship between the Filipinos and the Chinese in the Philippines.

Stirred to action by President Magsaysay's unprecedented appeal, the leaders of the various Chinese chambers of commerce and trade associations throughout the country convened at the Manila Hotel in a historic convention in March 1954 and organized the Federation of Chinese Chambers of Commerce in the Philippines. Later, it was renamed Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce to make it more reflective of the citizenship of its actual members, which is that of Filipinos and Chinese alike. Later, it was renamed Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Inc. to mirror the broadening range of participation of its members in the national economy.

During its early years, the Federation was just an ordinary alien-led chamber of commerce, struggling to survive and seeking its proper place in the economic and social development of the country.

Fortunately, men of vision, dedication and integrity from the Chinese community provided the much needed leadership and direction, each leaving an indelible imprint and whose record of achievements are like stones that went into the building of an imposing edifice. (Please see a separate write-up on the highlights of each administration).

Thus, through its multifarious acts of charity, compassion, and humanity over the past twenty-seven years, the Federation has gradually transformed itself into one of the leading organizations in the country today, very deeply involved not only in the economic but, more importantly, in the civic, social and cultural life of our nation.

It would be well-nigh impossible to enumerate the various activities undertaken by the Federation in the past but perhaps a few well-chosen examples would illustrate clearly the extensive scope of its efforts and provide a valid basis for its emergence as one of the country's leading civic organizations today.



- * *To cooperate with the Philippine Government in the implementation of its national policies.*
- * *To foster and encourage the development and growth of trade and industries in the Philippines.*
- * *To promote the integration of local Chinese into the mainstream of Philippine body politic.*
- * *To correct trade abuses.*
- * *To create and maintain higher standards in business dealings among its members and between its members and other business or trade organizations in the Philippines, irrespective of nationality or religion.*
- * *To compile, translate and study laws affecting its members and guide them properly in the observance of such laws.*
- * *To cultivate, promote and enhance friendly relations between Filipino and Chinese in general and between Filipino and Chinese merchants in particular.*
- * *To conduct and maintain educational charitable and social welfare projects.*

Stabilization of Prices

During times of emergency and calamity, when prices of prime commodities tend to soar, the Federation never failed to enjoin and exhort its members to help stabilize the prices of such essential items and, consistent with economic factors, keep them within normal and reasonable levels. In this regard, the Federation's greater work lies in reminding its members that in times of emergency, profit should only be incidental and should yield to the paramount interests of the people.

In August, 1979, it donated twenty (20) units of Tamaraw jeepneys to augment Metro Manila Commission's fleet of Mobile Stores that sell prime commodities at very low prices to depressed areas in Metro Manila.

Collection of Taxes

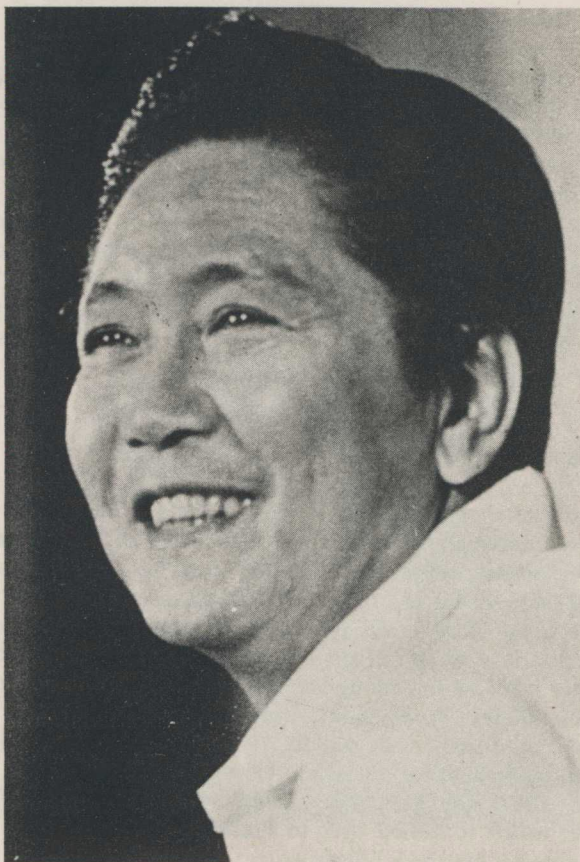
With the enormous moral influence that it wields over all its members throughout the country, the Federation has proven to be a great asset in the tax collection efforts of the Government. The commendable cooperation between the Federation and the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which initially started during the tax amnesty campaign in 1973, has persisted and become ever closer to this date. Tax information campaign and tax seminars, jointly sponsored by the BIR and the Federation, are conducted periodically in the principal cities and municipalities of the country for the purpose of explaining new tax measures to the public and enlightening the people on various aspects of tax laws and regulations, thus generating a high degree of tax consciousness among them.

