



## **SYSTEMS PLUS COLLEGE FOUNDATION**

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### **Epoch Making Philippine Amerasian Research Center (PARC) formed at Systems Plus College Foundation, Luzon, Philippines; Partnership Foreseen with New York-based NARI-P**

**ANGELES CITY, Pampanga, Luzon, the Philippines** – The first ever Amerasian research unit at a Philippine college or university to focus on empirical academic study, community service and college education curriculum development has formed at Systems Plus College Foundation. SPCF is a rapidly growing, non-sectarian information technology, liberal arts and vocational training undergraduate and graduate college in central Luzon. Prof. Jose Maria G. Pelayo III, MASD, senior research officer at the SPCF Centre for Social Research said the newly formed Philippine Amerasian Research Center (PARC) was approved by the college's board of trustees Dec. 6, 2011 and will formulate an operational and funding base in 2012.

PARC entered into a collaborative partnership with the New York-based National Amerasian Research Center (Provisional) founded by P.C. "Pete" Kutschera, PhD, a licensed social worker and social science researcher who is author of the latest published empirical research on Amerasians entitled "Stigma, Psychosocial Risk Factors, and Mental Health Symptomatology among Amerasians in the Philippines: A Multiple-Case Study. Prof. Pelayo called the new alliance "a good, logical fit for the college and Dr. Kutschera's published research, but most importantly for the thousands of needy and marginalized Amerasians living throughout the Philippines who have been ignored or neglected by both Philippine and U.S. research academia."

An estimated 6000-8000 Filipino Amerasians reside in the Angeles City-Pampanga province region, site of the former Clark U.S. air base and probably location of the largest settlement of military born Amerasians in East Asia. An estimated 50,000+ Filipino Amerasians were abandoned, estranged or orphaned in 1991-1992 by U.S. servicemen, defense contactors and government employees when Clark, the sprawling Subic Bay naval base at Olongapo, the Crow Valley Bombing Range at Tarlac, and dozens of other U.S. installations withdrew after nearly a century of permanent tenancy in the Philippines.

Concomitantly, in SPCF's board action creating PARC, Dr. Kutschera was named director and Prof. Pelayo deputy director/ senior research officer. Prof. Pelayo said PARC would concentrate on submitting Philippine and international research journal article publications, formulating applications for NGO, foundation and governmental grants to fund its non-profit research enterprise and concentrate on Amerasian community services in Angeles City/Pampanga. "Ideally, we want to be successful enough one day," Prof. Pelayo said, "to be able to seek contributions to fund full scholarships for deserving Amerasians studying at SPCF and other colleges." Dr. Kutschera said one of PARC's goals is to "establish demographically how many Amerasians there actually are in central Luzon and the Philippines – truth be told no one really knows? It is one of the most under studied human diasporas on the globe."