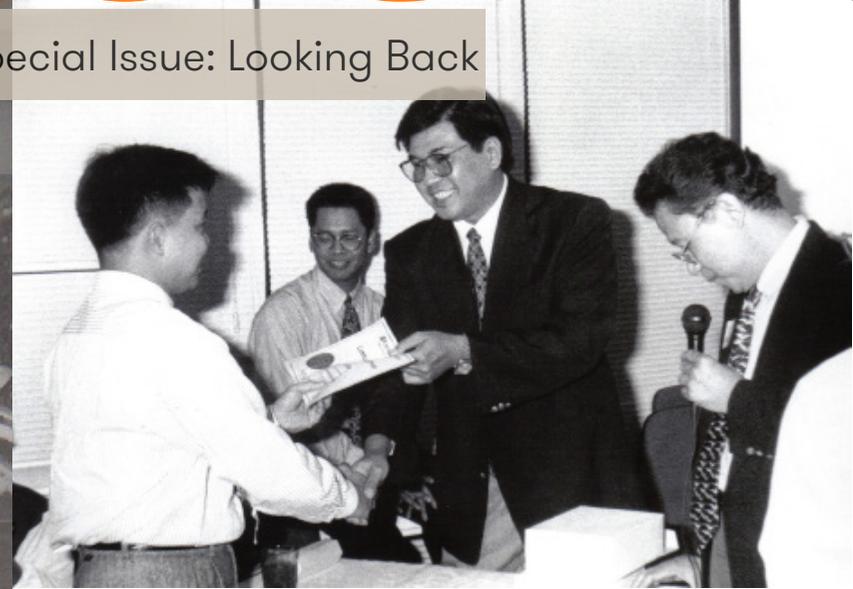




Bridges

News For & About P&A Alumni

Special Issue: Looking Back



Welcome to “Bridges”
the newsletter for and about
YOU.

THANK YOU FOR STAYING PART OF THE
P&A GRANT THORNTON COMMUNITY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.



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A message from your P&A Grant Thornton Family

Dear P&A Alumni,

Thank you for staying in touch with us after all these years, we are pleased to share with you this Special Issue of Bridges: News For & About P&A Alumni.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your well-wishes.

As we journey off to our 30th year, we hope you continue to share with us all your inspiring stories, and your undying support to our Firm. We look forward to many more years growing together with you.

Cheers unlimited potential and growth!

Jessie C. Carpio

Partner

Head of BPS/Outsourcing





Batch 1990



'88 rockin' it with JGA



The "Pioneers"
Batch '88

Looking back at the little firm that could...

We started with seven (7)
CPAs, and now we are at 933
employees - coloring Makati,
Cavite, Cebu and Davao the
brightest purple possible.





**Thank you
for
Growing
Together
with us.**

**#PAGT30Years
#PAGTUnlimited**

What's Happening: #PAGT30YearsUnlimited

Leading up to the 30th Anniversary, a number of activities & surprises were prepared in celebration of our milestone.

P&A
Grant Thornton
An instinct for growth™

ITL 2018 - Alumni Issue

In the Loop: Alumni Issue
In celebration of P&A Grant Thornton's 30th Anniversary, this bulletin features former P&Aers and their unlimited potential for growth. Let us experience how P&A Grant Thornton was through their stories

what's your P&A Story?

We are featuring former P&Aers and their unlimited potential for growth on our Special Issues of "In the Loop," a bulletin that features what's going on at P&A Grant Thornton and other GTIL member firms.

Let us see in retrospect how P&A Grant Thornton was through their stories.

Incorporated on these magazine issues are "Trivia Questions of the Week" which gives us additional knowledge on P&A.

We hope you keep reading through our features!

What's Happening: #PAGT30YearsUnlimited

What's your P&A Story?

What's your P&A Story?



BRS Group team meeting



My Family



CIA Congratulatory meeting with BRP and former Partners

Duchess Marie Cruz

Top 1 & Gold Medalist, 2005 Certified Internal Auditors Licensure Examination
 Current Position & Employer: Senior Audit Expert, Global Internal Audit at Procter & Gamble International Operations
 Previous Position in P&A: Senior, Audit & Assurance (formerly BRS Group)

When have you felt proud being part of P&A Grant Thornton?

I was always proud of how P&A upholds its principles of integrity and quality. These principles were evident in every audit that we did and in every client engagement. P&A also treats its employees as its greatest assets. The partners and managers harness their potential, listen to their needs and keep an open communication with them (even after they leave the firm). I am proud to have worked with the likes of Mabel E. Comedia, Lily S. Linsangan, Fred A. Damian, and Ben R. Punongbayan, to name a few.

How did P&A help you unlock your unlimited potential?

P&A was an enabler in the development of my skills as an internal auditor. P&A required all its Business Risk Services (BRS, which was then under Audit & Assurance, but now forms part of Advisory Services Division) Senior staff members to take the Certified Internal Auditor (CIA) exam and sponsored its review sessions, materials and exam application. With the help and encouragement of my mentors and bosses in P&A, I was able to outperform the other 21,000 examinees in the 2005 CIA exam. This led me to pursue a long term career in internal audit.

What's your most unforgettable collaborative experience while you were in P&A?

I was with Audit & Assurance for 1.5 years and with BRS for 3.5 years. Given my longer stint in BRS, I could recall more experiences from this role. I remember when half of the team had to stay out of town for 6 months for a tough internal audit outsourcing engagement. It was a tough engagement back then because of the hostile attitude of the employees that were displaced and their traditional view of internal audit as "Police." We had to work together to turn around the company's culture and uphold the principles of integrity and independence. More than that, we were 40 kilometers from the nearest city so we also had to creatively plan fun getaways to keep ourselves from being bored to death!

What's Happening: #PAGT30YearsUnlimited

What's your P&A Story?

What's your P&A Story?

2017 Annual Regional Conference at Hong Kong

My Family

200% P&A Sportsfest Bowling Champions

Welcome Dinner for New Hires, November 1995

Ma. Vilma Silvederio

Current Position & Employer: International Finance & Accounting Manager, United Airlines
Previous Position in P&A: Senior Manager, Tax Advisory & Compliance



When have you felt proud being part of P&A Grant Thornton?

It is always a proud moment when you are able to deliver and meet the expectations of your clients no matter how big or small the engagement is. But more than that, I am proud to have earned the 10-year loyalty service award in P&A.

How did P&A help you unlock your unlimited potential?

P&A allows you to grow and develop your potentials by allowing you to transfer from one division to the other. In my case, I started in Audit & Assurance and then transferred to Tax Advisory & Compliance to learn corporate taxation.

What is your fearless forecast for P&A Grant Thornton?

I wish P&A continued success and hopefully take that No. 1 spot.



What's Happening: #PAGT30YearsUnlimited

What's your P&A Story?

What's your P&A Story?

Friends inside and outside of P&A

Lunch treat by former AS Managing Consultant Allan Palacio

P&A Friends at Anawangin Cove

My Family

Paul Ryan Balon

Current Position & Employer: Chief Audit Executive, Makati Development Corporation (construction arm of Ayala Land, Inc.)

Previous Position in P&A: Lead Consultant, Advisory Services

When have you felt proud being part of P&A Grant Thornton?

P&A harnesses its employees' potential by assigning them to challenging engagements and tasks. Completion of an engagement, may it be big or small, is always a proud moment because of the new skills I learned and the boost in self-confidence that I experience. Plus, the best part is having teammates who have become my inspiration and life-time friends.

During your time in P&A, how did you create value for our clients, your fellow employees, and our communities?

P&A firmly supports training, education, and self-improvement of its employees to deliver value-adding recommendations to clients and colleagues. During my senior years, I was given the task to conduct training sessions to the audit staff, which helped me enhance my communication skills and relationship with my colleagues while helping them with their development.

What is your most unforgettable collaborative experience while you were in P&A?

I had two engagements that stretched my patience, built my skills in conducting fraud investigations and data analytics, and strengthened my camaraderie among my teammates (Ross De Vera, Jaheer Burao, Tina De Vera, Vi-Ann Begasa, Gianina Ortega, etc.). We had sleepless nights thinking of ways to achieve the objectives set by our team leads and partners, which took the engagements months to deliver. Thanks to the guidance of our team lead, Allan Palacio, and other managers, we were able to complete and deliver the tasks at hand.

What's Happening: #PAGT30YearsUnlimited

What's your P&A Story?

What's your P&A Story?

2002 P&A Christmas Party at Crocodile Grill

2012 P&A Christmas Party

2008 Executive Conference in Palawan

My Family

Ma. Filomena "Dang" Hopilos
 Current Position & Employer: Internal Audit Manager, RFM Corporation
 Previous Position in P&A: Managing Consultant, Advisory Services Division

When have you felt proud being part of P&A Grant Thornton?

When I joined the firm in 1999, P&A was still with Ernst & Young. When P&A lost such affiliation, P&A did not stop "delivering." P&A even developed its own audit methodology – P&A Audit Methodology (PAM) and continued to be the best in what it does. I am proud that I stayed throughout those challenging times and gave my them 100% support.

How did P&A help you unlock your unlimited potential?

