

Tropical

BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS
FROM OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS
AROUND THE WORLD

news

JANUARY 2008



Editorial Ramblings

Getting the newsletter published this month has been something of a minor miracle. Both of our computers failed! The laptop has just been returned by the repair shop as I write this, after having had a new motherboard fitted.

I am pleased to report that HP repaired the laptop under guarantee - even though I purchased it in Kuwait. Nice to know some companies honour their international guarantees. Despite protection software, the laptop also received an attack from an internet source. The desktop is still out of commission. I am pleased to say I didn't lose any data because: 1) I back-up anything important onto CD or DVD, and 2) Because I keep my data on separate hard drives to that containing the operating system. Maybe these simple rules can help you too. Consequently, the work I'd already carried out on this newsletter wasn't lost.

We've also been unwell - All of us with a tummy bug which, for a change, didn't affect me too badly. Grace was hit hardest and was really knocked out for over 4 days. Little Lad also had a hard time with it. I'm having a hard time with a recurrence of my injured back caused, this time, by my moving and carrying sacks of rice. I could hardly move at all for a few days afterwards but am at least mobile now but, very sadly, it could mean an end to my teaching life. After a successful interview, I have had to turn down a lucrative technical teaching job because I can't stand around in a classroom or workshop for 5-6 hours a day. Let's hope and pray that my back improves.

Still on the subject of tummy bugs; I hope you will take very seriously what I have written in the *Reflections* pages this month, as it could happen in your country too. I had just completed writing these pages when I received an e-mail from David with a PowerPoint Presentation attached that is highly relevant to what I've written. Such a coincidence is quite remarkable. I hope you spare the time to view that too, as it concerns us all - not just those in the Philippines.

Our Christmas and New Year were very quiet affairs. On Christmas Day we just celebrated with Mum and Dad and Daryll. We also had a surprise visit from some of the family in Olongapo during the afternoon. New Year was a non-entity as we all went to bed before the calendar changed.

We hope and pray that 2008 will be a good year for all our friends and family and that world peace may prevail.

Alan



Photograph above: About to get stuck into the turkey on Christmas Day. Dad, Mum, Daryll, Margie, John, Grace.

Front Cover photograph: Hibiscus flower, seen on our walk to the beach.

Your prayers are needed...

for Paul (Alan's son):

Paul has now returned to Afghanistan after a short break in the UK. See letter from Julie later in this newsletter. We value your continued prayers.

for David and Ruth:

Please continue to pray that David's cancer treatment will be successful.

for Richard (Nadia's friend):



When Richard was working in Saudi Arabia one of his brothers died after falling from a coconut tree. Then, a year later, his mother died. Within the last few weeks his eldest brother has also been killed by a fall from a coconut tree. Please pray for this family.

for Joseph and his friend:

Please continue to pray for Joseph and that he will find the strength and support he needs to resolve his problems. Also, for his friend, David, who is terminally ill.

for Gerry and Sylvia:

These lovely folks need your prayers for Gerry's health in particular and to give Sylvia strength to look after him.

for Terry:

We have just received the following news from our friend Terry, who lives in South Wales:

Just thought I would let you know that I have had a date for my operation. I go into Morryston Hospital at 7-30 am on Sunday the 3rd of February, The Gastric by-pass that I am having is what they call the Rue-En-y. It is a six hour operation using invasive surgery and I should be in hospital for around a week. Or at least, that is what they have told me.

for Jeff and Eunice:

Jeff and Eunice have known Alan since the time he was born and were his mother's best friends for over 70 years. They are both suffering from poor health brought about by old age, and would value your prayers during this difficult time.

for Maribel (Grace's cousin):

Maribel is still working out her family problems and would value your prayers. She has been back and forth to Hong Kong to secure her working visa and is hoping to stay there this time around.

for Leopoldo (Grace's father):

Leopoldo is continuing to make good progress after his operation. However, we do ask the you pray that his diabetes can be kept under control.

Your Letters



We are pleased to introduce this new page to our newsletter and hope that ALL of you will contribute a few words. All letters published will be done so anonymously. Letters may be edited a little, although nothing will be done to change the meaning or context of anything submitted for publication.

The stamp (left) depicts the Hundred Islands National Park which is in Pangasinan, Grace's home province, and near to where used to we live, in Alaminos.

I was starting to worry about you guys - so, great to hear from you this a.m. And I hope you have a bit more fun in the sun today than it seems you have been encountering.

