



# POC Online

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Excellence • Respect • Friendship

## Giving a helping hand

With the tragedy brought by Typhoon Ondoy (international name “Ketsana”) this day, September 26, the Philippine Olympic Committee and POC Online call on all Filipinos to give a helping hand to our countrymen who have been adversely affected by this tropical storm, resulting floods, landslides, and other related tragedies.

We extend our deepest condolences to those who have lost their loved ones and pray that the missing will be found.

Let us give our physical, moral, financial, and all other possible support to those who are presently in need, and help those who have suffered recover from this tragedy.

It is said that there is a time for everything. Today is a time for all of us to give a helping hand to our fellow Filipinos in need, and to pray that our country will be spared from further devastation.

**Benjamin I. Espiritu**  
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## POC prepares for meets

PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee (POC) president Jose `Peping' Cojuangco is bound for Korea and Denmark in a week's span to attend two separate congresses set to tackle the hosting of both the Asian Games and the Olympics.

First off the bat is the 2014 Asiad Games in Incheon, where a preliminary conference is going to be held among leaders of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and the different National Olympic Committees (NOCs) within the region.

Cojuangco had been chosen as one of the panelists that will delve on how to make the hosting of the 17th Asiad a success.

During the meeting, the POC chief is also going to bring up ways on how to improve officiating in the meet, especially those involving subjective sports.

Upon returning from Korea, Cojuangco is scheduled to fly to Copenhagen, Denmark for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) Congress where the host for the 2016 Olympics will be announced.

Four major cities are in contention for the staging of the XXXI Olympiad, namely Chicago, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro and Tokyo.

Of the four, only Tokyo previously hosted the Summer Games in 1964 during which the Philippines came close to winning its first ever Olympic gold medal when Anthony Villanueva made it to the championship round of the 57 kg. division of the boxing competitions.

But Stanislav Stepashkin of Soviet Union denied the Filipino pug of the feat and Villanueva settled for the silver medal.

The 2010 Asiad is set Nov. 12 to 27 in Guangzhou, China next year, while London hosts the Olympics three years from now on July 27 to August 12.

## RP Davis Cuppers score

THE RP Davis Cup team hit two birds with one stone when they triumphed recently over New Zealand, 4-1, in their Asia-Oceania Group II tie at the Philippine Columbian Association (PCA) clay court.

Not only did the win assure the Filipino Cuppers of returning into the tough Group I of the premiere international team event in men's tennis next year, but also made their campaign more meaningful after dedicating it to the memory of former President Corazon Aquino and her husband, former Senator Benigno Aquino Jr.

Shortly after clinching the tie, top netters Cecil Mamiit and Treat Conrad Huey each got hold of a big photo frame of the Aquino couple and proudly displayed it for the appreciative crowd to see.

"This is our tribute for all the sacrifices the Aquino couple did for our country," said RP Davis Cup team coordinator Randy Villanueva.

But the tennis official stressed that malice shouldn't be attached to the action of the Filipino netters.

"This is not something political. There's no politics here. Shortly after former President Aquino's burial, the team already decided to do its own tribute to her and the former Senator," Villanueva said.

Through former Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Chairman Philip Juico, a close family friend and former Cabinet secretary during the term of Aquino, the former President's daughter, Pinky Aquino-Abellada, was at courtside when the opening singles matches were held.

With a sizeable yellow-wearing crowd cheering the RP netters in the PCA gallery, the local Cuppers raced to a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five tie as no. 2 Huey beat a cramp-stricken Daniel King-Turner, New Zealand's no. 1 player, 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-0, in the opening singles, before Mamiit scored a straight-set win over Jose Statham, 6-4, 7-5, 6-2.

Not one to take chances, non-playing team captain Chris Cuarto fielded in Mamiit and Huey in the doubles event the following day and came through with a 7-6(4), 6-3, 7-5 victory over the New Zealand tandem of GD Jones and Mikal Statham to clinch the Group II Final tie, 3-0.

"It's definitely a great way to finish. We have been working hard since we started competing in Hong Kong (first round of the competitions) and this is the fruit of all of the hard work," said Mamiit later.

In the non-bearing reverse singles on the final day, returning RP Davis Cupper Johnny Arcilla made it 4-0 with a 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 win over Statham, before Jose Statham prevented the host from scoring a sweep with a 6-1, 7-5 decision over newcomer Elbert Anasta.

The last time the country competed in Group 1 of the Asia-Oceania zone was last year, but a serious injury to doubles specialist and no. 2 player Eric Taino kept the RP netters from scoring a single tie win against Japan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, resulting to their demotion back to Group II at the start of the year.

Mamiit is keeping his fingers crossed the outcome would be different this time.

“I just hope the support will be back again. We lost a little bit of support back then (2008) because we lost in Group I. But this is a new opportunity for all of us. It’s still a long road to Group I and we have to work hard now and take care of the right situation the right way,” he said.

## RP cage belles put up good fight

THE RP Discovery women's national team may have failed in its bid for promotion in Level 1 of the FIBA-Asia Championship, but the Filipinas didn't end up their campaign without giving it a good fight.

Home after the week-long meet (Sept. 17-24) in Chennai, India, the team mentored by Heidi Ong finished with a respectable 3-2 card and a fourth place finish in Level 2 of the tournament.

In comparative rankings overall, the cage belles finished seventh out of the 11 teams that saw action in the biennial event which served as the qualifier for the 2010 FIBA World Championship for Women slated in the Czech Republic from Sept. 23 to Oct. 3.

The 7th place finish is actually the highest for the Filipinas since ending up fourth place during the 1984 edition of the tournament in Shanghai, China.

Significantly, out of the three wins they registered in Level 2, one came at the expense of Southeast Asian rival Malaysia, 61-55, during the team's opening game last Sept. 17. Sylvia Marie Valencia led all scorers with 17 points.

The Malaysians eventually topped Level 2 with a 0-0 card to earn a crack at a return to Level 1 play, but bungled their shot following a 90-74 loss to India.

But fellow Level 2 team Lebanon, reinforced by naturalized player and former WNBA stalwart Chantelle Anderson, was lucky enough as it subdued Thailand, 83-58, to make it in Level 1.

Tournament format calls for the top two from Level 2 earning a playoff against the bottom two of Level 1 for promotion in the next edition of the meet.

For their respective setbacks, Malaysia will remain in Level 2, where Thailand had been demoted.

The Filipinas (2-2) actually had a shot at a possible Level 1 promotion entering the final elimination play in the event they beat Sri Lanka and both Malaysia (3-1) and Kazakshtan (3-1) losing their respective games against Uzbekistan and Lebanon.

Although the RP cage belles whipped the Sri Lankans, 70-55 and Lebanon defeated Kazakshtan, 83-58, the Malaysians manage to eke out a thrilling 78-77 win over Uzbekistan to douse off any remaining hopes of the Filipinas from advancing.

The women squad's other victory came against Uzbekistan, 81-73, behind the 22-point, 6-rebound and 6-assist of veteran Joan Grajales.

The RP cage belles lost to Kazakshtan, 71-52, and Lebanon, 78-54.

The rest of the RP women's team is composed of Chovi Borja, Cherrylyn Lubiano, Ma. Ana Fatima Tolentino, Bernadette Mercado, Karen Lomogda, Diana Rose Jose, Cassandra Noel Tioseco, Maria Susan Bambico, Jessamine De Los Reyes and Merciana Arayi.

China regained the title by dethroning Korea, 91-71, while Japan bagged the bronze by routing Chinese Taipei, 72-57.

As the top three finishers, the Chinese, Koreans and Japanese book berths in next year's FIBA World Championship.