Being my very first job, P&A greatly contributed to my holistic development. P&A helped unlock my unlimited potential thru numerous opportunities to grow and learn. My work experience in audit and advisory gave me the exposure to things, people and happenings that allowed me to be equipped in handling the responsibilities of my current job.

What more can P&A do to support its strategic journey? What resources or capabilities do we need to develop or build?

P&A is a family. Continue to grow as a family and continue to love its people. By continuously nurturing its people, P&A will ensure strategic growth and success.

What's Happening: #PAGT30YearsUnlimited

what's your P&A story?

what's your P&A story?



With P&A friends



With Myra Santos and my mentors:
Ben V. Valdez, Jun C. Cuaresma, and Boyet V. Murcia



My family

Maricel Ladrangan-Madrid

Current Position & Employer: Vice President and Group Controller; Group Head - Corporate Planning and Communications, Controllership and Information Technology at First Metro Investment Corporation (Metrobank Group)

Previous Position in P&A: Senior Manager, Audit Division

How did P&A help you unlock your unlimited potential?

Looking back from where I started my career, it is clear that P&A is one of the cornerstones of my growth in the field of financial services. My superiors, teammates, clients and work assignments have been instrumental to the career path that I have chosen. P&A molded me not only to become an auditor but to be a banker as well. The sleepless nights on each engagement instilled in me P&A's core values - leadership and excellence. My mentors at the firm, to whom I am very thankful for, have been my solid foundation and my support in my endeavors.

Based on experience, what more can P&A do to support its strategic journey?

Advanced information technology tools, big data analytics, credit modeling and validation will be an advantage for the firm's strategic journey. In the advent of more stringent regulatory rules and the evolving accounting standards, a more sophisticated audit processes can help the quality of audit.

What's Happening: #PAGT30YearsUnlimited

What's your P&A Story?

What's your P&A Story?



Salumbides Squad



Meeting the Big Boss of Aspen Business Solutions, Inc.

Glenda Salumbides

Current Position & Employer: Payroll Head, Aspen Business Solutions Inc.
(Formerly known as JG Summit and Affiliates Shared Services Group)

Previous Position in P&A: Senior Specialist, Business Process Outsourcing/ Solutions

How did P&A help you unlock your unlimited potential?

Looking back from where I started my career, it is clear that P&A is one of the cornerstones of my growth in the field of financial services. My superiors, teammates, clients and work assignments have been instrumental to the career path that I have chosen. P&A molded me not only to become an auditor but to be a banker as well. The sleepless nights on each engagement instilled in me P&A's core values - leadership and excellence. My mentors at the firm, to whom I am very thankful for, have been my solid foundation and my support in my endeavors.

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What's Happening: #PAGT30YearsUnlimited

what's your P&A Story?

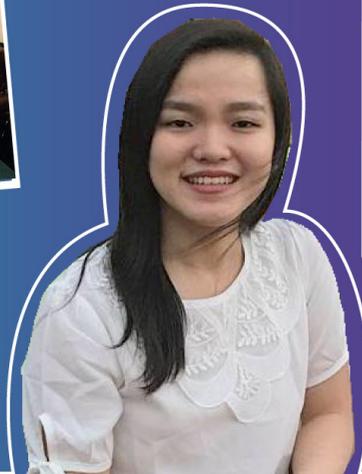
what's your P&A Story?



Celebrating my mom's birthday last January 20, 2018



Short vacation with hubby in Siargao, Philippines - April 14, 2017



With P&A Cebu Fam during the Blessing of our new office in FLB Corporate Center on March 8, 2016

Christine Marie "Tin" Uy-Yap

Current Position & Employer: Accounting Head, TFE Sales Marketing Corporation

and Pescadores Seaview Suites, Inc.

Previous Position in P&A: Semi-Senior, Cebu Tax & Outsourcing

When have you felt proud being part of P&A Grant Thornton?

P&A Grant Thorn gives you the chance to manage different engagements. ICs, Managers, and Partners shows you the way around, but also allows you to move forward as an employee, and as a representative to clients. It is because of these that no matter how big or small our contribution was to an engagement, every time we finish one, I've always felt proud knowing that we were able to meet the client's needs and expectations, knowing that we are able to move through the guidance and freedom given to us by P&A.

During your time in P&A, how did you create value for our clients, your fellow employees, and our communities?

For clients, we go an extra mile by providing personalized services. We make sure we give attention to details, and always ready to address clients concerns as they arise. We make sure that we provide satisfaction to our clients. With my colleagues, and for the communities, I always make sure to I contribute to a productive collaboration, and always try to learn from each other. On a note, I saw that because the people in P&A care about each other, we yield faster and better results. We take ownership of a job, a decision or problem and worked through it without feeling like we had to go up the chain to get things done.

What's Happening: #PAGT30YearsUnlimited

what's your P&A Story?

what's your P&A Story?



Joined one of our client's Fun Run



My family



Training at Davao Branch with Audit Partner Mabel E. Comedia



A public seminar while in P&A

Tom Louis Herrera

Current Position & Employer: State Auditor II, Commission on Audit
Previous Position in P&A: Semi-Senior, Davao Audit

When have you felt proud being part of P&A Grant Thornton?

P&A shaped my career as an auditor-enabler. I started from basic work load as a Junior until I was given a tough assignment/task in my last year in P&A as a Semi-Senior. It is an honor to have worked with great mentors and colleagues and to handle Key accounts of the company. I was given assignments within Davao City and provinces up to the farthest Western Visayas Region, Iloilo City. It was really a great opportunity to learn through such experience despite the pressure and workload. I can say that I had fun while working in P&A.

How did P&A help you unlock your unlimited potential?

I would not be an effective accounting/auditing professor if not because of the worthy experience and learning I had with P&A. Even today, I brought with me not only the knowledge and skills as an auditor but the values and techniques on how to be a good one. In my Semi-Senior year, my manager trained me to conduct trainings for juniors in the branch level. I developed mentoring and public speaking skills as a result of this exercise. Now, I am part of the pool of trainers/Training Management Team at the Commission on Audit - Regional Office XI.

What is your fearless forecast for P&A Grant Thornton?

P&A will always have a special place in my heart whenever I go and whatever my career in the future would bring me. I feel that I truly belong to this family. I can see P&A as a growing company with increasing number of employees that embody its values apart from the quality services it could offer. P&A will be the preferred firm by many companies because of its value added services and nurturing way of handling transactions for its clients.

What's Happening:
#PAGT30YearsUnlimited

what's your P&A Story?

what's your P&A Story?



My family



"The married life"

Bless & Reinier Prudente

Bless Garnace-Prudente

Current Position & Employer: Senior Manager (Internal Audit), Link Asset Services (UK)
Position in P&A: Senior, Audit

How did P&A help you unlock your unlimited potential?

P&A's work culture is not strictly hierarchical in the sense that they have an open-door policy. Even if you are a junior staff, you can report directly to a manager, a senior manager, or even to a partner, and this has helped me build my self-confidence. The busy seasons, on the one hand, has taught me to be hardworking – it has surprised me at how my mind functions even with little or lack of sleep. It's not all work though, I remember having fun during my OT/ON days by secretly taking pictures of staff sleeping! Haha! I also remember having my earphones plugged, singing while preparing clients' financial statements during 3-5am when it's quiet and most employees are taking their naps. P&A (the culture, the work and the people) has prepared me for my career in the UK.

What's your most unforgettable collaborative experience whilst you were at P&A?

The making of the yearly P&A Christmas video specifically the one with the High School musical theme and the one with the Pinoy Ako (P&A version) theme song. It's the biggest collaboration of the year and almost everyone at P&A take part in it. I remember the video was the highlight of the P&A Christmas Party and everyone was looking forward to watching it.

Reinier Prudente

Current Position & Employer: Vice President (Internal Audit), Barclays (UK)
Position in P&A: Senior, Audit

When have you felt proud being part of P&A Grant Thornton?

A lot of moments, big and small, come to mind that make me proud to have been part of P&A. I was part of two different audit engagements that won Founders Awards in back to back years. I also remember instances when I gave my clients advice on certain accounting standards, or when I coached my staff on audits. Knowing that you added value to your clients and to your colleagues make me happy to have started my career in P&A. Lastly, I am also proud that I met my wife through P&A!

How did P&A help you unlock your unlimited potential?

P&A helped me realise the value of resilience in terms of pushing through your objectives in the face of challenging situations or challenging stakeholders. Being given opportunities to take on a variety of clients and exposure to senior management helped me boost my self-confidence and prepare me for my roles outside P&A.

What's Happening: #PAGT30YearsUnlimited



ITL 2018 - Alumni Issue 09

In the Loop - Alumni Issue

In celebration of P&A Grant Thornton's 30th Anniversary, this bulletin features former P&Aers and their unlimited potential for growth. Let us experience how P&A Grant Thornton was through their stories.



What's your P&A Story?



Out-of-town engagement in Bukidnon last 2006



My husband and I in Brooklyn, New York



With the recipients of the Quality Award and Mike McGuire (CEO) and Jeff Burgess (National Managing Partner-Audit) during GT's annual Audit Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. last August 2016



P&A Outing last May 2007 at Paradise Island Beach Resort, Samal

Rhodora Pantillo-Chua

Current Position & Employer: Experienced Manager – Financial Services, Grant Thornton LLP (New York Office)

Previous Position in P&A: Senior, Audit Division Davao

What's your P&A Story?

