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## **U.S. – Philippine Security Relations and the Homicide Case of Marine Corp. Joseph Scott Pemperton is Topic of Keynote Address @ APCSSM and ICSPE Conferences in Metro Cebu, Philippines, 4-6 January 2017**

**METRO CEBU, Philippines** – The impact on U.S. – Philippine defense security agreements of the bizarre and troubling homicide conviction of a U.S. Marine corporal found guilty in the death of a Filipina transgender woman in 2014 highlights the keynote address and research paper presentation of an Amerasian diaspora social science researcher at the January 4-6, 2017 Asia Pacific Conference on Social Sciences and Management (APCSSM) and International Conference on Society, Psychology and Education (ICSPE) here. Both conferences are sponsored by the Taipei, Taiwan-Republic of China- based Higher Education Forum. Marine Joseph Scott Pemperton, of New Bedford, Massachusetts, was originally charged with murder in the grisly slaying of transgender Jennifer Laude whom he met in a pickup bar within sight of the former Subic Bay U.S. Naval Complex. Convicted of the lesser charge of homicide in a controversy addled trial that enthralled the Filipino public, the Pemperton Affair reignited latent public uneasiness over the at times strained legacy of perceived inequities and imbalances in U.S. – Philippine security and defense relations.

“Such strains are being articulated today by the statements, attitudes, foreign and security policies of the nation’s newly elected President, Rodrigo R. Duterte, who has clearly embarked on an independent foreign policy posture that some observers have already characterized as anti-American and anti-Western in its practical application,” declared Dr. P.C. “Pete” Kutschera. The researcher is Director of the Philippine Amerasian Research Center in Angeles, Pampanga and Visiting Professor and Research Fellow at Don Honorio Ventura Technological State University in Bacolor, Pampanga, Luzon. “It appears President Duterte’s rhetoric has struck a responsive chord in resurfacing the old realities and perceptions of colonialism, neo-colonialism and ‘the theory of the client state’ that date from the long U.S. military presence in the archipelago in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century,” Dr. Kutschera stated. “Similar concerns were raised in December, 2015 when the Pemperton guilty verdict was rendered in a Zambales province regional court,” he continued.

A description on the ICSPE-2017 conference website (URL Link: <http://icspe.org/index.asp?id=54> ) states that the Marine's attack on the Filipina citizen while on shore leave during a 2014 training exercise raised old fears and questions of "the U.S. Command's inability to control its own men and it's apparently continued toleration of soldiers' and sailors' dalliances with sex industry workers. Never adequately addressed also is the nearly buried issue of irresponsible or careless military servicemen who fathered tens of thousands of biracial (Filipino) Amerasian offspring left abandoned – a result of socialization and personal relationships with Filipina nationals. Not fully resolved as well is a suspected lack of or frailty of legal protection for Philippine citizens when they come in conflict with the U.S. defense juggernaut." In a sense the questions raised in the Pemperton Affair presaged a new chapter for this unique U.S. and Philippine geo-political narrative given the specter, not only of persistent People's Republic of China territorial claims and militarization of the South China Sea, but also the imposition of Duterte's developing independent/neutralist foreign policy.

The paper is entitled, *"The Bizarre Homicide Conviction of U.S. Marine Joseph Scott Pemperton and Implications for U.S. – Philippine Relations in the Era of PRC-China Military Expansion in the South China Sea."* The two conferences are sponsored by the Higher Education Forum (HEF), Taipei, Taiwan-Republic of China. Kutschera is also the Local Host and International Liaison for both conferences. This is the third year that Dr. Kutschera was selected to make the keynote presentation at a HEF-sponsored conferences. In January, 2016 his keynote paper and address presented in Cebu was entitled, *"21<sup>st</sup> Century Comfort Women: Penurious Filipinas and Inevitable Entrapment in the Sex Trade."* That paper has been adapted into a research report and is being reviewed for scholarly publication under the title *"Comparative Analysis of WW II Japanese Comfort Women and its Derivative Contemporary Filipina Transnational Prostituted Women System"* by the *Asian Journal of Social Sciences*, published by the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore. The researcher was also honored as keynote speaker at HEF's Asia-Pacific Conference on Business and Social Sciences (APCBSS-2014) in Taipei Nov. 21-23, 2014; his topic and paper was, *"No Way Out: The Tragic, Transnational Sexual Exploitation of the Philippines."*

The APCSSM-2017 Conference (<http://www.apcssm.org/>) and International Conference on Society, Psychology and Education (<http://www.icspe.org>) will also be co-located at the Cebu Marriot Resort Hotel with the HEF-sponsored ICEIT-2017 - International Conference on Engineering and Information Technology (<http://iceit-conf.org/Show.asp?id=10> ). The ICEIT-2017 Keynote Speaker is Dr. Anthony David, Professor of Engineering, Seoul National University, South Korea. The Taipei-based HEF is a professional coordinator of scholarly conferences, academic symposia, meetings and scholastic conclaves in the Asia Pacific region. It has scheduled academic events appealing to a broad array of university, college, research foundations, and NPO/NGO organizations on an eclectic level of academic study areas. Past and currently scheduled conference locations include Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong, Honolulu, Hawaii, Kyoto, Osaka, Sapporo, Bangkok, Beijing, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Taipei, Chiang Mai, Thailand, Bali, Indonesia and numerous other locales. A full conference schedule is available on the Higher Education Forum (HEF) homepage: <http://www.prohef.org/about.php>

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