Nothing about (*Ed: the place where I'd been offered a job*) has ever made me feel envious of people heading that way!! Mind you, that said, if I capture a millionaire or strike it lucky in the lottery I could drop in for a weekend just to see what it's all about - but only in summer and only for a look, and after I've done the 5,000 places ahead of that on the list! So I think I'd be thankful for the back problem that got you out of that and know it will go away whereas (*place name*)? - well, if you've got a choice, why go to hell early as someone once said! (*Ed: I would have loved to have gone there as it is a very historic city with friendly people. I'm sure I would have got some memorable photographs there too!*)

I was very interested to read how Bobby Fischer ended up - hadn't realised they'd thrown him in prison in Japan until he finally got rescued by Iceland of all places...that great land of free speech has more moves than any chess game he ever played, I guess. It was interesting to note that Bobby Fischer died aged 64 - the same number of squares as are on a chess board!

So he slung some mud at all their holy cows but what other harm did he actually do - ? Interesting isn't it - a brilliant mind and no-one dares let you listen to it or pay attention to it ...when it moves off the chessboard and puts its finger on some tender truths, perhaps? Instead they suggest he's losing his marbles. Surprising really...what a world. DO we belong in it - but where else can we go?

People are such wicked pragmatists - and we're all so vulnerable. I was just reading how after WWII in Germany the small crimes of petty theft etc., no doubt born of desperate need, shot through the roof. It's easy to be kind and generous if the system allows it but where do the ethics go when times turn sour and we're all back in the survival of the fittest country...and it becomes a game of you steal or die of starvation or your children do?

I actually think we were given brains to avoid putting anyone

into such shocking choice positions and that it is the world leaders who cause that sort of spiral down into the pits...no one can be elevated and advance to a higher dimension if they are starving so those needs must be resolved first but at the same time decency has to be imbued or the aims of the ideal are not achieved - rather a different band of thugs gets into power and they do all the same again.

I'm sure every soldier who fought in those WW's believed that the time was ahead when peace would prevail and no-one would ever contemplate imposing war on earth ever again -- but instead we all plunged down again -- is it any wonder then that people like you and quite a lot of others I know around the world, myself included, find it difficult to fit into the prevailing mood that white washes over the obvious and causes Bobby Fischer to shout never mind the axis of evil look at the evil of the allies and at the same time swing a left hook at the courting of everything Jewish while pulverising Palestine?

I've just been reading through some of the tributes etc. to Sir Edmund Hillary - State funeral etc.. - so felt I'd better be up to date with that. I guess lots of people have a story about him. Mine is when I was on my first ever overseas trip to Australia many, many moons ago - he was on the same flight. So that's as close as I ever got to him. But I did once interview his first wife, who of course some years later came to her tragic end - lovely person who told me all about how to make yak butter tea, something she'd picked up from accompanying him about the globe - luckily I've spared you from that accomplishment!

When does the human race rise above such behaviour, and to a brilliant mind such as his (Fischer) they've had it with polite diplomatic exchanges and crafted platitudes of a Mr. Blair, no, they roar and pinpoint the painful facts.

In such a climate what can we do?

Much love to all

Hi Alan,

I am always so happy to see your newsletter. It has gotten progressively better each time. Your writings are very thoughtful and introspective. I can't even imagine my child fighting in a war.

You and Grace and John look great. The Philippines must be good for you.

I am now ending my 5th semester at Drury university and living in the USA. At times it has been difficult to remain here because I miss traveling and seeing new adventures. On the other hand I have enjoyed being around my family. It takes patience because I really have been away from them a lot of my life. Coming back home is a slow process. Living in the States again has been an adventure in itself. I am a news junkie. I probably watch the news 2-3 hours a day. Sometimes it can blow you away because the media says very little about world events. Mostly stories about someone is found in the mountains that was lost, or the husband who is accused of killing his wife, how to wrap Christmas presents etc.

I love my job so I am very happy about that but still have a feeling that I need to be doing something else. I am lucky because I still have good health and my mental health is good. So many people in the States are medicated because of stress. I really don't think that many people think about the war except that they want the USA to leave Iraq. Not because of the killing but mostly because of the economy.

What are your plans for the future? Are you looking for employment in another country? You're a lucky man to have all of your family members. Keep up your excellent work in journalism.

Hi Alan,

Thanks for the kind thoughts and the invitation. However, if I leave here it will probably be for the UK, weather or no.

I hope and pray that Paul will be safe.

We had 2 of visitors from a) Afganistan and b) Baghdad at our meeting today. The Baghdad visitor told how he was furious because he could not get his old room back in the Hayatt when his plane was cancelled. He stomped out of the hotel just as an Arab bomber entered. The reception area was blown up, just as he got outside.

The courage of those who serve is unbelievable. This guy is on his 3rd tour. However the job situation in the US is pretty desperate.