Rhodora Pantillo-Chua

Current Position & Employer: Experienced Manager – Financial Services, Grant Thornton LLP (New York Office)

Previous Position in P&A: Senior, Audit Division Davao

When have you felt proud being part of P&A Grant Thornton?

Being able to deliver and exceed my client's expectations had always made me proud. However, one of my most cherished moments being part of P&A Grant Thornton was being able to experience the kind of company culture it had. We were a team of about 20 people at that time in the Davao office - small enough to cultivate lasting relationships with co-workers and big enough for everyone to grow and spread their wings. I am proud and extremely happy that I had the chance to experience this kind of environment during the formative years of my career.

How did P&A help you unlock your unlimited potential?

I came to work at P&A Grant Thornton (Davao office) right after graduation and it was my very first exposure to the business world. My first assignment was to audit and perform due diligence work on a chain of rural banks all over Mindanao. I was out of town for the most part of busy season (only came home on weekends to do my laundry!) and had to go to areas I have never been to, some in highly critical areas. There was even a time when I couldn't come home for two weeks because I was stuck in a war zone in Cotabato province! I also remember being so nervous talking to clients and scared that I might ask all the wrong questions. Each bank had a different set of client team and I had to adapt and build relationships with each of them. Looking back, I think that experience taught me a great deal of independence and responsibility. It also helped me build my self-confidence, expand my network, develop my technical skills and harness my agility. I believe my challenging yet rewarding first year experience in P&A Grant Thornton shaped me and ultimately led me to pursue a long term career in audit, particularly in the financial services industry.

What is your fearless forecast for P&A Grant Thornton?

I have no doubt that P&A Grant Thornton will thrive well and continue its growing success in the next 30 years and more.

What's Happening: #PAGT30YearsUnlimited



ITL 2018 - Alumni Issue 09

In the Loop - Alumni Issue

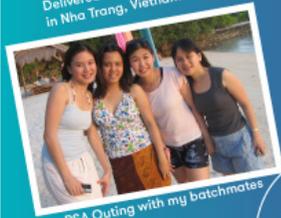
In celebration of P&A Grant Thornton's 30th Anniversary, this bulletin features former P&Aers and their unlimited potential for growth. Let us experience how P&A Grant Thornton was through their stories.



what's your P&A Story?



Delivered a speech as the Philippine representative in Nha Trang, Vietnam



P&A Outing with my batchmates



My Family at Disneyland, California

Mariness "Kim" Ledezma

Current Position & Employer: Legal Counsel, AC Energy, Inc., an Ayala Company
Previous Position in P&A: Junior, Audit Division Davao

what's your P&A Story?

Mariness "Kim" Ledezma

Current Position & Employer: Legal Counsel, AC Energy, Inc., an Ayala Company
Previous Position in P&A: Junior, Audit Division Davao

When have you felt proud being part of P&A Grant Thornton?

Because of the wide range of industries P&A Grant Thornton handles, I was exposed to different sectors including banking and manufacturing, which I both love. I am proud how P&A continues to expand their network to deliver professional services and develop strategic plans for their clients.

How did P&A help you unlock your unlimited potential?

I became a part of P&A Grant Thornton right after college, and having it to be my first job has been an eye-opening experience. P&A taught me to be disciplined, determined and committed to whatever tasks or deliverables assigned to me, and most importantly, P&A has given and taught me skillset and knowledge that are foundations of all business, and all organizations.

Let's Keep In-touch!

Help us reach out to our former colleagues, and friends!

Connect with us by joining our Facebook and Viber community via:

www.facebook.com/groups/PnAGTAlumni

<http://bit.do/PAGTAlumniViber14-18>

<http://bit.do/PAGTAlumniViber08-13>

You may also connect through

dennis.salipsip@ph.gt.com

+63917 550 9744

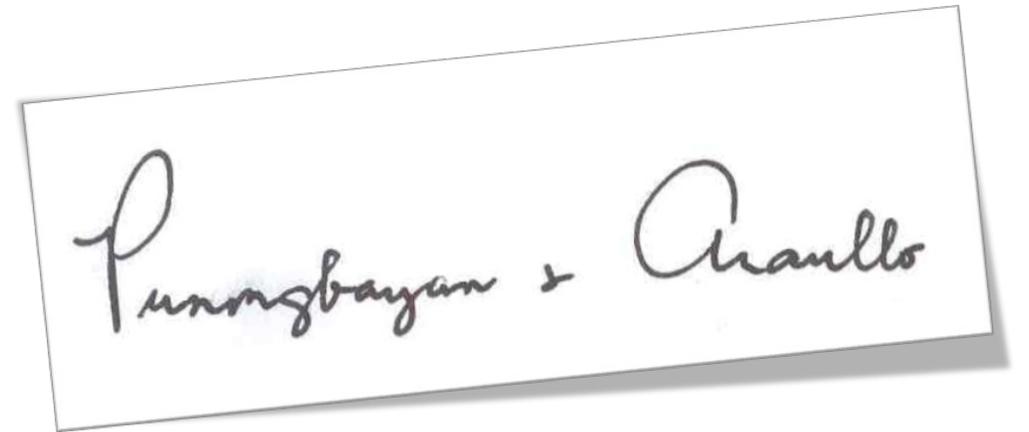
+632 988 2288 loc. 714

Let us stay connected, and continue to strengthen our relationships! Help us in creating an alumni community where we can exchange ideas or simply catch up.



Highlights

THROWBACK @ 29



As we look in retrospect of our yields, and our objectives for the year 2020, it is indulging to note, that we can say proudly: “we are getting there – with our people, for our people.”



"All the News That's Fit to Print." **The P&A GT Bulletin** THE WEATHER. Unsettled Tuesday; Wednesday, fair, cloudy moderate southerly winds, becoming variable. 6/27 For full weather report see Page 28.

Celebrating 29 Years of Success!



Ben Punongbayan has been a leader in the Philippine Accounting profession for over 50 years. His five decades of experience in public accounting in the Philippines, Malaysia, and the US include top management roles.

Throughout his career, Ben has received various accolades from different organizations. He was conferred Most Outstanding CPA in Public Practice and Parangal San Mateo by PICPA, Outstanding Professional



Upper row from left to right: Wowie Roguel, Tax partner; Lina Figueroa, Tax Principal; Olivier Aznar, Tax Partner; Lea Roque, Head of Tax Advisory and Compliance; Jun Cuaresma, COO and Managing partner; Marivic Espano, Chairperson and CEO; Mhycke Gallego, Head of Knowledge Management and Advisory Services partner; Third Librea, Chief Information Officer and Head of Advisory Services; Jessie Carpio, Head of Business Process Solutions;



Joe Araullo spent over 14 years in top management positions in a group of companies that included the country's largest commercial bank. In his various roles, he has been a pioneer, a leader, and an instrument of positive change. Although Joe officially retired from the firm in June 2003 he remains to be active in the Philippine financial community.

Joe was president of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) in 1985 and 1986, and of the



Highlights #Throwback@29

Celebrating the 29th anniversary at P&A offices

"All the News That's Fit to Print." **The P&A GT Bulletin** THE WEATHER. Unsettled Tuesday Wednesday, fair, cooler, moderate easterly winds, becoming variable. 8-17 for the weekend with a high 18.

Celebrating 29 Years of Success!





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Throughout his career, Ben has received various accolades from different organizations. He was conferred Most Outstanding CPA in Public Practice and Parangal San Mateo by PICPA, Outstanding Professional of the Year in the Field of Accountancy by PRC, and Lifetime Achievement Award by ACPAPP.



Joe Araullo spent over 14 years in top management positions in a group of companies that included the country's largest commercial bank. In his various roles, he has been a pioneer, a leader, and an instrument of positive change. Although Joe officially retired from the firm in June 2003, he remains to be active in the Philippine financial community.

Joe was president of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (PICPA) in 1985 and 1986, and of the Bankers Institute of the Philippines in 1985. In 1992, PICPA honored him as Most Outstanding CPA in Public Practice.

Meet our People.

Reaching 29 years was not easy, but thanks to excellent leadership and top-grown talents, we were able to lead the business.

"All the News That's Fit to Print." **The P&A GT Bulletin** THE WEATHER. Unsettled Tuesday Wednesday, fair, cooler, moderate easterly winds, becoming variable. 8-17 for the weekend with a high 18.

Celebrating 29 Years of Success





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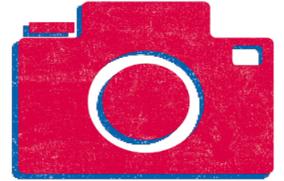


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Highlights #Throwback@29

During our 29th Anniversary, we brought back our precious and unforgettable memories in P&A sharing our throwback photos in the photo contest.



JEREMEH PEÑAREJO

(Former Audit-Davao Junior)

OUTSTANDING PEOPLE FOR AN OUTSTANDING FIRM

March 2003

What makes P&A different among others is its ability to recognize the abilities, efforts and most of all, loyalty of its workforce. P&A stood for 29 years cultivating and emanating the CLEARR values in each individual. In this throwback picture, we see Ms. Tess Antepassado (PSSD Supervisor), granted with a loyalty award by former partners, the late Mr. Vic Mamalateo and Atty. Benedicta Du-Baladad. Over the course of the sojourn of P&A from Ernst & Young all the way to becoming a member firm of Grant Thornton Int'l, P&A's culture of recognizing abilities, efforts and loyalty continues to ablaze, unwavering despite hurdles of each passing time.

