



A newsletter for the 3446 members of the IUJ Alumni Association, from over 114 countries, 1965-2013



Typhoon Haiyan and the IUJ Community: Stories of Survival and Giving

Below is the story from one alum, Boris and Gladys from another alum, Akira, and their families (2009) visiting his family's devastated home bringing supplies to them made possible in part from donations from his classmates. Scroll down for more stories of giving.



WHITE TALES FROM Ms. YOLANDA

Boris Pascaballo (DP06) 11/29/2013
"Well I find... will never find... one reason to rejoice when Typhoon Yolanda (international name: Haiyan) visited our home, wiped out our houses, and took our loved ones away? The day was November 8, 2013.

One day before the anticipated super typhoon, I joined the crowd of customers lining up to pay for bread, some candies and a flashlight. I got them in small quantities. Typhoon in my hometown is no longer news. We see it a hundred times in a year.



In fact, 12 hours before the wind blew, I rented DVD copies of movies I planned to watch the next day. I thought it would kill the boredom of being locked at my stay at home. I asked the staff, "Will you be open tomorrow?"

"Yes, Sir, at 9:00 am," was his casual reply. "Typhoon is coming," I warned. "Super typhoon!" More of a friendly warning than scare. Chichai in the Philippines is not uncommon among strangers.

"Thank you for saying we are already signed up. 4 today. But where is that?" he pulled a joke. The whole nation was glued on TV watching the appearance of the Philippine Development Assistance Fund seminar being interviewed in the Senate.

I smiled. I wondered about the typhoon when I reached the street. The sky was clear, the wind was still. The sun was blinding. And the TV shows were focused on Philippine politics.



Of course we had been warned of typhoon Yolanda. In fact, TV news that night was interrupted by the announcement of the Philippine President that we take care, this is super typhoon, and warned us of the storm surge that would reach about 15 to 20 feet. That was it, then back to regular TV shows.

I woke up early the next day as the storm had been imminent. I checked the surroundings, and felt like no-thing is Yolanda. At 10:00am, four bearing trees in our yard were already dancing to and fro. Exchange of mobile messages with friends described the wind as scary, very, very angry. The rain was not unusual, but the wind - it was going like crazy.



With me was my 28-year old niece, Gemma and Ken, my 18-year nephew. Our 5-year old Labrador, Agui, was also seeking refuge, his instincts would tell him this was not an ordinary moment. We tried to watch some news on TV when the power was cut and the wind was angrier. I gathered the kids in one corner and together we asked God for protection and acknowledged that He is sovereign.

The wind was hitting us hard. Our windows were broken. Books flying. We no longer know whether it was ours or our neighbor's. At past 7:00pm, rain was already falling inside the house. We tried to cover some of our furniture. We kept the books inside a garbage bag.



To us, the sound of the wind was like a roar of a lion. We tried to take cover but to no avail as the rain and the wind were stronger than we thought. Much, much, much stronger, actually.

Ken got up and observed that the water was rising outside the window. I got up to check, and, in a twinkling of an eye, water was coming through the window, into the house. Before I had a second look, our clothing cabinet gave way, and floated. I saw the refrigerator gave way, too, and floated.

I said, this is no longer right - let's get out! And even before I could say the last word, water filled up half of our house, waist level, then higher to neck level. Using the collapsing furniture as platforms, we managed to swim to the door. Certainly God must have been with us when we reached the door, it was forced open by the volumes of water coming from outside, destroying the upper hall. Me first, Gemma next, and Ken last, we got out and stayed floated by the door, holding on to something. I had forgotten our dog when I saw her way coming to us. She is a dog, I knew she could swim well. But, oh no, swim she would to me.



The wooden divider I grabbed which floated along the way became our floating device. I instructed the kids to take hold of it - and hold it dear! - wherever the water would level us. Agui, as I envisaged, was comfortably lying now on the floating device.

As the wind and the rains were hitting our faces like a thousand needles pinching our skin, I asked myself: Where to go from here? Swim to the tree in front of our house? Swim to the next house? And I thought, dead or alive, I must thank God still!

Gemma said, "Tio, ngadito kita step." ("Tio, let's go up to the rooftop.") While it sounded like the best option, I reconsidered. Books were flying like UFOs. But where to go, really, under that circumstance?



With zero visibility - everything was all white - we saw, rather barely, our neighbors - father, mother, and their children - crawling from one rooftop to the next. Our hopes flickered. To the rooftop was the wisest way out, couldn't care if we all get hit by a UFO.

Since the water was already rooftop-level, roof climbing had not really been that easy in all my life. Agui, the dog, got there first. Ken followed. He saved Gemma. I climbed up, bidding our floating device goodbye. My middle finger suffered an inch cut by GI sheet - a kind of aluminum material used for roofing.



We crawled one rooftop to another until we reached a firewell, actually the second level of our neighbor's house. There, 3 families, mine now included, covered for safety and waited 3 hours or so for the water to subside. We left Agui by herself, me telling her that I trusted her survival instincts.

And so we survived. Foremost because of God's sovereignty. In hindsight, our no-piano-attitude really helped us a lot relax our nerves as we "brainstormed" for our way to safety.

I lost the bread, the candies and the flashlight I bought. We may have lost all things, but I gained more faith in God.

Now I found one reason to rejoice: I understand - we all now understand - what a storm surge is.



