

Press Coverage of Cartooning for Peace

TV Coverage

TV feature: Iqbal cartoon featured in 'Europe Day' celebration

By JC Gotinga, CNN Philippines

🕒 Updated 16:08 PM PHT Mon, May 11, 2015



Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) chief peace negotiator Mohagher Iqbal is the subject of an editorial drawn by French cartoonist Plantu. Iqbal was drawn as the poster boy for peace in Mindanao. Watch the video to see how Iqbal responded. This report aired over CNN Philippines' *Headline News* on May 11, 2015.

<http://cnnphilippines.com/lifestyle/2015/05/11/Iqbal-cartoon-featured-in-Europe-Day-celebration.html>

TV feature: European cartoonists in town to promote peace

By JC Gotinga, CNN Philippines

Updated 18:39 PM PHT Fri, May 8, 2015

European cartoonists in town to promote peace



Some of Europe's top cartoonists are in town to promote peace after the recent terror attacks on some of their colleagues. They sat down with Filipino cartoonists Manix Abrera and Rob Cham to draw editorial pieces for local newspapers and their subject: the Mindanao peace process. This report aired over CNN Philippines' *Headline News* on May 8, 2015.

<http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2015/05/08/European-cartoonists-in-town-to-pr...>

Some of Europe's top cartoonists are in town to promote peace after the recent terror attacks on some of their colleagues. They sat down with Filipino cartoonists Manix Abrera and Rob Cham to draw editorial pieces for local newspapers and their subject: the Mindanao peace process. This report aired over CNN Philippines' *Headline News* on May 8, 2015.

<http://cnnphilippines.com/news/2015/05/08/European-cartoonists-in-town-to-promote-peace.html>

Press Articles

Print and Online

Ph, EU cartoonists find humor despite violence, life risks, censorship

<http://bulatlat.com/main/2015/05/12/ph-eu-cartoonists-find-humor-despite-violence-life-risks-censorship/>

May 12, 2015



Popular cartoonist Manix Abrera (Photo by M.Santiago/Manila Today)

“Satire is set out to do everything.”

By DEE AYROSO

Bulatlat.com

MANILA – A drawing can cost you your job, or worse, your life.

For cartoonists in the Philippines, defying censorship by publishers means getting kicked out of work, while for those in Europe, being “censored” by outraged readers could mean a deadly attack such as the massacre in the Charlie Hebdo magazine in Paris early this year.

At the “Cartooning for peace” forum held in the University of the Philippines, Diliman on May 8, local and foreign cartoonists discussed how they all put themselves at varying degrees of risk because they use art to express an opinion.

“Violence is no means of censorship,” said Bob Katzenelson, a freelancer and vice president of the Danish Cartoonists, as he decried the attacks against cartoonists. “At the end of the day, each cartoonist has his own limit. You ask yourself, are you willing to stick your head and have it chopped off?”

The Cartooning for peace project, held May 6 to 8, brought together five cartoonists from Europe, and six of their Filipino counterparts, for interaction with local newspapers and journalists. The 11 cartoonists also held workshops with Fine Arts students at the University of Sto. Tomas, De La Salle University and UP.

The project was sponsored by the European Union National Institutes for Culture (Eunic Philippines), in coordination with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and the Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility.



French cartoonist Plantu (Photo by M.Santiago/Manila Today)

Dangerous

While the European cartoonists are still reeling from the Charlie Hebdo attack and similar threats, their Philippine counterparts talk about a less violent, but just as threatening censorship.

“You can’t attack certain institutions and people because they own the website or the newspaper, said Manix Abrera, famous for the popular Kikomachine strips. “Editors will tell you, ‘You can’t do that,’” he said.

Philippine Star’s Rene Aranda recalled an editor telling him: “Do you want to lose your job?”

“You can’t hit sponsors, we can’t do anything because they are our lifeblood, you have to tow the line,” Aranda said.

Manila Times’ Steven Pabalinas said a cartoon he drew of the First Gentleman Mike Arroyo was pulled out in the newspaper that he used to work for, because the editors were afraid that it might anger Arroyo. He said the editors were okay with attacking then President Gloria Arroyo, but taking potshots at her husband was a different matter.

“They’re afraid of libel suits even if it (the cartoon) is not libelous,” Pabalinas said, adding that it’s still a form of harassment.

Roni Santiago, 70, Manila Bulletin’s head of the cartoon section who was known for the Martial law-era comic strip Baltic & Co., recalled an incident in the 70s when he was reprimanded by his editors for drawing a cartoon of the First Lady, Imelda Marcos with a double chin. They did not pull out the cartoon, but the editors were so afraid that the First Lady might complain. Thankfully, she didn’t, he said.

“If you are going to be a political cartoonist, there are repercussions,” said College of Arts and Letters Dean Elena Mirano. “Art as political commentary is considered dangerous by the state,” she said.