Highlights #Throwback@29



LUDY OCAMPO

(PSSD Supervisor)

MOVE OVER, MOCHA GIRLS!

1998

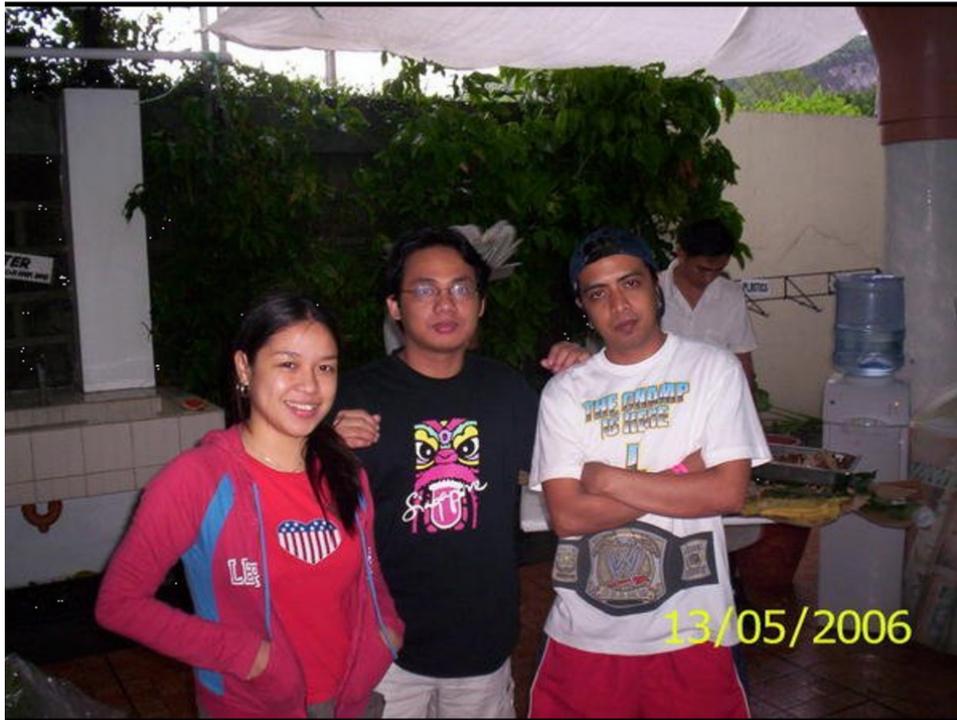
Long before Mocha Girls rose to fame, our Execuvite Beauties were the reigning dancing queens of Makati! This picture [was] taken during the 1998 P&A Christmas Party at Renaissance Hotel (now known as the New World Makati Hotel). With Ms. Ludy Ocampo (PSSD Supervisor, front, right), Anna Santos (PSSD Supervisor, back, right) and Marge Antonio (PSSD Supervisor, back center).

These beautiful executive secretaries then used to be the grand slam performers at every P&A events.

#ThrowbackKungThrowback

Highlights #Throwback@29

CHEERS FOR PEERS WHO STICK TOGETHER THRU THICK AND THIN (LITERALLY AND FIGURATIVELY!)



STICKING SINCE 2006

ANNE CRISOLOGO

(Former PSSD Senior)

STICKING SINCE 2006

MAY 13, 2006

Cheers for peers who stick together thru thick and thin (literally and figuratively)! PSSD Summer Outing at Splash Mountain Resort, Laguna.



Reminiscing the moments.
Looking back, 29 years ago.



Balik P&Aer

Many have left, but a lot has come back - home is where we always come back to.

Let's look at the stories of Francis Caragay, Jayjay David, and Jhe Carpio, as they share their experiences and insights as Balik P&Aers.



Francis Caragay

Balik P&Aer



“

**there is no such thing as perfection..
learn from your mistakes and build your
strength an dcharacter.”**

Francis worked in Malaysia, as a company coordinator for the APAC countries. And then in March 2016, he went back to P&A as BPS/Outsourcing Assistant Manager.

He obtained his Bachelor’s Degree in Accountancy from the Technological Institute of the Philippines – Manila.

Francis Caragay



Learning/realization while you were away?

I grew and improved a lot in all aspects. I learned that determination and prioritizing are key to achieving our goals. I learned that we always need to think outside the box, and beyond our core in order to succeed.

Message you want to impart? Working at Malaysia and Makati are the same thing. There are a lot of challenges that molded me into the person that I am now. There might be culture barriers among these locations but as long as you feel engaged, you are safe. Of course, the most important thing is to realize that there is no such thing as perfection. Every time I encountered issues with my work, I try to learn from them, and build my strength and character in return. The attitude is to know what we want to do, and to have the determination to do it. We do not only inspire confidence on ourselves, we also inspire confidence in those around us especially in people we feel responsible with, be it work or

Why did you leave P&A? Two reasons moved me when an opportunity knocked the last time – supporting my family and working-travelling overseas. As a person who wishes to earn more to support the family, I grabbed the opportunity with its extra incentive of travelling and touring around other places.

What did you do? I took a challenging position within the company. I was the coordinator for each APAC country's Local HR and their payroll providers. Aside from the normal payroll, I was also in-charge with creating policies to strengthen, and stabilize the organization's procedural and systemic facets.

Why did you come back? Leaving P&A and the Philippines also had its disadvantages, especially missing my family, and the career I have developed. So, I went back.. to pursue my career, and to impart my experiences and learnings to my fellow Filipinos and to P&A Grant Thornton.

Jay-Jay David
Balik P&Aer



“

I realized then that it if it was hard to seize opportunities in the Philippines, it was harder to make it through abroad. Despite that, you need to keep your head up and carry on.”

Jay-Jay was initially hired as Audit Junior on November 2010. He went back to P&A on October 2015 as an Audit Manager.

He obtained his Bachelor’s Degree in Accountancy from Holy Angel University as a Magna Cum Laude.

Jay-Jay David



Why did you leave P&A? In August 2014, I decided to leave P&A to venture on career opportunities outside the country, but a few months later, I found myself back in my soil country and yet on another Firm.

What did you do? I joined Moore Stephens International Limited in UAE as Senior Auditor. When I decided to come back to the Philippines, I first joined Shell Business Service Centre – Manila as part of the US Lubes Tax Administration Team, providing guidance for US taxes on lubricants and marines focusing on value and volume-based taxes.

Why did you come back? I finally went back to P&A months after my services with Shell. I came back primarily because of the new role offered to me – it seemed very exciting to expand my career in my home country. I saw the opportunity to grow and seized it!

Learning/realization while you were away?

Working abroad was hard, I was homesick just after a few months – but I carried on. I knew it will be challenge to venture abroad, but I also knew that I would learn a lot so I took the plunge. I realized then that it if it was hard to seize opportunities in the Philippines, it was harder to make it through abroad. Despite that, you need to keep your head up and carry on.

Message you want to impart? I knew that huge responsibility and challenge are awaiting for me here at P&A Grant Thornton. There are boundless opportunities for me here at our Firm, and I want to take all of those opportunities given to me. Although I may not be the smartest fellow here, I know I picked the smartest colleagues to work with, and with their help and support, I will be able to work out the opportunities given to me.



Jhe Carpio

Balik P&Aer



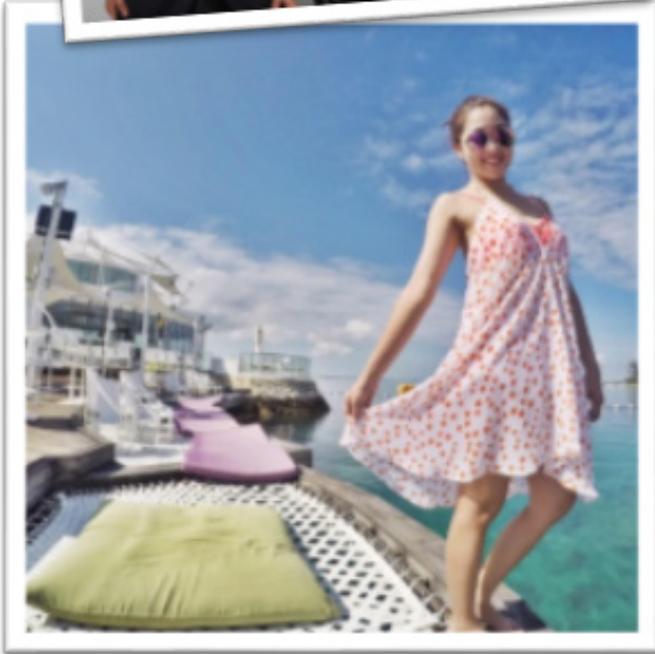
“

I guess I can say that my relationship with P&A is my own version of first love never dies... Ive always known that in P&A, I can learn and experience all the things that I still need to know, the best way possible.”

In 2013, Jhe left P&A to become an Accounting Area Head for one of the most prestigious retail companies in the country, and in October 2016 she went back to P&A as an Audit Manager.

