

## I-ama-guerilla in Manila - Week Four, 11 February 2012!

**From the Manila Bulletin, 5Feb2012.** “Private-public partnership initiatives can help stretch the limited capabilities of the public sector.” So why the resistance to it? Largely, uncertainly, potential loss of guaranteed government and union jobs, and potential increases in service fees as well as potential risks and vulnerability. What binds private-sector participation other than agreements and contracts? Is that sufficient? Should there be more skin-in-the-game, like, say escrow or other deposits? And if so, is that fair to the private investor? Shucks, I don’t know.

“We join our Muslim brothers and sisters in commemorating *Maulidin Nabi*, the birth date of the Prophet Muhammad [in the city of Mecca in Arabia], on February 5, 2012 [17 Rabi-l 570]. It is a time to reflect on the Prophet’s love of God and humanity, and his message of peace. Alaikum! Peace be upon you!”

**6Feb2012.** The Philippines’ bachelor President Aquino III, to be 52 years old this week, is dating a Korean newscaster. Thus, the newspapers are running stories on... Korea. Today’s Manila Bulletin had an editorial note by a Pnoy journalist who noted he had Korean pals in college. He writes they commented that there is much less corruption in Korea than in the Philippines because there are enforced restrictions of taking large sums of cash outside of Korea as opposed to the Philippines, which assures that illegally obtained cash gets reinvested into the Korean economy, often for risky venture capital initiatives.

**From J.** A few years ago, Singapore built a concert hall or exhibit hall or something with two huge domes, with pointy bumps all over them. Locals refer to them as "the durians", the odorous passion fruit of SE Asia, much as Sydney residents refer to their famous steel arch bridge as "the rusty coat hanger."

Where in the Philippines are ghosts visible? See boo. [Cebu]

But, in the Catholic Church is there still a prelate named Cardinal Sin?

**Wednesday was the Philippines’ 52-year old bachelor President’s birthday.** The Manila Bulletin has a colorful 8-page insert honoring the President, whose picture appeared 30 times! Or like they say in engineering specifications, “thirty (30).” Good to learn the President likes video games, fast cars, music of all kinds including traditional Philippine, and confirmation he is dating a Korean lady with whom he attended college. Wow, so much knowledge I am getting, what!



No comment

**Shocking corruption? Really?** This table comes from credible surveys, not from me!

Country	Corruption		Comment Perceived five top corruption-influence entities from Global Corruption Barometer (2010), by order of decreasing corruption
	Score out of 10 (10 is least)	Ranking out of 183 countries	
Brunei	5.2	44	N/A
Cambodia	2.1	164	Judiciary, Police, Public Officials, Political Parties, Education
Indonesia	3.0	100	Parliament, Police and Political Parties, Judiciary, Public Officials
Laos	2.2	154	N/A
Malaysia	4.3	60	Police, Political Parties, Parliament, Business and Public Officials
Myanmar (Burma)	1.5	180	N/A
<b>Philippines</b>	<b>2.6</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>Police and Political Parties, Parliament and Public Officials, Business and Military</b>
Singapore	9.2	5	Media, Business and Political Parties and Public Officials, Police and Religious Bodies
Thailand	3.4	80	Public Officials, Police and Political Parties, Military, Parliament
Viet Nam	2.9	112	Police, Education, Public Officials, Judiciary, Business

Source: Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index, December 2011, most current online data (<http://cpi.transparency.org/cpi2011/results/> for public sector score and ranking) and Global Corruption Barometer 2010 Report ([http://transparency.org/policy\\_research/surveys\\_indices/gcb/2010](http://transparency.org/policy_research/surveys_indices/gcb/2010))