Hi Alan,

Good to hear from you. One of my friends here is an American called Joey, who has cancer of the neck, but finds the time to call me every day to make sure I am not giving in to depression.

I am on medication every day and go to meetings. The guys keep me company to take my mind off my worries, and it works. Some things have improved, I have a P of A for the lawyer in Sitges, and am going to give one to my friend in Malaga to sell my flat there.

My main worry is the ever changing situation in Thailand. People are beginning to leave and go to the Philippines where they get a friendlier reception and people speak good English.

I am also horrified about the cost of living in UK.

I don't fancy living in Spain any more and if I leave here I will go to the UK. But how can one live at such a cost of living?

I always boasted that I would live to 85. Now I'd rather go at 75. Then I wouldn't have to worry about the future.

There is a friend of mine who, when leaving the breakfast table, says "got to go. I have 2 hours of worrying to do."

Hope Grace gets better soon.

Best regards,

Our family from Toronto, Canada



*Grace with her
Grandmother,
Clavelina Dollaga Avelino*

*- now getting on a bit as she
was born in December 1923.*

*Keep going Gran and you'll
get to be a 100!*

We were very pleased to see some of our family from Toronto, Canada recently. It was Alan's first time to meet them and we all had a great time catching up on each others news.



*Above: Auntie Vee,
Flocerfida Avelino Orilla with her
husband, Rodolfo Orilla, visiting the
Philippines, from Toronto.*

Left: Grace with her Auntie Vee.



These kind folks supported Grace for almost one year while she was attending a course in Computer Programming, in Dagupan City.

Congratulations, Nené and Rodolfo

Many of you will remember Nené, who lived with us for nine months. Now we know the reason why she left!
28 December 2007





Royal Marines Conduct First Afghan Amphibious Operation

Royal Marines from Charlie Company, 40 Commando Royal Marines, training for the first amphibious assault performed in Afghanistan



The following information & above photographs courtesy of the UK Government's Royal Marines website at URL: http://www.royalmarines.mod.uk/units-and-deployments/3-commando-brigade/40-commando-royal-marines/news/news-article.php?article_id=134

Royal Marines conducted the first ever amphibious operation in landlocked Afghanistan last night, Sunday 6 January 2008, by crossing the reservoir at Kajaki Dam to open up a new front against the enemy.

Men from Charlie Company, 40 Commando, carried out the daring covert manoeuvre using small Rigid Inflatable Boats. They were receiving a landing site on the beaches adjoining the huge Kajaki reservoir and after moving into position under the cover of darkness patrolled in sub-zero temperatures to identify front line Taliban positions, crawling within metres of enemy compounds and locating firing points.

Captain Iain Sutherland, Second-in-Command of Charlie Company, said:

“These ops allow us to surprise them from a different flank. They don't know where we're coming from, which hits their morale.”

Their task complete, the marines disappeared into the night, extracting in their boats across the water and back

to their Forward Operating Base.

Although 40 Commando had initially not seen much application for their core amphibious skills in landlocked Afghanistan, some 700 miles from the nearest ocean, they quickly realised that they could adapt their training, known as the toughest in the world.

“Royal Marines Commandos are highly-trained amphibious troops, and it would be a shame to come to a theatre such as Afghanistan and never use those skills that we have trained long and hard for.

“Amphibious operations like this not only allow us to surprise the enemy from a different flank but also give us access to local nationals previously thought to be unreachable, which is key to the success of this ongoing operation. Using unconventional and unexpected methods of movement, we can interact with more civilians as well as significantly disrupting the Taliban in our area, denying them freedom of movement.”

Major Steve Hart, Operations Officer of 40 Commando, paid tribute to the men of Charlie Company: “Reconnaissance patrols both by land and water were carried out to ensure that we could get men ashore and into position, but the key to the success of the operation was, as ever, the courage and skill of the Royal Marines who took part.”

Emily

*Paul and Julie's
daughter*



Paul and Julie's Page

Paul has now returned to Afghanistan. We received the following e-mail and photographs from Julie on 15 January 2008. We ask that you all continue to pray for Paul's safety.

Hello Alan,

Happy New Year to you and the family.

Yes, we miss Paul very, very much and we always pray for his safety. The conditions sound like they are pretty tough at the moment, with rain and snow and sub-zero temperatures. In many ways though, this is a good thing as it means that they are much quieter on the ground.





Emily's



Album



Alan's Reflections

ALAN'S REFLECTIONS

How sad it is to report that the Filipino people have taken away one of life's simple pleasures from our little lad, in fact from all of us really, although it was a particularly important part of his young life, more so perhaps than for us adults. The simple pleasure I'm talking about is that of paddling or swimming in the sea. Little Lad loves the sea. Only a few weeks ago I took him for a walk on the beach. While I turned my back for a few seconds to talk to Grace on the telephone, he headed for the water - laying in the sea - fully dressed!