She obtained her Bachelor’s Degree in Accountancy from the Far Eastern University – Manila.

Jhe Carpio



Why did you leave P&A? Back in 2011, I decided to leave P&A after my first busy season, because I got exhausted, and I didn't think I can do another round of it, but two weeks after handing in my resignation, I took it back. But after my 3rd busy season, in December 2013, I handed in a resignation again, and this time, I left for what I thought was a greener pasture.

What did you do? I joined one of the most prestigious retail companies in the country, as an Accounting Area Head. I handled their branches in North Luzon, for all the accounting reports on general accounting, receivables, payables, and inventory accounting.

Why did you come back? Three years in, I suddenly found myself missing all my experiences as an Auditor in P&A. Although I was enjoying my work then, when I heard that P&A was looking for additional audit managers, I knew that I needed to come back.

I guess I can say that my relationship with P&A is my own version of “first love never dies”. I always find myself wanting to be with P&A no matter how long I have been away. I've always known that in P&A, I can learn and experience all the things that I still need to know, the best way possible.

Learning/Realization while you were away?

We can really never have the “perfect” job. It is just a matter of priority – what aspect of the job is our priority? Besides, what we consider “the right job” for us today, may not be the right job for us tomorrow. We just have to keep up with the constant change around us, and I think that is what make things perfect.

Message you want to impart? There are two things that I want to share: No job is easy, and that we should always keep our relationships with everyone whatever the circumstance is.

■ Pursuing New Horizons

Outside P&A and the Philippines



Allen Tongol

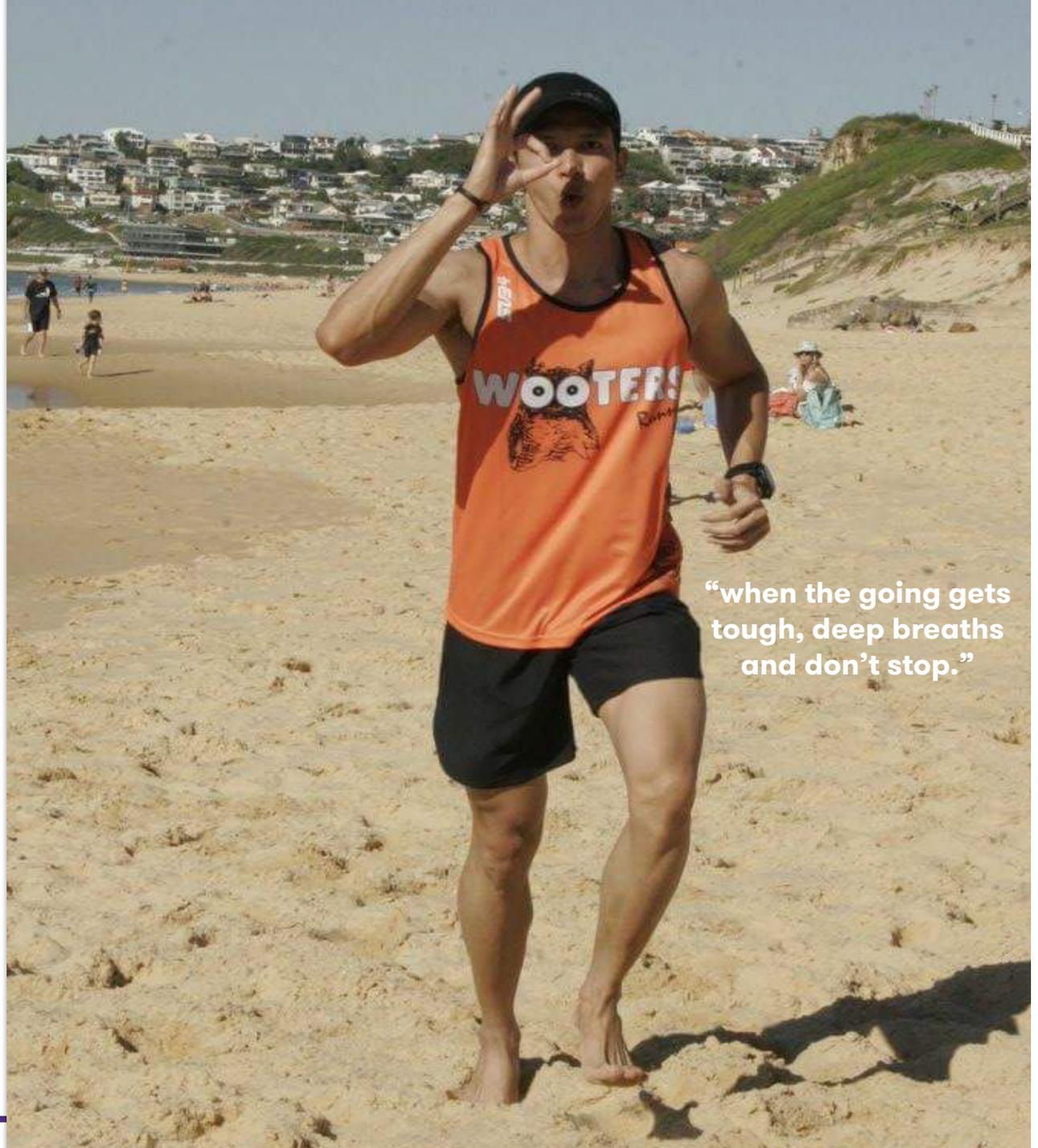
Allen is currently in Australia continuing his career as an accountancy professional.

What do you miss most about P&A?

Surely the food and drinks, be it early lunches at BPI, dawn breakfast at Jollibee, Chowking or Macca's, end-of-busy season drinks at the office, summer outing or Christmas party. More than the food and drinks, I miss the pep talks during these occasions, when you can speak with your manager or partner about anything under the sun. Should I miss the people as well? Of course, I do! They are really the ones I miss the most.

Learning/realization while you are away?

I realized how lucky I am to be trained the P&A way, and how much resilience I have developed. During our first busy season as In-charges (IC), some batch mates and I were assigned to big clients which are



“when the going gets tough, deep breaths and don’t stop.”



This experience brought out the better of me, both professionally and personally. It made me realize, when the going gets tough, deep breaths and don't stop.

Message you want to impart?

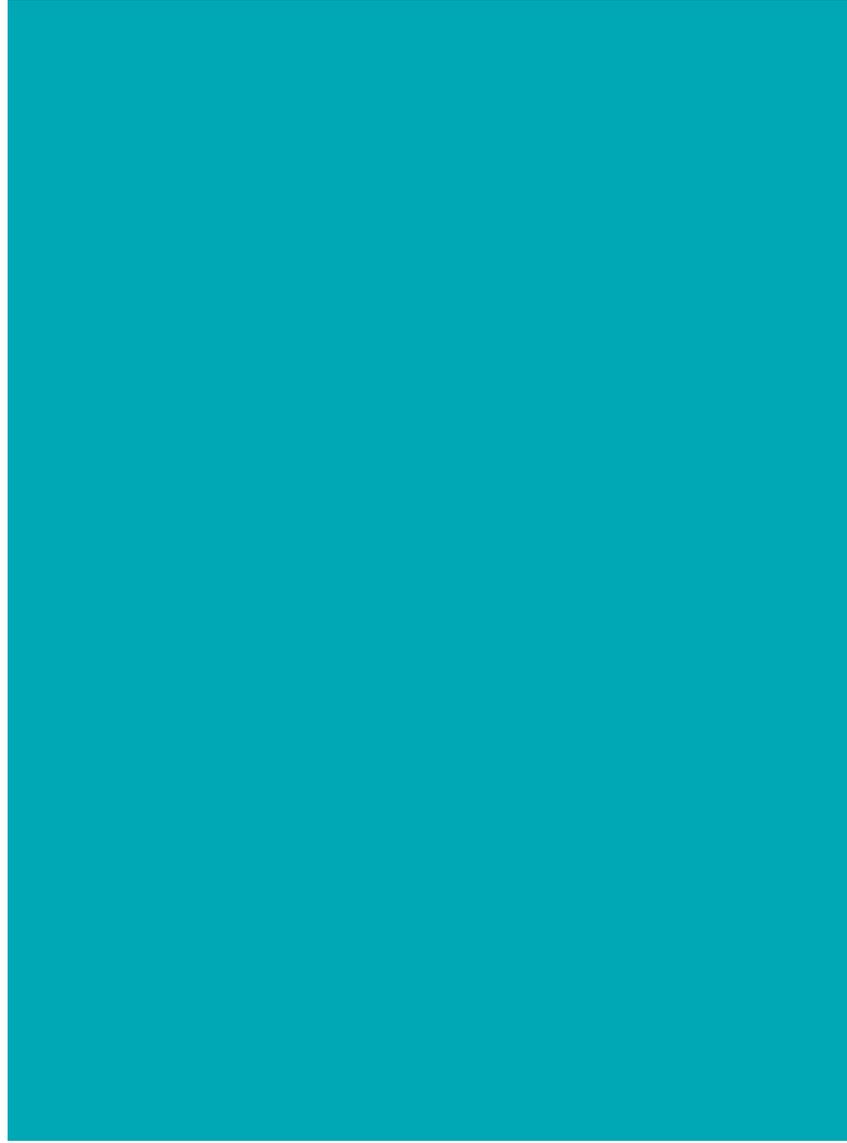
Thank you P&A for being my first workplace, it's an honor to start my career with you. To LDC, NJD and MSB, thank you for the trust and patience. To RAP, thanks for being the Sean Maguire to my Will Hunting, and for always putting me under the pump. To EAP, thanks for always reminding me that Audit is not just about the brains, but also the heart. Thank you to my boys (JOO, Carlo and Nabs) for the 2AM Cobras and central barbeque nights. Thank you to all my teammates for slaying the busy season and sticking through. Thank you P&A for all the good times!