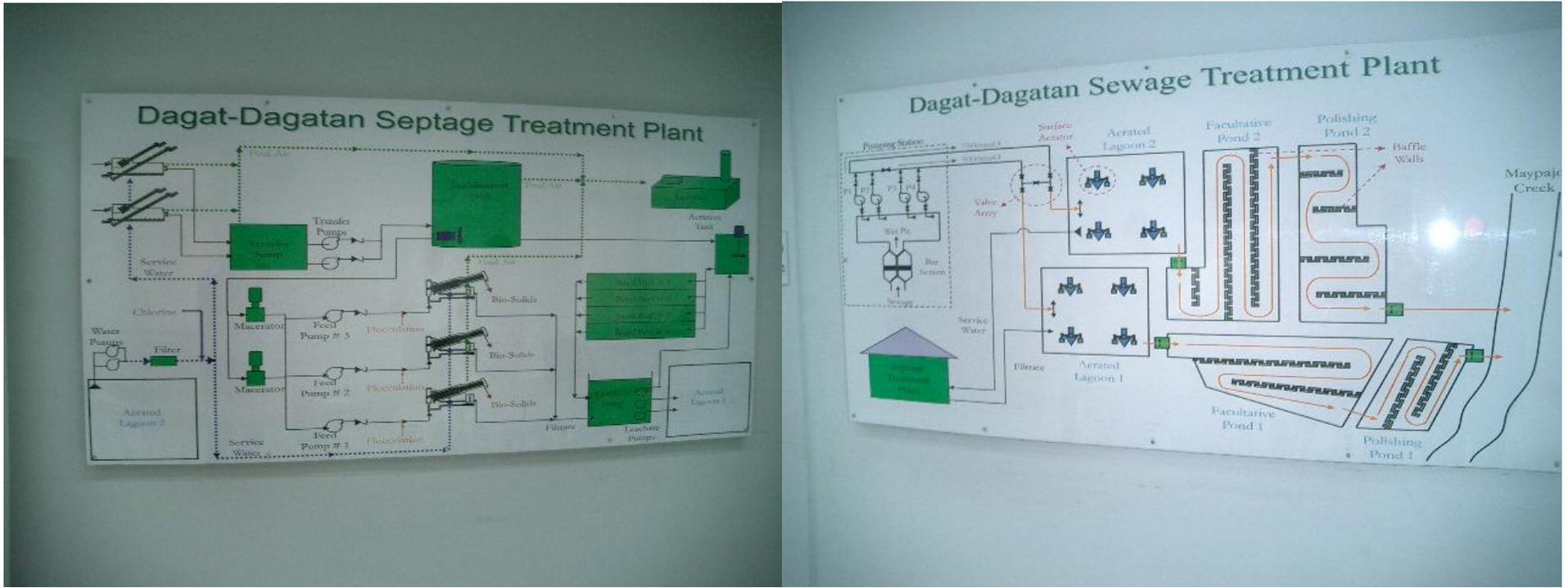
**Languages.** Funny, there are so many languages on earth, many already extinct and several becoming so. It's said, if you speak three languages, you're *trilingual*. If you speak two languages, you're *bilingual*. And if you speak only one language, you're... *American*.

I had a phone interview with USAID/Cairo for a Personal Service Contract as Middle East Regional Environmental Officer. If I am offered and take the assignment, perhaps I will have a crack at learning some languages, if possible...

Say, Joseph Estrada was asked by a reporter, "What's your favorite color, Mr. President?" Estrada replied, "Eh, fusia, for my wife." "Oh," said the reporter, "How do you spell that?" Estrada answered, "Eh, let's say, pink – P I N K."

**SE Asia story.** A man who is bald on the front of his head is a good thinker. A man who is bald on the back of his head is a good lover. A man who is bald on both the front and back of his head thinks he's a good lover.

**Strokes of good luck.** I was asked by my client to cost out a potential 100-150 CMD seawater desalination plant. An American pal gave me a detailed cost estimate for a Philippines desal plant which is VERY useful for my out-of-scope task, and yahoo! The guy that did the desk-stop study is an engineering pal of mine in Seattle. Double yahoo! Plus, I misplaced by graduated Houston-2003 trifocals in my 16<sup>th</sup> floor project office in Manila for TWO days, and on Thursday morning, the youngest gal in the office found them. Gadzooks, oh joy, oh rapture for Ms. T. But, my office elevator kiosk on the 16<sup>th</sup> floor reads "6" as the "1" wore out; the adjacent tower elevator kiosk on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor reads "10." I don't know why? Oh, and my 16<sup>th</sup> floor office is adjacent to Stewardess Training School!