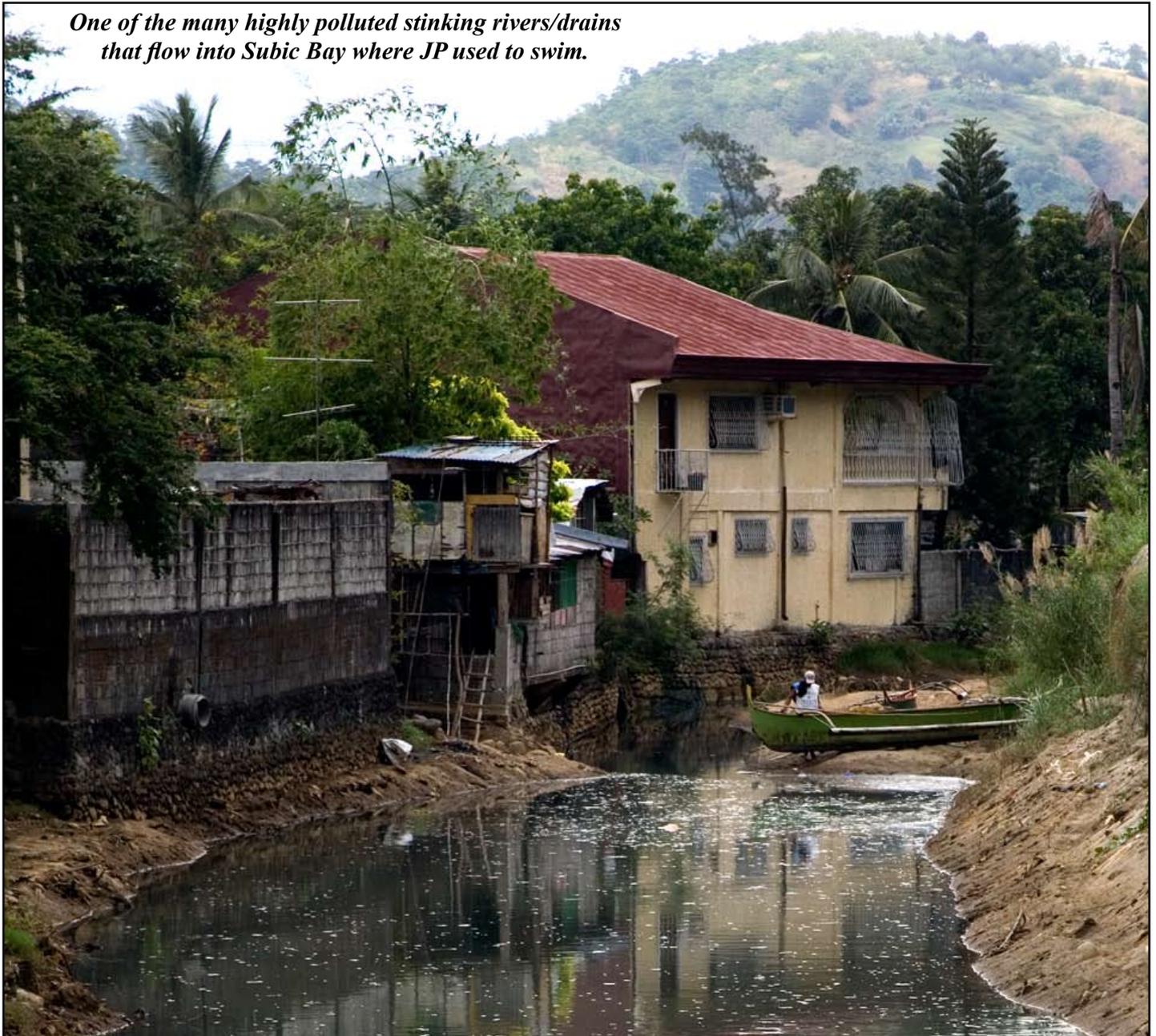
Grace realised that he was getting a bad case of diarrhoea every time he went in the sea - which is only a short walk from where we live. In some cases this was REALLY bad and would last for many days and on one occasion Grace took him to the doctor as she was so worried. It

took a few visits to the sea to realise what was causing the diarrhoea, after all, this was so unexpected, but it was too much of a coincidence to ignore.

Some years ago I used to teach Environmental Studies as part of the Tanker Familiarisation Course that I taught to about 1000 Filipino seafarers. I often received a standing ovation for my efforts. I doubt this was due to my teaching, but more likely because of the passion that I showed when giving my lectures about this topic, in my adopted country, and also because my students were hearing something about their country that they had never heard before. Most hadn't been taught anything about world geography, let alone about the environment in which they lived.