As this brochure goes to print, the Federation has launched a nationwide tax information drive on the latest tax amnesty under Presidential Decree 1840, to complement the BIR's efforts in this direction.

Concern for Common Man

Cognizant of the Government's concern for the less fortunate people of our country the Federation has devoted much of its time and the greater part of its resources in supporting various civic, social, cultural, humanitarian and other worthy projects calculated to enhance the welfare of our people and to provide for them a better and brighter tomorrow. Always in the thick and thin of social action ventures the Federation has recorded an impressive list of accomplishments geared mostly towards social amelioration of the masses.

Among the numerous civic and humanitarian organizations that at one time or another received some forms of assistance from the Federation are the Community Chest of Greater Manila, the Philippine Cancer Society, the Philippine National Red Cross, the Philippine Anti-Tuberculosis Society, the Boy and Girl Scouts Movements, the Children's Museum and Library, the National League of Puericulture Centers, the Open Heart Foundation, the Philippine Eye Bank, the Young Artists Foundation, the Narcotics Foundation of the Philippines, the Kilusan ng Wastong Pagkain sa Bagong Lipunan, and the Mabuhay and Pilipino Movement.



"The Federation . . . an association that constitutes a vital factor in the program adopted by the Republic of the Philippines in its effort not only to lift up from the regression and the retrogression . . . propel it forward into energetic dedication and self-reliance . . . The Federation has been known for its patriotic devotion to this country and its people .."

His Excellency, FERDINAND E. MARCOS
President
Republic of the Philippines

Compassion for Calamity Victims

In times of disaster and calamity — like typhoons, floods, earthquakes, and conflagration — it has become traditional for the Federation to donate money, food, clothing and other materials for the unfortunate victims.

Over the years, the Federation has launched such relief campaigns as "Operations Friendship" in 1955, "Operations Brotherhood" in 1956, "Operations Puso" in 1960, "Operations Binondo" in 1964, "Operations Yoling" in 1970, and "Operations Pakikisama" in 1972, during the worst floods ever to hit the Philippines.

And this is not to speak of the other numerous relief projects undertaken by the Federation for the relief and amelioration of the victims of lesser tragedies and misfortunes.

Relief and Rehabilitation for Mindanao

When misunderstanding arose between Christians and Muslims in Mindanao, resulting in the displacement of the latter, the Federation, in quick response to the Government's appeal, called on its members for the assistance and collected the sum of P681,435.00 for the relief of the Mindanao refugees. A little later, when the entire town of Jolo was razed to the ground by a conflagration of untold proportions, leaving almost the entire population homeless, the Federation again quickly came to the assistance of the victims with a timely donation of around P200,000.00. When a disastrous earthquake levelled Cotabato, Zamboanga, and Pagadian City in August 1976, the Federation quickly raised more than P2-million in cash for the relief of the earthquake victims.

In February, 1981, the Federation jointly with the United Daily News raised P3-million which it turned over to President Marcos for the victims of the worst flood that hit Northern Mindanao.

Operations: Barrio Schools

The Federation does not confine its generous assistance to our people only in times of disasters and calamities. It also helps in the education of the Filipino youth.

At the start of every school year, the Government faces the problem of lack of school buildings to accommodate thousands of school children all over the country.

To help ease this perennial problem, the Federation, launched in 1961, "Operations: Barrio Schools" — a long-ranged project designed to provide schoolhouses in places where they may be urgently needed.

To date, there are now 460 schoolhouses found from Batanes to Jolo, built out of Federation funds and contributions from affiliated chambers of commerce and the private sector. In addition, another 100 schoolhouses are in the process of construction for donation to needy barrios all over the country.