Pilar Maria Daza Baltazar (MBA96) shares with us her experience of "adopting" a family she helped evacuate from the Typhoon hit region:

"They are my temporary adopted family. They survived Typhoon Yolanda and escaped the devastated area to come to Manila. I was volunteering to drive refugees arriving in Manila to bring them to their families here. This family had no one to

In this issue:
Typhoon Haiyan: Personal Story / Photos
"I Adopted a Family"
IUJ Donation to the Philippines: Report
Business Connections: Trade & Commodities
Business Connections: SEA Games
Business Connections: Film Lovers site
Alumni Headline News
IUJ Friday Photo Report
Alumni Borenkai "Year End Party" photo

Business Connections: IUJ Alum Samarth Rastogi (MBA05) introduces his newly launched company, and seeks partners

"Sovereign Global Trading" is a Hong Kong based company established in April 2013. We trade in commodities like metals/minerals, sugar & stones (grains). We also act as agent for Pharma/Medical/Electronics/LEDs/Tires (China made products).

Currently we deal with metals like copper, iron, tin and precious metals like Gold. Our buyers/sellers are from all over the globe.

We are constantly looking for people who may want to partner up with us or can help introduce their contacts. I hope for the opportunity to work with IUJ Alumni in a win-win relationship.

For more information please reach out to us at rsrastogi@gmail.com, 1882-8668-8833



Q: Why is Fujii Xerox a Sponsor of the SEA Games? A: The IUJ Alumni Network, that's why!

The October 31 press release from Fujii Xerox read: "Fujii Xerox will serve as an official sponsor of the 27th Southeast Asian Games (SEA Games) in the FYI sub-region category. SEA Games will be held in the Republic of Union of Myanmar from December 11 to 22, 2013."

How did that happen?
IUJ's Roberto Shukano (Ehis06), working in the Corporate Communications department for Fujii Xerox was approached to be a sponsor but he was initially hesitant. Before making any decision for Fujii Xerox, he reached out to several alumni in the ASEAN region to ask their opinion.

He received multiple and immediate email replies from the alumni he contacted (some he knew personally, others he did not), and all encouraged him to be involved in the SEA Games were seen as THE major sporting event for the region.

Roberto decided to look into it further, and contact alumni in Myanmar, where the Games were to be held. He immediately received the red-carpet treatment which helped smooth the bidding process for Fujii Xerox to be so selected.

Without the passionate, and encouraging responses from the IUJ Alumni Network, Fujii Xerox may not have gotten involved!



Shukano-san and Gretchen celebrate the power of the Alumni Network! "Te-Deewee"

Business Connections: IUJ Alum Weerada Sucharithkul (RR03) announces her new initiative for film lovers!

"I just wanted to let you all know about a new film discovery site I am launching soon called FilmDoo. This site aims to be the go-to place to help discover independent and world movies that few people would ever get to see. It is a great place for all us international people wanting to learn about other cultures or to keep in touch with our home country. We will also offer regular film recommendations and discoveries on our facebook page at www.facebook.com/filmdoo.

Please help spread the word and share the page with your friends!



Alumni Headline News: Check Facebook for regular updates

<http://www.facebook.com/iujpage/>

IUJ GRAD'S BOOK RECEIVES AN AWARD!!!!

Zuba Wai (SP04, Sierra Leone) has just been awarded the Toyin Falola ATWS Africa Book Award for 2013. "I am humbled by this recognition of my modest contribution to advancing knowledge on Africa (and especially the Sierra Leonean condition)"



Inspiring Afghanistan

IUJ Alum (2013) Mohammad Zabair Qureshi (far right) participates in the 2nd TED Conference in Kabul: Inspiring Hope, a gathering of Afghan change makers, innovators and artists who are committed to work hard for a better future in Afghanistan.



"I know you! You, too are an IUJer!"

Yudi Yimo (R 94) and Nareah Makbajani (MBA03)... Had a chance meeting when Nareah was giving a talk at Pak Yudi's office.



IUJ Friday 2013: A HUGE success.

Special thanks to all the chapter leaders, and all those who took the time to attend an IUJ Friday in one of the 100 cities around the world: WOW. We shared our event photos in real time on Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/WeloveIUJ/

Here are a view of those photos.



Canberra, Los Angeles, NYC, Dhaka, Delhi, Tokyo

in Manila to bring them lies here. This family had no one to go to so I offered them shelter at my home.

This family has lost everything to the typhoon. Ayumi is a 14yr old girl - she has a 10 month old baby brother and a 4yr old sister. She arrived with her parents. They plan to return to Tacloban when the city has recovered."

I took Ayumi to National bookstore last Sunday (11/24) to get school supplies. She was so keen to start school that last Thursday (11/21) that she started without them. I was happy to observe how frugal and practical she was in choosing her school supplies: I had to convince her to buy at least one pretty notebook. I was surprised to find out that the school she went to doesn't provide a book list as most students can't afford to buy their own books so they do their schoolwork at the library. So, my friend and I selected high school academic books for her based on what we used in high school. When we got to English grammar - my friend selected a book set that seemed quite basic and I selected the one that was more difficult/technical... I asked Ayumi to choose which one she preferred based on content. I was so proud when she smiled and chose the set that was clearly more challenging. She was also excited when I picked up a world map, the Philippine map, and the periodic table of elements. I have high hopes for Ayumi - education is clearly a priority for her."



IUJ Donations for The Philippines

Soon after the damage caused by Haiyan (Typhoon) was understood, the IUJ Community began to collect donations with the Filipino students taking the lead. Donations were also collected at the Alumni Bonenkai on Dec. 4.

On Dec. 18, IUJ's Vice President Kato, CEO-EC President Arman (Indonesia) and the leader of the Filipino community, Octaviano presented the collection, totaling 855,000yen, to the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo.

We all hope for as fast a recovery as possible, but well understand that will take years.



Ingaul son (left) and Kurkur (right) help with the collection at the Alumni Year End Party. 85,000yen was donated that evening.



IUJ Pres. Kitaoke officially hands over the IUJ donation with the support of IUJ leaders, CEO-EC leadership, and Filipino community representatives to The Philippines Embassy.