ON THE SPOTLIGHT



Let us look back of some of the proudest moments of outstanding P&Aers.

Their great work, big or small, rightfully deserves our congratulations.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Two Primus Awardees made it into the Grant Thornton International News as official nominees to the Grant Thornton Experience (GTX) Awards.

Tax Manager **Richard Ibarra** (2017 Primus), was nominated for the **“Best Individual Client Experience”** while, PSSD Supervisor **Poncing Dela Cruz** (Primus), was nominated for the **“Best Individual People Experience.”**



Shown above: Richard and Poncing with their GTX Signature Jacket and Tshirts.

On the Spotlight

CONGRATULATIONS!

BPS/Outsourcing Director **Janis M. Maghinay** was elected as one of the ***Board of Directors*** of ACPACI for FY 2017-2018.



 On the Spotlight

CONGRATULATIONS!

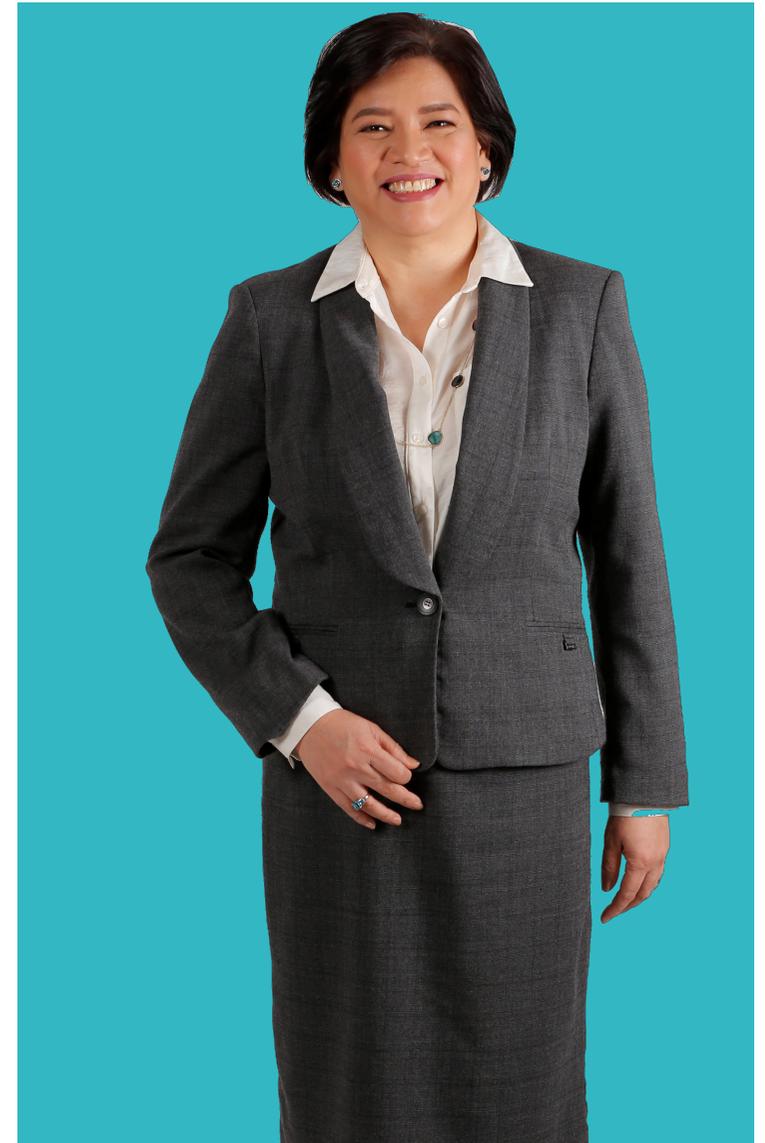
The years 2017 and 2018 have lined up for our Chairperson and CEO **Marivic C. España** - she celebrated her **20th anniversary** with the Firm, she was elected the **PICPA Regional Director for Metro Manila Region FY 2017-2018**, and she was recently elected as one of the Board of Directors of FINEX where she will serve as the **2018 FINEX President**, and **2019 FINEX Director**.



MCE with her Michael Cacnio sculpture, "Reach."



Oath-taking as the President of FINEX



CONGRATULATIONS!



Our Managing Partner & COO **Leonardo D. Cuaresma, Jr.** was awarded two prestigious awards last 2016

- the **“Lifetime Achievement Award”** from ACPAPP
- the **“Most Outstanding CPA in Public Practice”** from PICPA

In 2017, he was also appointed as a member of the **Philippine Financial Reporting Standards Council** and was re-appointed as member of the **Philippine Auditing & Assurance Standards Council**.

He is also seated as the FY 2017-2018 **PICPA National Chair for Good Governance, and Performance Governance System Committee**.



On the Spotlight

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our Audit Partner **Boyet V. Murcia III** celebrated his *20th year anniversary* with Firm, he also received a couple of recognition from PICPA Southern Metro Manila Chapter

- ***SMMC Ex-Officio***
- ***“Outstanding Chapter President in Leader”*** award (72nd ANC)
- ***“Continuing Excellence Award for PICPA SMMC”*** (72nd ANC)



RVM with his “Reach” sculpture



RVM during the 72nd ANC, receiving his awards from PICPA SMMC



On the Spotlight

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our Audit Partner **Ramil L. Nañola** has been elected as one of the ***Board of Trustees, Corporate Treasurer of ACPAPP Foundation*** for FY 2018.



RLN during ACPAPP Induction Ceremonies.



 On the Spotlight

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our Advisory Services Partner, and Head of Knowledge Manage Group, **Mhycke C. Gallego** received a **“Special Achievement Award for Professional Development”** from PICPA during their 71stANC, and **“Outstanding CPA for Public Practice”** during their 72nd ANC.



MCG during the 71stANC, receiving his “Special Achievement Award for Professional Development”



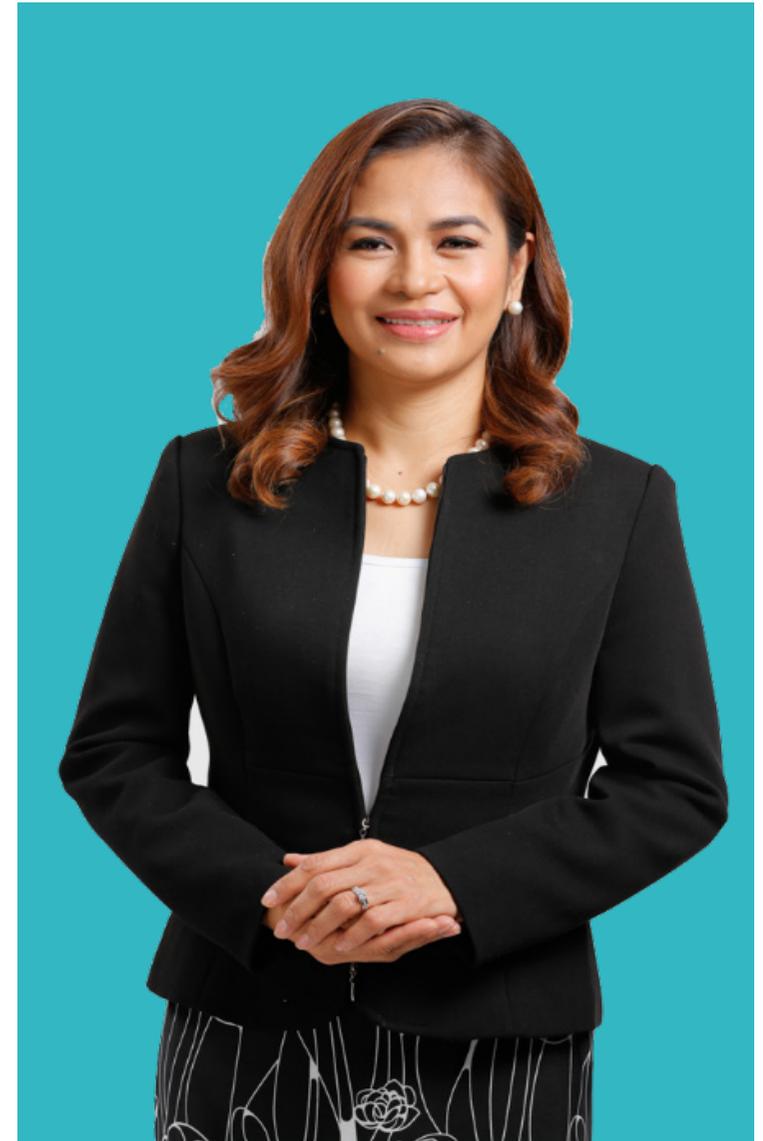
MCG during the 72nd ANC, receiving his “Outstanding CPA for Public Practice” Award.