"Operations Barrio Schools" project is part of the Federation's social infrastructure program to construct as many schoolhouses for the needy barrios. The program has gained worthy praises from all sectors of the country.



" . . . If we are to judge private organizations by the efficiency and service impact of its projects, there is no doubt that the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Inc. empty deserves the government's gratitude and esteem."

" . . . For behind such an undertaking, lifts community initiative and organization, and the willingness of the private sector to join hands with the government in the demanding task of nation building."

Madame IMELDA ROMUALDEZ MARCOS
*Minister of Human Settlements and
Metro Manila Governor*

Operations: Mobile Clinic

In 1980, the Federation directed its attention to providing free medical assistance to the needy and for this purpose, it purchased two Tamaraw jeepneys which it converted to mobile clinics. With medicines provided by pharmaceutical firms and the volunteer services of physicians and nurses from cooperating hospitals, free medical assistance and treatment have been given to some 10,000 people in depressed areas in Metro Manila and the number of beneficiaries is expected to rise with the increasing frequency of visitations to target areas.

Youth and Sports Development

The Federation has also contributed to the development of sports. Among the first to give substantial support to the "Gintong Alay" program of the government, it raised more than ₱1-million for this project.

Also, to help the cause of the out-of-school youth, it has always participated and supported the annual "Alay Lakad" project of the Ministry of Social Services and Development.

Fire Brigades

Taking cognizance of the damages wrought by fires especially to business in general, it set up in 1965 a volunteer fire brigade to undertake fire prevention educational campaigns and also to complement the government's fire fighting efforts. The idea spread and there are now 13 such brigades in Metro Manila and eight others in the provinces.

Funded solely by donations from the Filipino-Chinese community, a brigade consist of one or two fire trucks with the necessary fire fighting accessories with about 30 to 50 volunteer firemen. When fire occurs, such brigades are among the first to reach the scene of the fire, and for their good work these brigades have earned the accolades of a grateful community.

Peace and Order

Whenever its cooperation is sought by the military or police agencies, the Federation has invariably given such cooperation. Crimes that came to its knowledge were promptly brought to the attention of the law-enforcing agencies concerned for appropriate action.

To improve the mobility of the PC/INP, it donated twenty (20) motorcycle units which PC Chief Gen. Fidel Ramos received in December, 1980, and another eight (8) units were turned over to the Western Police District, early in 1981.

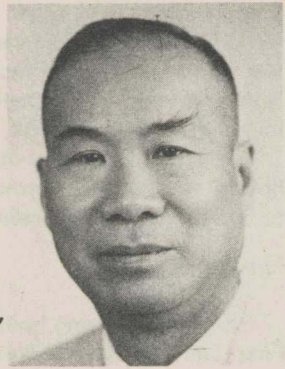
A Library for the Public

Another important contribution of the Federation to the cause of education and culture in the country is the maintenance of the Philippine Chinese Public Library. Organized in 1954 under the auspices of the Asia Foundation, the library became a project of the Federation in 1955, which since then has been completely undertaking its support.

The library contains more than 25,000 Chinese volumes, more than 6,000

... the federation's pioneering president ...

The founding president of the Federation was Yu Khe Thai, a respected leader in the Chinese community. Prior to his election, Mr. Yu was a top-flight business executive, heading a string of progressive companies. He was board chairman of the Philippine Bank of Communications while holding the presidency in such organizations as: Yutivo & Sons Hardware Company, the Northern Motors, Inc., Sing Yee & Cuan, Inc., and a host of other business entities.



YU KHE THAI
President
1954 - 1962

As expected of business leaders pioneering in organizational dynamics, Mr. Yu owned the unenviable task of keeping in place a loose composite of business organizations, of having to reckon with the imponderables arising from the individual idiosyncracies, professional pride and biases of equally prominent business executives.

In short, on Mr. Yu's shoulders rested the fate of an organization that symbolized the loftiest ideals of the entire Chinese community. Yet, Mr. Yu led the Federation for eight long years, coming out of it all better prepared to resume the multiple functions that awaited him in the private sector.

Mr. Yu served as Federation president from 1954 to 1962. During those years, Chinese merchants and entrepreneurs were the favorite targets of harassment, of curiously motivated investigations and even blackmail and extortion. Congress, the vaunted bedrock of legislative sanctions fostering equity and fair play, was itself bristling with bills proposing to nationalize and reserve for Filipino nationals the different facets of trade and commerce where aliens figured prominently.