Some of the facts I passed on to my students were frightening. Manila is a city containing about 15 million people. Several years ago it was revealed that 85% of the sewage produced by all these people went into Manila

One of the many highly polluted stinking rivers/drains that flow into Subic Bay where JP used to swim.





Whilst it may not be sewage, this drain of garbage next to the main highway, flows into the river on the previous page, just a few metres from its exit into the bay. These open drainage canals are the most common form of drainage system in the country. Although they are usually covered with concrete slabs, they are still open to the air and allow a lot of general debris to fall into them - and frequently become blocked with garbage.

Bay - UNTREATED! Take a walk alongside Manila Bay when there is an onshore breeze blowing and I guarantee you'll get a sore throat within less than 20 minutes. The pollutants in the bay produce so much toxic gas that the breeze blows it ashore where it affects peoples health. I have experienced this many times as I used to live near the bay when working in Manila.

Before I first visited the Philippines for the first time, early in 1996, I went into a travel agent (in the UK) and asked about holidays in the Philippines - mainly to find out where the best places to visit were located. The ONLY holiday resort mentioned at all, and then only in one brochure (Thomas Cook), was Boracay. No other company even mentioned the Philippines. From this one can assume that Boracay is the most important destination for the

miniscule number of tourists who visit this country. As such, one would think that the Filipino people would take great care not to spoil it - after all, it brings in lots of tourist dollars - something that every Filipino wants to get their hands on (and frequently does - pick pocketing and bag slashing abound here - only last week someone tried to steal my wallet when I was travelling in a local Jeepney). Of course, the number of tourists who come here is very small (for many good reasons). The highest number of foreign visitors entering the Philippines was one million in a year - in 1998. That represents a very small number of genuine tourists as most of the visitors will be those visiting their wives/girlfriends/family, business people, and those on sex holidays. Most of the real tourists visit Boracay, so this is the place above all others that should be protected. Is this the case? NO! Boracay is also sinking under the weight of its own sewage.

(Please read the article and editorial comment published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer 7 January 2008 on the following two pages).

The destruction of the environment on Boracay is given publicity, only because of its value in tourist dollars. What is happening in Boracay is happening all over the Philippines - without the publicity. And no one cares!

The population of the Philippines is now 88.7 million people (according to the figures given out on local TV this week) and that number of people produce a huge volume of sewage (and garbage) every day, most of which goes into the sea untreated - after first contaminating a lot of the rivers too. Most homes in the country aren't connected to any form of main drainage system and cesspits are rarely maintained and their tanks rarely emptied (that means spending money), so the whole country is not only becoming more polluted in a general way, but even the water table (and therefore the wells) that provide much of the drinking water are being contaminated. This is particularly the case in rural areas where many homes don't have any form of real sanitation or running water ***(Please play the PowerPoint Presentation attached).***

Just when are the Filipino people going to address this problem and clean-up their own country? Never, is the likely answer. Any money assigned for clean-ups would go into the pockets of those corrupt officials who run this sad country. Until the problem of corruption is seriously addressed and until the attitude of the people changes and they refuse to tolerate living in a polluted land - and stop polluting it themselves, the country will continue to be destroyed and what should be a tropical paradise will become even more of a stinking sewer than it is now - a country that no one in their right mind wants to visit.

And our Little Lad will never be able to go into the sea.

Alan



NOT THE WATERS THEY CAME FOR. Employees at one resort on Boracay bail floodwater from their establishment. Not only have the waters been rising, it is smelly, too, tourists and business owners complain. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flooding threatens to sink tourism on Boracay Island

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY— Tourism officials and resort owners on Boracay Island have warned of the collapse of the island's P10-billion tourism industry if flooding on the island is not controlled.

Tourism regional director Edwin Trompeta said heavy rains during the holi-

day season caused canals and sewer pipes to overflow, spilling foul-smelling waste water onto its famous powdery white beach.

"If not addressed, it will destroy the island in the next two years," Trompeta said in a telephone interview.

Trompeta said the Department of Tourism office was swamped with calls

and complaints from tourists and resort owners regarding the flooding, the worst experienced on the island.

Trompeta said most affected were areas at Boat Station 2, in the middle of the island. Also severely affected were the Boracay Municipal Hospital and the D'Mall commercial complex.

At least 30 percent of the beach area and most of the commercial Bulabog area were flooded.

A foreign national who owns a business establishment on the island but asked not to be named because he did not want to be dragged into controversy, said thousands of tourists "saw and smelled" the pools of water.

