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Japan-Based Asia Association for Global Studies (AAGS) Selects Dr. Kutschera for Philippine Regional Chapter Representative

TOKYO, Japan - The prestigious Asian continent global studies group *Asia Association for Global Studies* (<http://www.aags.org/>) has named Dr. P.C. "Pete" Kutschera, Director of the Philippine Amerasian Research Center-Systems Plus College Foundation, Angeles City, Luzon, Philippines and Founder/Chief Academic Officer of the Albany, New York-based NPO Amerasian Research Network, Ltd. as its new Philippine Regional Chapter Representative. Founded in 2005, the AAGS is a professional organization for scholars and educators in Asia who are interested in and actively contribute to the development of global studies as a research and teaching field. The AAGS is publisher of the scholarly *ASIA JOURNAL OF GLOBAL STUDIES*. The appointment was approved by the AAGS Executive Board in early September according to AAGS President Rab Patterson who teaches academic writing, presentation theory, critical thinking and international affairs at International Christian University in Tokyo. Dr. Kutschera was nominated for the position by Dr. Derrick M. Nault of Tokyo, Japan's Sophia University, the Editor-in-Chief of *Asia Journal of Global Studies*.

In the new role as Philippine Regional Chapter Representative, Dr. Kutschera will join AAGS chapter representatives in three other key areas in East and South Asia. They include Dr. James McDougall of Shantou University, People's Republic of China; Dr. Anita Bhela of the University of Delhi, India, and Dr. Riaz Ahmed Shaikh of the Shaheed Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto Institute of Science and Technology, Karachi, Sindh, Pakistan. "It will be a distinct challenge to bring the Association's mission and message to the Philippines - one of the most geo-politically strategic areas on the globe and of course in Southeast Asia, and one where the desire for individual freedom and a fair market economy are most intense," declared Kutschera, a U.S. citizen who has been visiting the Philippines since 1989 and became a permanent Philippine resident two years ago. "It's such an honor to be affiliated with a group of intrepid and accomplished academicians as these AAGS fellows," Dr. Kutschera said of the group which under its by-laws "particularly encourages cross-disciplinary and transnational theoretical approaches that dissolve traditional academic boundaries and relate local events to wider global processes."

Dr. Kutschera's first association with the AAGS was in March, 2013 when he attended the group's 8th International Convention at Bangkok's First Hotel. "I was tremendously impressed as the keynote speaker that year was the iconic Associated Press and CNN-TV War Correspondent Peter Arnett. "I had the immense pleasure of having lunch with Mr. Arnett who freely and graciously offered his observations on the plight of Amerasian children abandoned during the Vietnam American War. I'm an ex-news reporter myself so this had double meaning for me."

During the 2013 AAGS Conference in Thailand Dr. Kutschera presented a paper titled, "*Military Pan Amerasians and 21st Century Implications for Diasporic and Global Studies.*" The paper theorized that there is a strong case for diasporic designation of a share of the various enclaves of military Amerasians in East/Southeast Asia including those residing in Japan, Okinawa, South Korea, Thailand, Vietnam and the U.S. Territory of Guam. In a seminal October, 2012 research paper presented at the 9th International Conference on the Philippines (ICOPHIL) Kutschera presented a similar paper arguing that military Filipino Amerasians were probably the most genuine possible candidate for diaspora categorization given their extremely high numbers, historical colonial links to the U.S. and the fact that many are English speaking. The paper claimed that the total number of Filipino Amerasians are under counted and argued that probably more than 250,000 blood progeny Amerasians reside in the archipelago if adults, the elderly and 2nd generation are included.

A few months after the 2013 AAGS Bangkok conference Dr. Kutschera's article was peer reviewed by the *Asia Journal of Global Studies* and selected for publication in the latest edition: Volume 6, Number 1 (2014-2015). The Journal article with the same title as the Conference version may be accessed at: <http://ajgs.org>

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