Mr. Yu is a man of great tact, imbued with diplomatic charms. He is known to be humble and soft-spoken, hardly the credentials of a man commissioned to fend off the inroads of opportunism and abuse among certain government functionaries.

It is a lasting tribute to Mr. Yu who had succeeded remarkably well in preventing further harassment of Chinese businessmen. More importantly, he, along with other responsible leaders of the Federation, obtained from Congress a moratorium on laws that tended to prejudice alien interests in business. It was a matter of getting congressional leaders to understand that such laws would prove inimical not only to alien merchants but also to Filipinos as well.

Mr. Yu stepped down from the presidency of the Federation in 1962, after having steered the organization to a position of stability and prominence.

English books and other volumes in Philippine dialects, Spanish and French.⁷ Its Filipinianas section carries several volumes on Philippine history, literature and Filipino heroes. It includes the famous works of Dr. Jose Rizal in different languages – Spanish, English and Chinese. In addition, the library subscribes to more than 100 English, Filipino and Chinese periodicals and magazines.

Open to the public, regardless of the individual's creed or nationality, the library is serving numerous professionals, students and other people who flock to it daily to conduct research work, to study, or simply to browse.

Boosting Tourism

By way of helping boost the tourist industry in the country and assisting the First Lady in the realization of her dream to "preserve and develop Manila Chinatown as part of the nation's cultural heritage," the Federation has joined hands with the Ministry of Tourism and the City of Manila in a tri-sectoral project named "The Manila Chinatown Tourism Development Project," which envisages the restoration, preservation, and development of an authentic Chinatown in the City of Manila, replete with a truly genuine Filipino-Chinese atmosphere showing the blending of the cultures and traditions of the Philippines and that of China.

Aside from this, the Youth Council of the Federation has sponsored a search for Miss Chinatown-Philippines, a project which was received with great enthusiasm by almost all sectors of the community. Groomed to be an annual event, the Miss Chinatown-Philippines Contest aims to help promote Philippine tourism by sending the winner as Philippine ambassadress of goodwill to key cities in the United States and Southeast Asia.

This contest was envisioned to be an effective medium for the successful assimilation and integration campaign of the Federation, bringing into focus the various socio-civic and youth development activities of the Youth Council.

Manila Clean Movement

Metro Manila has always been the center and direct beneficiary of the Federation's various socio-economic, cultural and humanitarian endeavors.

In line with the national cleanliness drive of the First Lady and Metro Manila Governor, the Federation works hand in hand with the different barangays particularly in the Chinatown area.

In 1974, during the early stage of the Cleanliness Movement of Metro Manila, the Federation donated cash award amounting to ₱242,200.00. The Federation's financial and moral support greatly enhanced the city's beautification and cleanliness movement which later culminated in the establishment of the Manila Chinatown Tourism Development and Beautification Commission.

New Dasmariñas Bridge

Partly to restore its utilitarian value and partly to improve the image of Chinatown, the Federation also undertook to reconstruct the old Dasmariñas Bridge, which was constructed during the Spanish regime as a steel lift bridge and which the ravages of time, environment, and wear have made unstable and unsafe to pedestrians and vehicles alike.

Now sporting a modern look, the bridge was formally turned over by the

*... the great pacifist who fortified
the Federation's arbitration systems ...*

Santos Chua Haw Ko, president and general manager of the Philippine Bed Factory who also held a seat in the board of other corporations, succeeded Mr. Yu as president of the Federation.

Quiet, modest and unobtrusive, Mr. Santos Chua Haw Ko brought with him to the presidency not only great tact which was almost a second nature to him. Observers also felt that here was a man imbued with an almost bottomless reservoir of patience and perseverance, the very qualities required of a leader in those turbulent times.



SANTOS CHUA HAW KO
President
1962 - 1966

The problems that confronted the Federation during the early 60's were no different from those that beset Mr. Yu. What added to the pressures was that Mr. Santos Chua Haw Ko was under moral compunction to preserve, if not improve on the spectacular gains left by his predecessor.

As expected, he rose to the occasion with some measure of success, putting to good use the exceptional degree of administrative skills he developed as a top business executive.