"The middle part of the island, White Beach and Bulabog Beach, smelled like an open sewer," said the businessman in an e-mail to the INQUIRER.

The Boracay Chamber of Commerce Inc., a group of resort and business owners on the island, warned that the problem had reached the attention of online travel forums.

Gigi Piit, BCCI vice president, said residents and small business operators affected by the stagnant water had been digging trenches and laying pipes to drain the floodwaters, which has further threatened the already fragile state of the island's water and beach.

The Philippine Tourism Authority, which operates the Boracay Water and Sewage System, has blamed the local government for failing to provide a site for three pumping stations that would flush rainwater to the sea.

PTA general manager and chief executive officer Robert Dean Barbers said the PTA's P110-million drainage project could not pro-

ceed until the Kalibo Regional Trial Court decided on the land expropriation cases the agency filed.

Barbers said in a phone interview the sewage pipes were overloaded during heavy rains because of illegal connections by many resorts.

He said the PTA would file cases against resort owners and residents who have illegal connections and those who refuse to be connected to the sewage system.

Trompeta said the flooding was proof of the unregulated development that has destroyed the ecological balance of the island.

He pointed out that there was a natural lagoon on the island years ago where rainwater accumulated and flowed to the sea.

But buildings were constructed over the lagoon and natural waterways were covered to accommodate new construction projects.

DOWNLOADS

You can also read the article and editorial comment published in the Philippine Daily Inquirer 7 January 2008 by downloading them from our website at URL (click on the links below):

http://www.cooksonline.info/newsletter/boracay/boracay_article.pdf

and

http://www.cooksonline.info/newsletter/boracay/boracay_bomb.pdf

please also download:

<http://www.cooksonline.info/newsletter/2008/Letterwrittenin2070.pps>

Boracay bomb

It does not take frequent visits to the famous white beaches of Boracay to realize that rapid growth is strangling the small island. Even a first time traveler will notice, if he keeps his eyes open, that the crowded tourist destination has become even more congested. Growth has put a great strain on the island's support systems, including those that carry potable water to the hundreds of resorts, bars and restaurants operating on the island and those that carry wastewater out.

Ask the regulars who are back in Boracay this week for an annual wind-surfing competition; quite a few will say that the world-famous island they have grown to love is an environmental time bomb.

Consider the numbers: Now a multibillion-peso industry, Boracay tourism probably attracted some 700,000 tourists last year - up by 200,000 from the half-million arrivals recorded only two years previously. To meet the explosion in demand, many investors are seeking to build more resorts and restaurants; pending applications include those for two 400-room hotels.

In an ideal world, these are applications that should be approved with all possible speed. But growth in Boracay has reached a stage where the paramount concern has shifted, from asking whether the island has enough rooms and facilities to service the continuing increase in tourist arrivals, to asking how much time the island has left before unchecked development leads to a collapse in services. To put it in terms appropriate to the modern fairy tale that is Boracay tourism: Is rapid growth killing the goose that lays the golden eggs? The Department of the Environment and Natural Resources is putting together an "environmental master development plan" that should help provide the honest answer to that essential question, but the process depends in part on the successful implementation of a six-month suspension in new construction projects that Environment Secretary Lito Atienza announced last August. Unfortunately, five months into the suspension, Atienza remains in a tug of war with the municipal council that governs Boracay. The other day, in a stunning admission of inutility Atienza said: "We advised them [Malay, Aklan Mayor Cicero Cawaling and the municipal council] months ago to stop all development projects, on the island before the studies that are being made by the Department of Tourism and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources are completed. But it seems that construction there continues." . ,

