



## **BAGONG BAYANI FOUNDATION, INC. (BBFI)**

The BBFI is a non-stock, non-profit organization conceived to uphold the new heroes of our time, the overseas Filipino workers. It works hand-in-hand with the POEA and OWWA in paying tribute to the OFWs through the Bagong Bayani Awards.

### **PRIMARY PURPOSES OF THE BBFI**

1. To promote recognition and appreciation of the role of the Filipino overseas workers in the Philippine society and economy.
2. To foster high standards of responsibility, efficiency and integrity among Filipino workers.
3. Promote the welfare of the Filipino workers

### **BRIEF BACKGROUND OF THE BBA**

The BBA evolved from the concept of Mr. Ramon Alfonso A. Fuentes, of the Fuentes Media Operations, based on two of his copyrighted works (Copyright No. PDR-1285, dated March 05, 1975 and Copyright No. PDG-664, dated April 07, 1983).

The BBA project was assigned, transferred and conveyed by Mr. Fuentes at no cost to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration thru then Administrator Patricia A. Sto. Tomas, in a Deed of Assignment on August 31, 1983.

The first awards were held in 1984 with eleven (11) workers being conferred the accolade including a posthumous award. The Second Awards in 1985 saw eight (8) winners being adjudged from a total of ninety-nine (99) nominations.

The EDSA Revolution and the consequent changes temporarily halted the Awards. In June of 1989, the BBA was re-launched by POEA to underscore the emerging form of heroism which could only be attributed to the overseas contract workers' consistent contribution to the country's foreign exchange earnings and the efforts in employment generation. No less than the President herself has called the overseas contract worker as the New economic hero.

When BBA was re-launched, its concept remained the same. The search covered both landbased and seabased workers with one finished contract within the period 1974 to 1998. The main criterion remained to be based on outstanding contribution as a contract workers expressed in terms of accomplishment, feat, exploit, deed, or act of heroism which brought recognition and honor to the Philippines.

Perhaps, the major result of the BBA activities was the organization of the Bagong Bayani Foundation, Inc. (BBFI). Although the concept of maximum private sector participation in the annual search was recognized by the POEA as early as 1985, it was not until August 1989 when the act of organizing was given the needed push in a meeting among representatives of the private sector agency/entity association and worker groups called for the purpose by the POEA.

Since 1989, the BBFI was headed by the late Capt. Gregorio S. Oca as President. Capt. Oca devoted his unselfish time, efforts and resources in promoting the objectives of the Foundation, the most significant of which is recognizing the contribution of our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) through the Bagong Bayani Awards (BBA). We take pride in stating that from 1989 to 2009, through joint public-private efforts, the Foundation has granted to more than 459 awards to landbased and seabased workers.

## **THE BAGONG BAYANI AWARDS**

The Bagong Bayani Awards (BBA) is a national search for the country's outstanding and exemplary Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). The awards seek to recognize and pay tribute to our OFWs for their significant efforts in fostering goodwill among peoples of the world, enhancing and promoting the image of the Filipino as a competent, responsible and dignified worker, and for greatly contributing to the socio-economic development of their communities and our country as a whole.

The BBA aims at providing proper recognition to deserving nominees, thus setting up examples for others to emulate, and for the country to be proud of.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The Bagong Bayani Awards aim to:

1. Provide a nationally established system of recognizing the significant contributions of OFWs;
2. Recognize the extraordinary and exemplary deeds, acts, life, services and contributions of OFWs towards their employers, fellow workers, their families and communities;
3. Honor the Filipino workers worldwide and their families for their distinct role in promoting the integrity of the Filipino workers, and in nation building.

### **CATEGORIES OF AWARDS**

There are five (5) award categories, an innovation introduced in the 2005 Bagong Bayani Awards to allow the recognition of specific contributions of OFWs corresponding to the different areas of their involvements. Likewise, the Awards open itself to as many nominees as possible. The highest honor is the *Blas F. Ople Award para sa Natatanging Bagong Bayani*, which is awarded to the most outstanding and exemplary OFW who satisfies all the requirements of other awards criteria.