She said that, historically, the artist’s work has a “dangerous nature, and is “subversive.” She said many Filipino artists in history were part of movements against the state, “who use irony, attack the state through writing, poetry, propaganda and visual art.”

German cartoonist Thomas Plassmann, stressed how the task of editorial cartoonists should not be hindered by anything. “Satire is set out to do everything,” he said.



Eu and Ph cartoonists at the master class in UP (Photo by M.Santiago/Manila Today)

Respect

Aranda observed that the free-lance European cartoonists have more freedom in the kind of cartoons they make, while it's different for Filipinos, who are employed. "We are held hostage by our employment, so you censor yourself," he said.

The cartoonists, however, all agreed that "self-censorship" is applied with respect for human dignity.

"I censor myself at some point because I don't want to insult anybody, I don't want to take the dignity of anybody," Plassmann said.

Miriam Wurster, a German and the only female cartoonist in the group, said it's harder for free-lancers, because publishers can refuse to accept your work, if you are critical for something they stand for. She said cartoonists can still post their rejected works in the social media, but then "nobody pays you."

Plantu, founder of the Cartooning for Peace and cartoonist of Le Monde since the 70s, said editorial cartoons that criticize human rights violations by Muslim fundamentalists are not meant to attack the religion, but those who misrepresent it.

"Our job is to make cartoons not of religion, but of human rights," said Plantu.

Humour

“The news is mostly pessimistic,” said Philippe Baumann, of the Swiss satirical newspaper Vigousse. He said cartoonists, however, can draw the news “in an optimistic way” – through humour.

“Humour is a way of communicating thoughts to open people’s minds,” said Katzenelson. “The smile is the shortest distance between two strangers.”

Abrera proved this as the audience sniggered as soon as he started flashing some of his works on the LED projector.

Plassman said that although humour is important, not all issues may have a funny angle. “Some cartoons may not have humour but are still good,” he said.

“To make people laugh is a good way to get the message across, but it’s not the first point when I draw. I have to find a way to get the topic across,” said Plassman. [BULATLAT.COM](http://bulatlat.com)

- See more at: <http://bulatlat.com/main/2015/05/12/ph-eu-cartoonists-find-humor-despite-violence-life-risks-censorship/#sthash.P4K9Jpza.dpuf>

SILENT Gardens

12 May 2015

<http://www.silent-gardens.com/blog/cartooning-for-peace-in-manila/>

Cartooning for Peace in Manila

BY [WAEBI](#) · MAY 12, 2015



Founded in 2006 at the UN Headquarters in New York by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and Plantu, “Cartooning for Peace” is a network of 130 cartoonists around the world who use the power and language of images to promote peace and freedom of expression.

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Deles to cartoonists: Mamasapano incident won't hinder peace talks

The Philippine Star

By Jose Rodel Clapano | 75 views May 08, 2015

<http://digaedition.philstar.com/articles/2015-05-08/news/deles-to-cartoonists-mamasapano-incident-wont-hinder-peace-talks/102505>



Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Quintos-Deles has assured foreign pro-peace cartoonists that the Mamasapano incident last Jan. 25 would not be a hindrance to the peace process.

Despite the Mamasapano tragedy – which left 44 police commandos, 18 Moro fighters and five civilians dead – the government and the Bangsamoro people remain unwavering in their quest for peace in southern Mindanao and are determined more than ever to fulfill that dream, Deles said Tuesday during a dinner hosted by the Swiss embassy for five visiting European Cartoonists for Peace.

Cartoonists Bob Katzenelson (Denmark), Plantu (France), Thomas Plassmann and Miriam Wurster (Germany) and Philippe Baumann (Switzerland) are in the country to attend a three-day convention on peace through cartooning, which hopes to bridge the communication gap among cultures, ethnicities and religions.

Deles said following the Mamasapano incident, Filipinos have reached a crossroad where they have to make up their minds as regards the ongoing Mindanao peace process between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

“Some people are saying we cannot make a leap of faith. But I think taking a leap of faith is a better way to go than returning to our dark and divided past,” Deles said.

“I believe the Filipino people, having passed through all these, will make the right choice here. We will complete this dream. We will make sure that our future generations will not suffer the fate of those who have experienced the horrors of war,” she added.

Six Filipino cartoonists were also invited for the cartooning convention: Steven Pabalinas (*The Manila Times*), Norman Isaac (*Tempo*), Rene Aranda (**The Philippine STAR**), Manix Abrera (*Philippine Daily Inquirer*) and Rob Cham and Roni Santiago (*Manila Bulletin*).

The event, spearheaded by European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) Philippines, aims to provide opportunities for interactions between international cartoonists and journalists and the Philippine academe and public, in line with the promotion of peace, press freedom and responsible journalism.

