

# HABAGAT EXPRESS

NEWSLETTER FOR BALIKBAYANS & DOOR-TO-DOOR CLIENTS  
1994 SPRING-SUMMER ISSUE



Banaue Rice Terraces: The only alive wonder of the world. pp 5-6

## For Cheaper Airfares To Manila From Respectable Airlines, We Rather Have A Variety For Our Ethnic Clients.

For example:

**Kr. 5,995--\***

Airline: Lufthansa  
Departures: Thurs./Weds.  
Returning: Weds./Thurs.  
Validity: January to November

For the airlines of your choice, ask for a quotation from  
the following agents:

Call Benn 38 343237, Fred 46 590050  
or June 33 150077

We also know The Philippines very well: the airports,  
transfers, the hotels and the tourist's hide-aways. We can  
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\*Plus the necessary national taxes levied on all airline tickets:  
65 kr. Danish tax; extra 40 kr. for passengers via Paris; 48 kr. via Frankfurt;  
6 kr. levied on all tickets as *ansvarssikoforsikring*. Infants do not pay taxes.

## 4<sup>th</sup> Shipment To Leave Jun. 14

Our 4<sup>th</sup> Door-To-Door shipment is scheduled to leave this  
summer, specifically on Tuesday June 14. Prices and conditions  
remain unchanged except for boxes destined outside Metro Manila.  
The latest pick-up of boxes: week 23.

**800 Kr.**

- per box, size: 63 cm x53 cm x53cm
- for Metro Manila only
- no weight limit (but can be lifted, please)
- free boxes, but deposit 200 kr./box
- free pick-up in Metro Copenhagen
- free delivery in Metro Manila
- guaranteed against loss and theft
- 6-7 weeks transit time
- allow 10 more working days for Visayas  
& Mindanao deliveries

### Surcharges:

- 20 kr. per box picked up outside Metro Copenhagen but within  
Sjælland only;
- 200 kr. per box for provincial destinations but to key towns and cities  
only and to barrangays situated along the national highway.

Aside from a highly personalized service we render, we give our  
clients satisfaction and peace of mind. Our agency is registered  
and fully accredited by Philippine customs. It is safe, affordable,  
reliable and guaranteed against loss, theft & pilferage.

### For Box Reservations/Delivery:

Call Benn 38 343237 or Tito 40 113899

# Is A DTD Service Really Cheap?

To say that a door-to-door service is a lot cheaper and more convenient than in any other way is rather inane unless we take a deeper look unto those other ways of sending packages or cargoes to our relatives in The Philippines.

## Post & Telegraph

**Weight:** Maximum 20 kilos

**Price:** 83 kr. + 260 kr (13 kr per kilo) = 340 kr.

**Duties:** Not included. Any taxable item, the duties are to be paid by the receiver: 30 % of the value appraised by the customs/post official.

**Delivery:** On sender's and receiver's cost.

**Transit Time:** Minimum 3 months

**Guarantee against loss and theft:** none

**Advantage:** Accessible for receivers from far-flung areas.

## Employee's Air-Cargo Privilege

**Weight:** Regardless

**Price:** 10 kr. per kilo, hence 80 kilos is already 800 kr.

**Duties:** Not Included

**Delivery:** Receiver picks up the goods at the airport customs office. Lucky, if the package is released from the customs within one day and free from red tape inconveniences and other form of irritations

**Advantage:** Three days maximum by air cargo

## On Your Own

**Weight:** Regardless

**Price:** 90 US dollars per cubic meter plus other shipping cost. Plus handling fee of forwarding agent/broker in the Philippines and other unexpected charges, like storage fee in case the boxes are not released right away.

**Duties:** Not included, which is 30% tax on appraised value of contents

**Transit Time:** 6 weeks plus 1 week releasing of goods

**Delivery:** On sender's and receiver's cost

**Guarantee against theft and loss:** None

## Paki-Dala System

**Weight & Price:** *Ikaw naman, bahala ka na!*

**Disadvantage:** *utang-na-loob forever*

## TRAVEL & TOURS

# Banaue Rice Terraces

## - The Last Living Wonder of The World

What makes the Banaue rice Terraces of the Ifugaos stand out among the other wonders of the world? Simple - rice which is life itself. While all the other mega-landmarks of the world are things of the glorious past, the terraces are today alive and functioning. These ponds are tilled all year round unlike the rice terraces of Nepal and Indonesia which are dependent on the Moonsoons and cake out during summers.

About 5,000 to 7,000 years ago, the Malay forefathers arrived at the heart of the Cordillera from South Asia and applied their wisdom of rice cropping on the slopes of mountains - knowing the character of the water, the soil and every bedrock. The terraces once extended to the Sierra Madre and reached as far as Binangonan. But then the natives were induced by the Spanish friars to abandon them in order to learn the new ways of lowland farming. There are 20,000 hectares of terraces left which curl like ribbons to the skies and could stretch up to 20,000 km.. There are few left in Bontoc, Sagada and along Dalton Pass of Nueva Viscaya.

It takes a year to make a terrace - to clay, to de-stone and create a systematic water supply. To farm and preserve the terraces, bare hands are still the best tools because it is almost impossible to move up and down the tractors or *carabaos*. These can easily ruin the *tambaks* (dikes) of the terraces. Terrace experts are paid with a pig to fix a terrace of 10 sq. m.. The use of fertilizers and insecticides are out from their farming methods because the chemicals can destroy the stalks of the rice, the ecosystem, and the other food supply of the Igorots like frogs, snails, fungi and cartilagenous fish.