On the Spotlight

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our Audit Partner, and Head of Markets, **Mai Sigue-Bisnar** received a Continuing Excellence Award, the *“Geographical Area, Region, Chapter & Affiliates Award”* from PICPA during their 71st ANC.



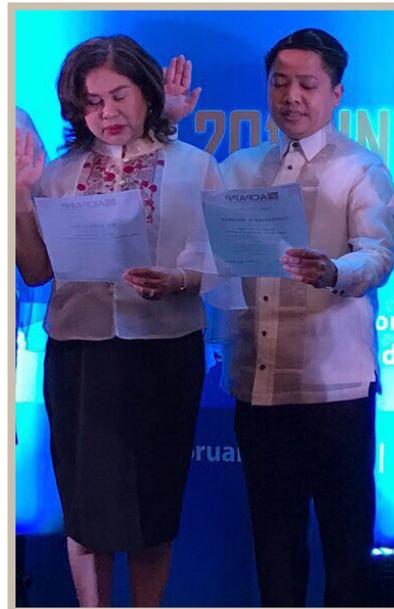
 On the Spotlight

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our Audit Partner, **Chris M. Ferareza** romped off with the *“Rotarian of the Year Award,”* he has also been elected as one of the *Board of Directors (Liaison Director, Meetings & Programs) of ACPAPP* for FY 2018.



CMF receiving his “Rotarian of the Year” Award.



CMF during ACPAPP Induction Ceremonies.



On the Spotlight

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our Audit Partner, **Sheng G. Llovido** has been elected as the *Director of PICPA Southern Metro Manila Chapter* for FY 2017-2018. She is also the *SMMC Treasurer* and Co-Chair for SMMC Membership.



 On the Spotlight

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our Audit Partner **Anton L. Ng** was elected as the ***PICPA Southern Metro Manila Chapter Co-Chair for Membership*** for FY 2017-2018.



 On the Spotlight

CONGRATULATIONS!

Our Tax Partner **Vier D. Aznar** has been elected as the ***Director of PICPA Eastern Metro Manila Chapter*** for FY 2017-2018. He is also the *EMMC VP and Co-Chair for Professional Development*, and *EMMC Co-Chair for Professional Linkages*.



 On the Spotlight

GT in the Community



P&A Grant Thornton goes beyond its corporate duty to its People and its Community. We are one with the rest of GTI Firms who partake in celebrating the Global CSR Day 2016 and 2017.

Global CSR Day

Upholding corporate citizenship, uplifting lives.

P&A Foundation, Inc. through P&A for a Cause (P&Ause) unlocks potential for growth in local communities.

Regardless of rank or position in the company, P&A Grant Thornton employees - from partners down to the staff members - passionately serve and give back to the community.

The Global CSR Day is one of the most awaited engagements in P&A Grant Thornton. Our staff members spearhead community development programs, simultaneously, in our Makati, Cavite, Cebu and Davao offices - we want to create impact, and effect change by being passionately involved in local communities across the world.

On September 22 to 23, 2016, and last September 15, 2017, we globally celebrated Growing Together in the community in more than 95 countries.

#GTintheCommunity

Global CSR Day 2016 & 2017

Makati Main Office



The “IP&Asa ang Pag-asa,” in coordination with ABS-CBN Lingkod Kapamilya Foundation, Inc, involved a clean-up activity in Estero de Pandacan, story telling activities for the children and repainting of their day care center.



“Project Nutri-P&Ack” was done in partnership with International Care Ministries (ICM) and Rise Against Hunger (RAH). The project benefited 30 adopted ultrapoor families from Visayas with 2,160 highly nutritious dehydrated meals or “nutri-packs.”

#GTintheCommunity

Global CSR Day 2016 & 2017

“P&Agkalinga Tungo sa P&Ag-unlad” in partnership with General Trias Maternity & Pediatric Hospital at General Trias, Cavite. Our staff members help boost the recovery of the pediatric patients through storytelling and gift-giving of basic needs for the current and future patients of the hospital.



Cavite Satellite Office

Cavite staff members conducted a mangrove tree-planting activity, “P&Agkalinga” along the coast of Brgy. Papaya in Nasugbu, Batangas. It was done in coordination with the Municipal Environment Natural Resources Office of Nasugbu, Batangas, and with the locals of the community.



#GTintheCommunity

Global CSR Day 2016 & 2017

Cebu Branch



P&A Cebu conducted “P&Ananom,” a tree planting activity and an outreach program for the local farmers of Barangay Bonbon, Cebu City. It was done in coordination with the Community Environment and Natural Resources (CENR) – the operating body of DENR – and with the local representatives of the barangay.



Cebu Branch staff members spearheaded “P&Ahalipay: Handog to Cebu’s Little Angels” in partnership with Cebu City Task Force (CCTF) on Street Children at Sikatuna St, Cebu City. Aside from donating basic commodities, they also conducted talks on health and sanitation awareness.

#GTintheCommunity

Global CSR Day 2016 & 2017



Bridges: News For & About P&A Alumni

Davao Branch

P&A Grant Thornton Davao went to sojourn at the Missionaries of Charity: Home for the Sick and Malnourished at the Juna Subdivision, Matina, Davao City, for project “P&Ag-amuma.”

Our Davao Branch focused on raising the environmental awareness in children through “P&Aglam sa Kinaiyahan” an excursion in the Philippines Eagle Center, Malagos, Davao City. It was participated by 95 Grade 3 students from Malagos Elementary School who had a hands-on experience in environmental and wildlife preservation for our future generation.





April 15 marks the end of the busy season. This year, the season-finale ended on April 17.

As always, to celebrate our success on outlasting yet another busy season, all staff members enjoyed free breakfast and lunch meals.

April 17 is a Free Meals Monday!

April 17 is a Free Meals Monday!



A smile is worth a thousand words.
A glitter of sunshine.





P&A supports “P&Artners’ Cup,” an annual sports festival aimed to promote balance between employee’s work and life.

P&Artners’ Cup 2016 was launched on November 16, 2016, while Season 2 was launched last September 1, 2017.



P&Artners' Cup 2016 & 2017

2016's P&Artners' Cup Season opened at The Zone on November 16 with Basketball and Badminton, and with the "Battle of the Best Muse."

The Ceremonies was closed with "Palarong Pinoy" held at Poblacion Covered Court on November 25.



On September 4, 2017, the P&Artners' Cup kicked-off its second season with the Badminton tournament as its opening games at the Shuttle Master Badminton Center, Makati City, and held its closing and awarding ceremonies with Men's Basketball Finals, and with the Cheer Dance Competition last September 26, 2017 at The Zone Badminton Court, Makati City.

Kiddie Christmas Party

“Christmas is for children.”



“Explore, Dream and Discover” was the theme of 2016’s Kiddie Christmas Party held in KFC Ayala Avenue Branch. It was attended by (almost) 80 little masters and dainty ladies who stood out from the crowd.



On December 20, 2017, still at KFC Ayala, 90 children attended and Glowed during the “Let’s Glow Together Kiddie Christmas Party 2017.” Children dressed up with outfits from the golden eras of the 60s, 70s, 80s, and the 90s.

Kiddie Christmas Party 2016 & 2017



Wrapping up 2016
& 2017 with the best
brightest smiles.

Glitz & Glam Gala

P&A Grant Thornton Christmas Party 2016

The Firm Christmas Party last 2016 was held in Makati Shangri-La Hotel on December 21.

Partners and staff members alike let their Star-Charms shine!