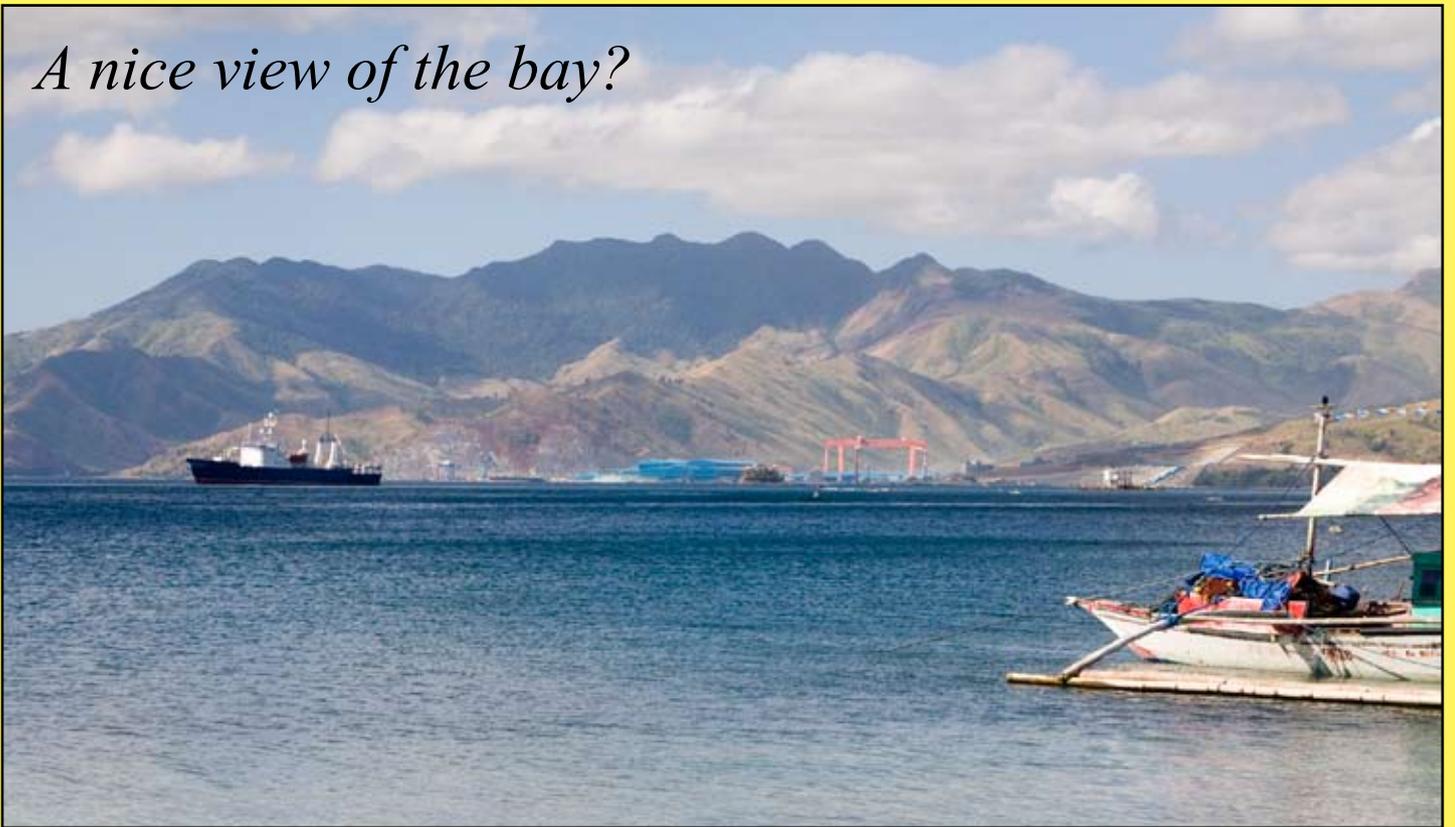
It "seems" construction continues? Can't Atienza say for sure? If Boracay is important enough for the country's tourism prospects and as a regional development template, can't Atienza take the time to verify ongoing construction projects for himself?

We agree with Atienza's controversial suspension order; we share his premise that while continuing development is welcome, environmental sustainability is now the key standard of growth. But we must wonder at Atienza's resolve. His suspension order was greeted with immediate resistance. A month after it was announced, the newspapers reported that construction projects were still ongoing. The town mayor hemmed and hawed and said a municipal council resolution was needed to put the suspension order into effect. Five months later, the resolution remains unpassed, and Atienza is reduced to admonishing the local mayor about the consequences of his inaction. The local government would have to answer to its people, Atienza said, "if they persist in not implementing what is correct and mandated by law." And in the meantime, the Boracay environmental time bomb is ticking.

If Atienza and Tourism Secretary Ace Duano are serious about keeping Boracay as a viable tourist destination for the next generation, they have many options to choose from. Atienza can re-impose his suspension order, on the grounds that it had never taken effect. Durano must put his department's dollar-earning weight behind the order, and convince the municipal council which depends on the tourism dollars generated by Boracay that the suspension is in its best interests. And together, Atienza and Durano can make the case for development, not on Boracay, but on the Aklan mainland. After all, it is only 15 minutes away from the famous but now overcrowded beaches.

(Note: The 700,000 tourists mentioned are not all foreign visitors. The number includes Filipino tourists visiting Boracay)

A nice view of the bay?