Surprisingly enough, Mr. Santos Chua Haw Ko shied from publicity. If he could help it, he would rather that his achievements remain untold. But in a community that remains sensitive to outstanding deeds, his desire for anonymity fell on deaf ears.

The Federation, under Mr. Santos Chua Haw Ko's leadership, had distinguished itself in maintaining peace and harmony among its constituents. The great pacifist that he is, Mr. Santos Chua Haw Ko inaugurated the Federation's arbitration systems, a mechanism that takes care of disputes among Filipino-Chinese businessmen and their families.

Because of his natural tact, his limitless patience, his ability to understand people, not to mention the great influence he wielded in the community, Mr. Santos Chua Haw Ko had successfully settled bitter disputes out of court. Delicate family problems, intricate business differences and a litany of other business nuances in inter-community disputes found their way into his inner sanctum, relying on his uncanny instinct for easy solutions.

To a certain extent, Mr. Santos Chua Haw Ko and the Federation have helped enhance the quality in the administration of justice through arbitration and mediation. Several big cases among members of the Chinese community were speedily resolved, thus saving time and money on the part of the would-be litigants, while relieving the court dockets of needless cases.

But the more enduring achievement of Mr. Santos Chua Haw Ko in this regard is the preservation of goodwill among members of the Chinese community which, today, remains a priority concern of the government itself.

Federation to First Lady and Metro Manila Governor Imelda Romualdez Marcos and Mayor Ramon D. Bagatsing on January 11, 1978.

Trade and Economic Missions

The Federation does not limit its operations within the country! It has relentlessly pursued the sensitive task of promoting trade and commerce with its Asian neighbors, the United States, and Europe.

In providing leeways to bridge the communication gap with businessmen abroad, the Federation financed several trade and goodwill missions to Taiwan, Hongkong, Singapore and Malaysia. These missions contributed immense economic returns in terms of the high influx of foreign investors and inflow of capital investments in the country, mostly from countries visited by the mission.

In 1973, shortly after martial law was declared, the Federation sponsored another trade and economic mission to Southeast Asia. The mission netted a total of 5 foreign trade and economic fact-finding missions all of which came upon the invitation of the Federation. The mission probed into the new investment climate generated by Proclamation 1081 in the Philippines.

Immediately, a 30-man delegation from Taiwan came. It was followed by a business delegation from Hongkong (28 members), Singapore (30 members), Malaysia (47 members), and again from the Crown Colony (27 members).

An 11-man group organized by the Board of Investments traveled to Hongkong on February 1974, on a technical and fact-finding mission. Two member-delegate from the Federation played key roles during the crucial negotiations with the Hongkong counterparts.

True to the ideals embodied in its eight-point objectives, the Federation has kept the door open for more foreign capital investments to flow into the Philippines.

In March 1977, the Malaysia Chinese General Chamber of Commerce came to promote trade and business relations with the Philippines and other ASEAN member countries. The Federation took the group to the Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) in Mariveles, Bataan and probed into possible investment opportunities there.

And only in September 1977, the Federation organized an Asian Trade Mission to Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand to foster closer relations among businessmen in the region and thus give substance and reality to the spirit of Summit '77 Declaration.

In 1979, an Agricultural and Trade Mission was sent by the Federation to Southeast Asia which resulted in the establishment of the first integrated palm oil farm in the Philippines.

Annual National Business Conferences

Actively and genuinely concerned over the welfare of businessmen, industrialists, and entrepreneurs in the country, the Federation jointly sponsored with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th National Business Conferences.

Symposium of ASEAN Traders

In an effort to establish closer rapport among businessmen in the ASEAN

... blazing the Federation's glory trail ...

Ralph Nubla was elected to the presidency of the Federation in 1966, riding on the crest of a popular clamor for a strong and dynamic leader. At the time, government circles buzzed with excitement, awed by the entry into Malacañang of then newly-elected President Ferdinand E. Marcos whose reputation for bold innovations had then become too well-known.

It might have been a happy coincidence, therefore, that Ralph Nubla was to grace the Federation's hierarchy of leaders with a keen sense of anticipation to complement President Marcos' knack for novel approaches to nation-building.