A brainchild of the French cartoonist Plantu, Cartooning for Peace began in 2006 at the United Nations headquarters in New York, bringing together 12 known political cartoonists worldwide for “unlearning intolerance.”

Today, Cartooning for Peace is a network of 104 cartoonists around the world who use the power and language of images to fight for peace and freedom of expression.

Members include Bernard Verlhac, who went by the pen name Tignous. He was among the 10 murdered journalists in Paris who worked for satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo.

German cartoonist tells artists: ‘Don’t be afraid to try’

by [Jaimie R. Aberia](#)

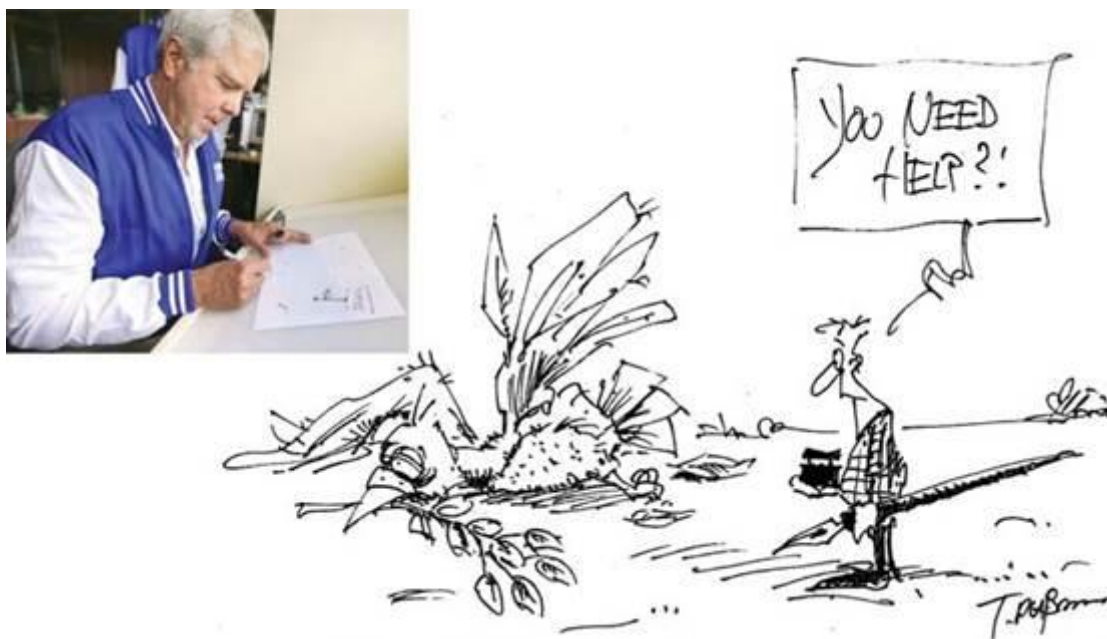
May 8, 2015 (updated)

<http://www.mb.com.ph/german-cartoonist-tells-artists-dont-be-afraid-to-try/>

Having the courage to try is the first step to become a successful artist.

This is what 55-year-old German press cartoonist and illustrator Thomas Plassmann advised budding artists during his exposure visit to the Manila Bulletin Integrated Newsroom in Intramuros, Manila, last Wednesday as part of the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC)'s project "Cartooning for Peace."

"I've always wanted to draw as a child. I have to say that when you want to do it, try it. Draw, draw, and draw," he said. "If you don't do it, there might come a point in your life when you would think, 'Maybe I'd become a famous cartoonist if I had the courage to try it.'"



CARTOONING FOR PEACE

— Thomas Plassmann, 55, a German cartoonist and illustrator, sketches a piece (inset) for the Manila Bulletin during his visit at the daily's integrated newsroom in Intramuros, Manila, the other day. Plassmann is in the Philippines to raise awareness on the role of cartoonists in promoting peace. (Jojo Riñoza)

Plassmann had his first work published on a weekly magazine at 16.

He, together with four other European cartoonists, is in the Philippines to raise awareness on the role of cartoonists in promoting peace. Miriam Wurster, who also hails from Germany, Philippe Baumann (Switzerland), Bob Katzenelson (Denmark), and cartooning for Peace President Plantu (France) join Plassmann in the project.

While they may not always have the opportunity to produce works that tackle peace, Plassmann said that at the back of their minds, artists always think about how they can help improve the world.

“The cartoon is a language everyone from all over the world understands, so as a cartoonist, I know that it is my work to fight a little bit for peace,” Plassmann said.

Asked what his idea of peace was, he said “it is mostly about our tolerance of others.”

The artist also encouraged the younger breed of artists to do what they love doing.