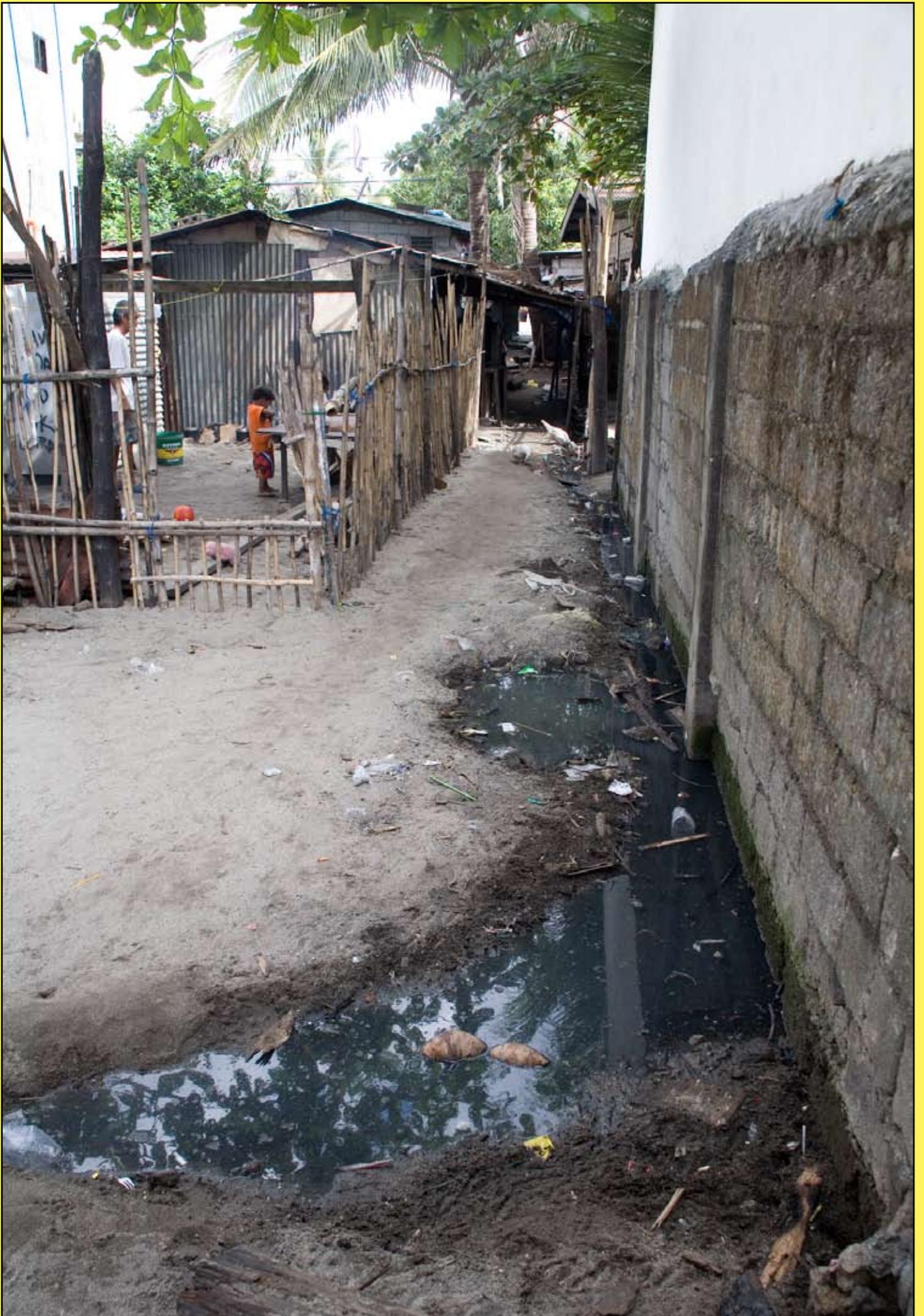


now take a closer look



I wonder what pollutants are discharged into the sea from this massive ship repair facility carved out of the hills surrounding Subic Bay (above). These drains run straight into the sea from the houses alongside the bay (below and overleaf).





We went for a short walk the other day...

and this is what we saw...





Grace and I went for a short walk the other day. All of the photographs on these five pages were taken during our short stroll. These are only a *few* of the scenes that I could have shown you (we'll spare you photographs of men urinating against a convenient wall or from behind their car door!), but it will give you some idea of just how polluted this country has become - and how little the Filipino people care about their own country - or about their own health!

This is the ***REAL*** Philippines!

A land of clean white sandy beaches, swaying coconut palms and safe warm seas?

Tell THAT to the Marines!

Previous page:

Open drains frequently fill with garbage.

Burning leaves is the national sport in the Philippines.

A small 2-stroke motor trike is producing this cloud.

This page:

If you can't think of anywhere to put your garbage, just leave it by the side of the main road.

Yet another open drain around someone's home.

Overleaf (and page 17):

Many millions of people live in conditions like this.





*It may be fun, but it's just not
the same as being in the sea!*