In no time, Mr. Nubla had inaugurated a series of trade missions to nearly all countries in Asia such as: Taiwan, Hongkong, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia. As a result, several joint ventures took shape between foreign investors and Filipino businessmen. The strategy enhanced for the most part the "open door" policy of President Marcos. The inflow of foreign capital and the emergence of multinational investments had become a matter of course.

Mr. Nubla's innovative spirit springs from excellent credentials. At the time of his assumption to the presidency, he held top executive posts in the business community such as: president of the Philippine Cigar and Cigarette Manufacturers Association, Inc., and of the Crown Tobacco Corporation. He was later to assume the chairmanship of the board of the Philippine Bank of Communications.

While past presidents succeeded fairly well in setting up a mantle of protection for Filipino-Chinese businessmen from harassment by unscrupulous government functionaries, Mr. Nubla launched the Federation into a more aggressive involvement in national affairs. He was the chief architect of the Federation's various socio-civic endeavors supportive of President Marcos' masterplan for economic development.

Mr. Nubla's close affinities with the national leadership brought him to frequent consultations in Malacañang, especially during times of national calamity and emergency to avert hoarding of prime commodities as well as profiteering and the manipulation of prices of prime commodities.

It was under Mr. Nubla's first two terms that the Federation had assumed a dominating posture in the Filipino-Chinese community. Subtly wielding its influence over its constituents, the Federation succeeded remarkably in obtaining optimum obedience to the laws of the land.

The Federation Center Building is a monument to Mr. Nubla's courageous initiatives. Undaunted by the nominal contributions for a start, he marshalled every available resources methodically to complete the construction. In 1970, the building saw completion, which now houses the Secretariat and Federation officials. It has given the Federation a distinct identity and a home all its own.

Mr. Nubla's successful expansion program has moulded the Federation as a catalyst for growth. It was he who blazed the glory trail for the Federation, in particular, and the Filipino-Chinese community in general.



RALPH NUBLA
President
1966 – 1970

region for them to contribute their collective support to the realization of the spirit and goals of ASEAN, the Federation sponsored the Symposium for Asean Traders in May, 1978, on the theme "The Role of Businessmen in the ASEAN Prosperity and Stability.

The first of its kind ever to be held in the ASEAN region, this symposium gathered together a total of 673 prominent business leaders and luminaries from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Discussions were focused on investments, international trade, shipping, financing, tariff and the like.

While it may not have produced immediate tangible results, it was a milestone in itself in that it engendered a vast reservoir of goodwill among the peoples of ASEAN and united them in the spirit of closer cooperation.

Mediation and Arbitration

Better known for its numerous civic, social, humanitarian, and economic undertakings, the Federation has for the past two decades played a vital role never before heralded or publicized — that of an arbitrator.

To maintain peace and harmony, to avoid social disorder, and to prevent costly court proceedings, the Federation mediates, arbitrates, and settles disputes among Filipino-Chinese businessmen and their families.

Statistics show that during the last twenty years, the Federation has succeeded in settling out of court some 700 cases, ranging from petty quarrels and misunderstanding to more serious cases, like infringement of patent and trademark rights, breaches of contracts, payment of obligation, internal family strifes, bankruptcies, management problems and the like, thus saving time and money on the part of the Government and preventing the clogging of court dockets.

Integration and Assimilation

During the Ninth Biennial Convention of the Federation in 1972, another objective has been added to the purposes of the Federation — to integrate the local Chinese into the mainstream of Philippine body politica. The leaders

the local Chinese into the mainstream of Philippine body politic. The leaders of the Federation have set their sight on this long-ranged goal in the earnest belief that the assimilation of local Chinese and other minority groups into the mainstream of Philippine national life will make them an inextricable part and parcel of Philippine society and inspire to contribute their everything, without reservation, to the growth, development and progress of our country.

For this purpose the Federation organized the Youth and Integration Committee composed of young, able, visionary, and dedicated members who are at present sparing neither time, effort, nor imagination to pave the way for this hitherto elusive dream.

Thanks to the wisdom and capacity of President Marcos, this dream is now becoming a reality. With the issuance of LOI 270 and later LOI 491, providing for the naturalization of aliens by decree, some 40,000 aliens have applied for naturalization as Filipino-Chinese and of these 27,925 have already been granted citizenship by decree.