Maynilad Dagat-Dagatan Septage Treatment Plant and Sewage Treatment Plant plans – no regulatory nutrients discharge requirements and rather high coliforms discharge requirements

Say, I glimpsed an old film on my Hotel878 TV in Labis, Quezon City, Metro Manila, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, one of Mark Twain's several great works. I also love his 1870 essay in *The Galaxy* on *How I edited an agricultural journal once*. Picture this charming scene: the young Tom and his friend the slave Jim are fishing on their modest Mississippi River raft. Tom says, "Jim, what would you say if I said, par-leh voos fran-cie?" Jim says something like, "You be crazy!" Tom says, "No, it means DO YOU SPEAK FRENCH, in French like a Frenchman talks. Don't you know nothing?" Jim says, "Then why don't he say so? Why don't the Frenchman just say it, DO YOU SPEAK FRENCH? Why doesn't the Frenchman talk like a man?" Tom says, "It's like this, Jim. Does a cat talk like a dog?" Jim says, "No." Tom says, "Does a dog talk like a cow?" Jim says, "No." Tom says, "Does a cow talk like a cat?" Jim says, "No." Jim says, "You got a point there, Tom, you sure do." They play duel with their fishing poles on their raft. But then Jim says, "Tom, "Does a cat talk like a man?" Tom says, "No." Jim says, "Does a cat talk like a man?" Tom says, "No." Jim says, "Does a cow talk like a man?" Tom says, "No." Jim says with a lot of pride, "Does a Frenchman talk like a man?" Tom says, "No." Jim says, "Well, why don't a Frenchman talk like a man?" Tom falls backwards on their raft and says, "You have a point there, Jim." What a guy, Twain!

**China to aid EU.** BBC notes China to financially aid the European Community. A Sunday school teacher was telling her young class, "You know, children, everything we have is made by God." One child raises his hand and say, "Sorry teacher, everything now is made in China."

**This week's accomplishments:** Maynilad and Manila Water visits; water and sanitation team meetings; drafted guidelines for seawater desalination and for developing and augmenting fresh-water supplies. Amazon'd Valentine's stuff to long-suffering wife and grateful daughter.

**The Elements.** While visiting an underused Septage Treatment Plant and Wastewater Stabilization Ponds, I saw a Periodic Table poster. It reminded me of the famous Harvard mathematician and satirist, Tom Lehr, who performs *The Elements*. For Tom Lehr's *Elements* song, see <http://www.tomlehrer.org/tl.html> & [http://www.lyricsfreak.com/t/tom+lehrer/the+elements\\_20138388.html](http://www.lyricsfreak.com/t/tom+lehrer/the+elements_20138388.html).

There's antimony, arsenic, aluminum, selenium,  
And hydrogen and oxygen and nitrogen and rhenium,  
And nickel, neodymium, neptunium, germanium,  
And iron, americium, ruthenium, uranium,  
Europium, zirconium, lutetium, vanadium,  
And lanthanum and osmium and astatine and radium,  
And gold and protactinium and indium and gallium,

And iodine and thorium and thulium and thallium.

There's yttrium, ytterbium, actinium, rubidium,  
And boron, gadolinium, niobium, iridium,  
And strontium and silicon and silver and samarium,  
And bismuth, bromine, lithium, beryllium, and barium.

There's holmium and helium and hafnium and erbium,  
And phosphorus and francium and fluorine and terbium,  
And manganese and mercury, molybdenum, magnesium,  
Dysprosium and scandium and cerium and cesium.  
And lead, praseodymium, and platinum, plutonium,  
Palladium, promethium, potassium, polonium,  
And tantalum, technetium, titanium, tellurium,

And cadmium and calcium and chromium and curium.

There's sulfur, californium, and fermium, berkelium,  
And also mendelevium, einsteinium, nobelium,  
And argon, krypton, neon, radon, xenon, zinc, and rhodium,  
And chlorine, carbon, cobalt, copper, tungsten, tin, and sodium.

These are the only ones of which the news has come to Ha'vard,  
And there may be many others, but they haven't been discavard.

**Have fun, be happy, don't worry! It doesn't help! It's really more fun in the Philippines!**