There are four main areas where the terraces look as astounding staircases to heaven:  
a) **Banaue Viewpoint** - the most commercial and accessible area which is ubiquitous in travel brochures and the best point to take pictures with the terraces in breathtaking magnitude; b) **Batad Terraces** - spread out like a gargantuan amphitheater which can only be reached by foot, - a prize to see after 2 - 3 hours of hiking the steep trails c) **Banga-an** - is an alternative to the lazy or unable to reach Batad, very picturesque, with a big chance to have an actual walk on the *tambaks* of the terraces; d) **Mayao-yao** - is reached by a three hour jeepney ride from Banga-an with very rewarding sceneries. The villages are totally different from those in Banaue. The houses have bigger roofs, far apart from each other and neater .

Banaue is a hiker's paradise. The Igorot villages which still display the Filipino life dating back before colonization can only be reached by hiking. It is wise to hire a local guide who comes cheap, speaks a very good English (mind you, Igorots speak better English than the lowland Filipinos) and readily answers to your naive inquiries on Filipino indigenous living. For example: why do Igorot houses have thick roofs and no windows; why do their ancestors' bones kept in blankets under the house; why do Ifugao's clothes have color combinations different from other Igorots; why are big round wooden slabs equipped on the each post of the house; etc.. Knowing these will perhaps lead you to finding yourself. Be equipped with batteries, films, bottled water, hiking shoes, a cane and lots of "kende" (candies to the children) and few coins to remunerate the children and the old folks for intruding their private lives. Respect the Igorot ways of life at all times.

It was obvious that the terraces and the whole Igorot culture are slowly eaten up by urbanization. Deforestation is endangering the most important aspect of the terraces - the water supply. The *kaingin* system of agriculture is tolerated because of the food demands of the surging population. The old people are left behind with the terraces without anyone to hand down their wisdom because the youths fled to the lowlands for wages. On top of these, the government's hands-off policy on cultural minorities and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) do microscopic efforts to enhance the knowledge of the Igorots on megalith engineering and rice culture.

Visit the terraces before they totally crumble to modernization. The best time to visit the terraces is from March to May, the time when the terraces are lush and green. How to get there and other information, call tel.: 38 343237 or 33 150077.

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**Transferring Or Moving To Another place?  
A Sack of Rice at Your Doorsteps?  
Cargo and Packing Difficulties?  
Or Any Other Handyman's Jobs?**

**Call**

**Tito Belardo / JMJ Services  
38 339989 Or 40 119989**

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## Dossier

# Thoughtless Thoughts On Freedom Day

Truth to tell Rizal was a US sponsored Philippine National Hero, upon the suggestion of Gov. W. Taft. Gov. C Forbes praised Rizal in his book, *The Philippine Islands*. He confirmed that "Rizal never advocated independence nor did he advocate armed resistance to the government". And so who were the runner-ups of the Philippine National Hero quest? They were: Lapu-Lapu, too obscure; Aguinaldo, too militant, Bonifacio, too radical and Mabini, too ungenate or stubborn (or Aquino, too ambitious).

Is it then possible that if Rizal would have lived further to witness the American regime, his mind and pen would cease to work against the fabric of another colonial rule? No doubt, Rizal would never go apathetic towards the changing of the colonial guards and just let the Americans imposed the Sedition Law, among other oppressive laws, which forbids the advocacy of independence and the display of the Filipino flag. Surely, the American would have convicted him un-justly and executed him as well. Or worse, they could have played a trickster on him in the manner the CIA attempted to smear the name of ultranationalist C.M. Recto in an election race by labelling him a Chinese communist and distributed defective condoms bearing his name on. Soooo childish and soooo colonial!

Any Balikbayan will feel that this year the Filipinos are beginning to enjoy the economic boom. Unlike in the past years, the dissatisfaction was so obvious in their faces that they all feel to want to get out from the country to do menial jobs anywhere else. Now they finally realized that it-is-now-or-never, enough of the fighting and grunting. Still, a lot Pinoys have a hard time in joining the economic bandwagon. They blame heavily on their mis-education. Truth is the education, the best American legacy to Filipinos has alienated them from agricultural farming and redirected their minds to consumerism. Prof. Thomas Andres wrote, " They (Americans) taught us how to eat the apple, the grapes, the orange, the bubble gum but not how to produce them. The children were taught that *planting rice is never fun, bent from morning till set of sun and clean little hands are good to see*. The Filipinos were taught to *dream of a white Christmas* because *their nipa hut is very small*. Furthermore, it was impressed on them that they were *poorly born on the top of the mountain* and they were *negritos of the mountain*."

Is there life after the give-up of the US Military base in Subic? Well, ex-Olongapo Mayor, **Richard Gordon**, in-charge of Subic can confirm you this. Surprise! Subic is new tourist area and investors' den! Now , it can be told...

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## Announcing: Christmas Shipment

Delivery of Boxes: *From Sept 1, 1994*  
Consolidation (Pick-up): *latest on week 39*  
Shipment: *October 4, 1994*  
Delivery in Metro Manila: *week 48*  
Delivery Outside MM: *week 49/50*

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## Going To The Philippines In December?

Start booking now while seats are still available on the week you wanted. Wait a day more and it will be too late. For fare quotation and travel advice: call Benn on 38 343237 or June 33 150077.

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## New Philippine Airport Taxes

500 Pesos NAIA tax  
50 Pesos Domestic tax

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## Addresses:

Shipping Line: Scan-Shipping, Snoresgade 18-20, 2300 Copenhagen S  
Manila Office: TPA Carrier, 9790 Kamagong St., Makati Metro Manila  
Consolidator: Benn Adriatico, Falstersvej 6, 4th, 2000 Frederiksberg

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