The five (5) categories are:

1. Bagong Bayani Award for Outstanding Employee
2. Bagong Bayani Award for Community and Social Service
3. Bagong Bayani Award for Culture and the Arts
4. Capt. Gregorio S. Oca Achievement Award
5. Blas F. Ople Award para sa *Natatanging Bagong Bayani*

## **AWARDS CRITERIA**

### *General Pre-Qualifying Criteria*

Any Filipino working overseas, whether land-based or sea-based, and possessing the following qualifications, may be nominated for pre-qualification:

- Must be or have been an OFW for at least two (2) years;
- Has no past or present criminal or derogatory record;
- Must be of good moral standing, or has received recognition from past or present employer for exemplary behavior or outstanding service; and
- The employment contract must have been processed by the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

### *Specific Criteria per Category*

The following specific criteria must be very satisfactorily met to qualify for any of the five (5) awards categories:

#### *1. Bagong Bayani Award for Outstanding Employee*

- a. Must have earned the respect, trust and confidence of his or her employer, superiors and co-workers;
- b. Has proven his or her competence by being promoted in status or in rank, or awarded citation or recognition for distinguished and outstanding performance of his or her work duties and responsibilities, which in turn contributed to the growth or well-being of the company he or she works or have worked for;
- c. Manifested love for work, concern for the company and his or her co-workers;

#### *2. Bagong Bayani Award for Community and Social Service*

- a. Must have initiated or has been sincerely involved, whether in the country or abroad, in community or socially relevant services or activities aimed at either helping or extending assistance to fellow workers or their families, or promoting the Philippines as a business or tourism destination;
- b. Have selflessly offered his or her time, skills and/or resources, in collective or personal capacity, to engage in such community services or activities that are beneficial to the people; or
- c. Have performed heroic act or deed, or have saved life or property, the performance of which is beyond the normal call of duty.

#### *3. Bagong Bayani Award for Culture and the Arts*

- a. Have worked or have been involved in the promotion, preservation and development of Filipino culture and the arts overseas; or
- b. Have excelled in his or her work as an artist abroad thereby earning recognition, adulation or honor for Filipino artistry and talent.

#### 4. *Capt. Gregorio S. Oca Achievement Award*

A special award to be conferred upon a seafarer or a group of seafarers who best symbolizes any of the achievements or contributions of the late Capt. Oca to the maritime industry.

Specific Criteria (any two)

- a. Must come from among the seafarers-awardees of the last 3 years; and
- b. Must have dedicated service towards the advancement of the welfare and general well-being of his fellow seafarers; or
- c. Must have exhibited exemplary leadership or demonstrated exceptional valor/bravery in overcoming a problem while at sea.

#### 5. *Blas F. Ople Award para sa "Natatanging Bagong Bayani"*

This is highest and most prestigious *Bagong Bayani* Award and shall only be given to the most outstanding OFW who have been nominated, qualified and excelled in at least two (2) of the above four categories mentioned above.

### **SELECTION PROCEDURES**

*Who may nominate?*

Nominations may be made either by:

- The employer;
- The deploying recruitment or placement agency;
- Industry Associations;
- Co-worker/s; or
- Other reputable individuals or institutions.

*Requirements for Nomination*

The following requirements must be submitted with the duly accomplished official nomination form:

- An endorsement letter signed by the nominee's employer;
- A photocopy of passport;
- Profile of accomplishments;
- Photocopy of awards or citations (if available);
- 7 (2 x 2) colored photos;
- Copy of employment contract;

The official nomination forms may be obtained from any of the following offices:

- The BBFI Secretariat  
Ground Floor, Blas F. Ople Bldg. POEA, Ortigas Ave. cor. EDSA,  
Mandaluyong City, 1501 Philippines
- Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO)
- or may be downloaded from the POEA/BBFI website at [www.poea.gov.ph](http://www.poea.gov.ph)

**BAGONG BAYANI FOUNDATION, INC.  
SECRETARIAT**

Employment and Welfare Office  
Blas F. Ople Bldg., POEA, Ortigas Ave.cor. EDSA  
Mandaluyong City 1501 Philippines  
TEL NO. (632) 722-1165  
FAX NO. (632) 724-3646  
WEBSITE: [www.poea.gov.ph](http://www.poea.gov.ph)  
E-MAIL: [bagong\\_bayani\\_awards@yahoo.com](mailto:bagong_bayani_awards@yahoo.com)



**THE BAGONG BAYANI FOUNDATION, INC. (BBFI)**

**CAPT. GREGORIO S. OCA**  
Chairman Emeritus

**Board of Trustees**  
**October 2010 to Present**

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