

## I-ama-guerilla in Manila - Week One, 21 January 2012!



*Initial celebration of The Year of the Water Dragon at the Philippines Stock of Change*

*Just-a-good-friend*

**United Airlines Flights from Tucson-San Francisco-Honolulu-Guam-Manila.** Unfortunately, SFO-HNL delayed twice, and then cancelled. UA rerouted me from SFO-Hong Kong with UA, then HKG-MNL with Cathay Pacific. I arrived several hours after my driver gave up on me. Guess my email from the SFO UA lounge to my MNL handlers didn't get to him. I was granted a short, free visa at the airport. I arrived late at the 878Hotel, a modest three-star adjacent to major road but cheap, *without clothes* or rather without luggage as it was lost or stolen. 878Hotel gave me a ground-floor room next to the road so I could enjoy the continuous traffic sounds. No hot water. Desk and chair but too far from electrical outlets. The bathroom has lots of plastic bagged amenities which I can't easily open as a remnant of chemotherapy seven years ago. But, hey, the government's mantra here is: *It's more fun in the Philippines!*

**I love it here.** Saw several pals. TR tells me, "During WWII, we P'noys shouted to our women and girls, 'Hide! The Japanese are coming. The Japanese are coming!' Now, decades later, we shout to our women and girls, 'Come out! The Japanese are coming. The Japanese are coming.'" SF tells me his large septage tank is good for 20 years without desludging. JJ tells me there's lots of progress. Why not more progress? Here's a clue:

South East Asian Country	Corruption		Comment Perceived five top corruption-influence entities from Global Corruption Barometer (2010)
	Score out of 10 points	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))

**Hotel update.** After four days in Room 115, 878Hotel upgraded me to 101, which has hot water but no desk or chair. The new room is quite and has hot water which is very nice to reacquaint.

**Why am I here?** Hmm, as wastewater management specialist for ADB-funded urban water supply and sanitation project in Metro Cebu in Visayas and Davao City in Mindanao (See Wikipedia pictures below).

**Weekend.** Hope to see *Coriolanus* and *Mission Impossible* at Eastwood Mall. I loved *Iron Lady* and the **Women of the 6<sup>th</sup> Floor** in Tucson last week. Manila TV is showing The King's Speech. New Bourne Journey is being filmed here!



Endangered Philippine eagle



Man on elephant statue



Davao crocodile Park



Mt. Apo overlooks Davao City

**Have fun, be happy, don't worry! It doesn't help!**