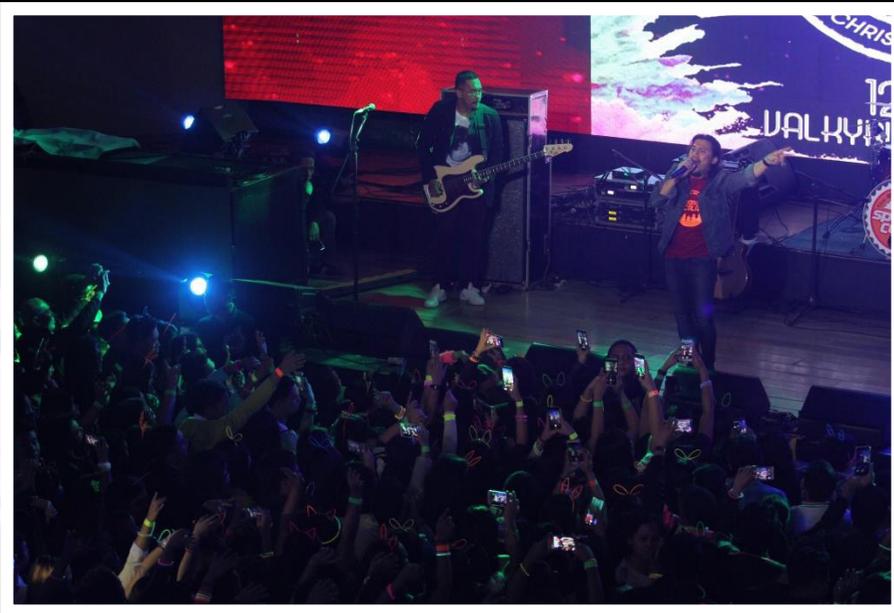
Neon Night Christmas Party

P&A Grant Thornton Christmas Party 2017



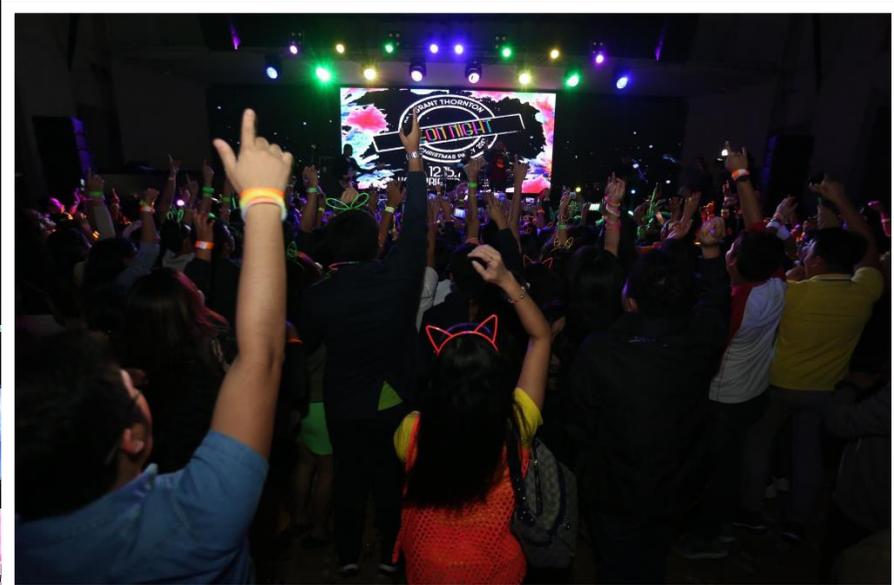
The 2017 Firm Christmas Party was held on December 15 - we conquered Valkyrie Nightclub and colored the night neon!





Neon Night Christmas Party

P&A Grant Thornton Christmas Party 2017



Join our Staff Referral Program.

For *client* sourcing requests, kindly e-mail your referrals to
dennis.salipsip@ph.gt.com

Help us unlock remarkable potential and be eligible to get the “hot skill” referral incentive!



know more at **www.grantthornton.com.ph/Careers**

Help us get
people just
like

YOU.

OUR CORNER OFFICE

Bridges will not be possible without your share of story.
We hope you continue to share your journey with us.
No story is too small.



BE PART OF BRIDGES



Aizel is a certified Internal Auditor, but she decided to put her career on hold to become a full-time mother to her son, Carlos.

From being a woman on-the-go, her life has become all about her precious guapito, Carlos, and how a mother can transform simple activities into Montessori-inspired learning.

*If you want to Learn Through Play with Mommy A, visit her blog at:
<https://mommya.com.ph/>*



Learn Through Play with Mommy A

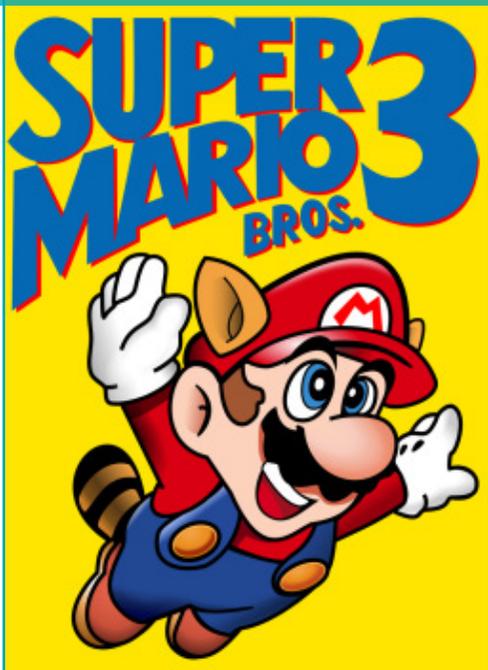
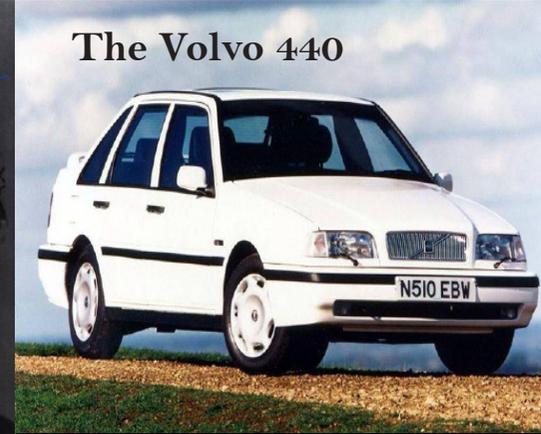
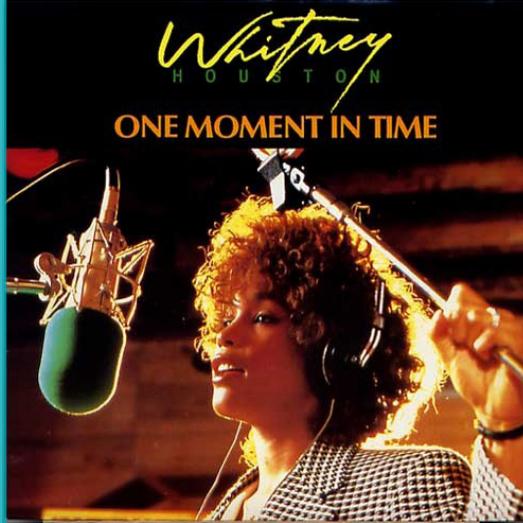
- Children learn best through play -



Aizel Munlawn Tomas & son, Carlos
Former AS Lead Consultant
Now: Full-time Mother

OUR CORNER OFFICE

10 THINGS
THAT WILL
ALSO
TURN 30
THIS 2018



Let's tickle your brain!

How much do you know about P&A?

Highlight the answers to these ten questions, take a snap of your answer, and send it to km.hebron@ph.gt.com.

Get a chance to win P500-worth of SM Gift Certificates. First one to send the correct answer wins.



OUR CORNER OFFICE

P	U	N	O	N	G	B	A	Y	A	N
X	D	G	A	A	A	E	O	P	S	E
H	C	A	S	E	R	R	T	v	S	E
U	U	A	W	A	S	E	Y	A	V	N
D	L	L	S	U	N	R	R	X	D	T
A	F	I	X	A	A	A	C	D	E	E
D	J	K	T	U	V	S	A	D	D	R
D	S	A	R	A	R	E	E	D	A	P
A	A	B	C	C	F	D	A	A	E	R
R	E	A	A	A	A	A	D	E	A	I
F	S	F	C	D	V	B	H	Y	T	Z
G	F	H	O	L	L	U	A	R	A	E
N	W	R	T	G	B	J	U	U	E	R
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E	H	K	I	U	Y	T	G	B	I	N
H	V	A	N	T	O	N	N	H	R	T
S	B	G	H	Y	T	E	R	D	P	S
A	E	U	Y	T	G	Y	V	C	R	T
D	S	V	I	N	S	D	F	F	E	E
G	S	S	E	N	E	Y	U	I	T	Y
V	Z	H	X	N	J	T	P	O	N	O
B	S	A	D	I	N	R	E	V	E	B

- 1 Office location of P&A GT since 2013?
- 2 P&A was a member of what international firm before Grant Thornton? (Initials)
- 3 & 4 Original Founders (BRP, JGA)
- 5 What month was the firm founded?
- 6 Where is the first office located?
- 7 To date, P&A has grown to more than 800 people. Question: how many CPAs did we start with?
- 8 Who is the youngest partner? (by age, nickname)
- 9 Who is the latest partner invited into the partnership? (Nickname)
- 10 Who holds the record of the fastest to get elevated into partnership? (Nickname)

IT IS OUR AIM TO CELEBRATE YOU AS FORMER P&AERS, AND TO BRIDGE RELATIONS WITH YOU.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THIS ISSUE, AND CONTINUE TO SUPPORT FUTURE BULLETINS.

GRANT THORNTON PHILIPPINES

A DYNAMIC ALTERNATIVE

AUDIT & ASSURANCE

We deliver value-added audit and assurance services to our clients, helping them manage their fiscal responsibilities with prudence and foresight.

TAX ADVISORY & COMPLIANCE

We are well-equipped to provide you with innovative yet practical solutions to minimize your tax exposure by means of legitimate tax planning and regular updates on the changing taxation system.

ADVISORY SERVICES

Our advisory services are designed to contribute to your long-term success and competitive strength, and we work hard to provide you with proper systems and capabilities to implement.

BUSINESS PROCESS SOLUTIONS/ OUTSOURCING

We see ourselves as your partner: We provide solid, first-rate support for your key accounting and administrative activities, such as outsourced accounting, payroll, and accounting-related tasks.

JAPAN DESK

Currently we provide services to about 200 Japanese companies. To local business owners and Japanese companies who are considering entering the Philippine market

現在約200社の日本企業へのサービスを提供しています。現地経営者、フィリピンマーケットへ進出を検討している日本企業の皆様へより