“I have no other explanation [on why I chose this field except that] I found drawing fun. I prefer drawing over playing football. When I have paper and pen, I try to bring something down on the paper. It is still the same for me today,” he said. “I am really proud and happy that I have what I love to do as my profession.”

The foreign cartoonists and six other Filipino artists – including Manila Bulletin’s resident cartoonist Roni Santiago and Tempo’s regular contributing artists Norman Isaac — will conduct a series of conferences, classes, and interviews in various universities in Manila. They will also collaborate with leading newspapers in publishing their works.

“This is important to both local and foreign artists because we can exchange ideas and outlooks,” Santiago said.

For his part, Plassmann considers the project as a venue to gather new ideas.

“It is a very good opportunity to share our experiences and to get a few new views on our works and how cartooning is in another part of the world,” he said.

Read more at <http://www.mb.com.ph/german-cartoonist-tells-artists-dont-be-afraid-to-try/#jPSzWEC0s7srsvl.99>

Deles assures pro-peace cartoonists: Dream of Bangsamoro peace will be completed

Asian Journal

<http://asianjournal.com/news/deles-assures-pro-peace-cartoonists-dream-of-bangsamoro-peace-will-be-completed/>



By [Press Release](#)

Published: May 8, 2015 |

Despite the tragedy that was Mamasapano, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Deles on Tuesday said the government and the Bangsamoro people are unwavering in their quest for peace in southern Mindanao and determined more than ever to complete that dream.

In a dinner hosted by the Swiss embassy for the visiting Cartoonists for Peace, Deles said the Filipino people have reached a crossroad where they have to make up their minds.

“Some people are saying we cannot make a leap of faith. But I think taking a leap of faith is a better way to go than returning to our dark and divided past,” she said referring to the ongoing peace process between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front which was shook up by the Mamasapano tragedy last January.

“I believe, the Filipino people, having passed through all these, will make the right choice here. We will complete this dream. We will make sure that our future generation will not suffer the fate of those of have experienced the horrors of war.”

Feted during the welcome dinner at the Bayleaf Restaurant in Intramuros were five visiting European members of the Cartooning for Peace Project in Manila who will attend a three-day convention on peace through cartooning with their local counterparts. They hope to bridge the communication gap between cultures, ethnicities and religions, which is the main objective of the Cartoonists for Peace worldwide.

The five European cartoonists in the project include Bob Katzenelson (Denmark), Plantu (France), Thomas Plassmann and Miriam Wurster (Germany) and Philippe Baumann (Switzerland)). Six Filipino cartoonists have also been invited. They are Steven Pabalinas (The Manila Times), Norman Isaac (Tempo), Rene Aranda (Philippine Star), Manix Abrera (Philippine Daily Inquirer), Rob Cham and Roni Santiago (Manila Bulletin).

The event aims to give opportunities for interactions between the international cartoonists and journalists, academe and the public in the Philippines, in line with the promotion of peace, press freedom and responsible journalism.

The event presents a cartoons exhibition and a series of conferences, master classes, interviews, and cartoons contest. It is being spearheaded by EUNIC Philippines, a network of national institutes for culture from EU including, Goethe Institute and Alliance Française de Manille, Philippine-Italian Association along with the Embassies of Denmark, France and Switzerland in the Philippines, and involves many partners in the Philippines.

Thought up by the French cartoonist Plantu, Cartooning for Peace is an initiative born on 16 October 2006 at the UN headquarters in New York. A two-day conference organized by Kofi Annan, the then Secretary General of the United Nations, brought together the 12 best-known political cartoonists in the world for “unlearning intolerance”.

Today “Cartooning for peace” is a network of 104 cartoonists around the world who use the power and language of images to fight for peace and freedom of expression. The network aims to promote a better understanding and mutual respect between people of different cultures and beliefs using cartoons as a universal language.

One of the 10 murdered journalists in Paris last January 8, cartoonist Bernard Verlhac who went by the pen name of Tignous, was a member of Cartooning for Peace.

Tignous worked for Charlie Hebdo, the satirical French magazine that the murderers targeted.

In welcoming the visiting cartoonists, Deles said: “I’m very happy that you’ve come here and make us see the realities that must be changed. I hope I can join you. You see, I used to draw too in my past lifetimes before my work took over my life. But thank you, I wish you good peace.”

Visiting French cartoonist: Our language is the picture

Frontpage

Philippine Daily Inquirer

Jovic Yee

5:07 AM | Thursday, May 7th, 2015



CARTOONISTS FOR PEACE Bob Katzenelson (left) and Plantu draw editorial cartoons at the Inquirer office. ALEXIS CORPUZ

MANILA, Philippines—You don’t have to speak French to understand them. They express themselves through the cartoons they draw. “Our language is the picture,” cartoonist Jean Plantureux said.

Plantureux, popularly known as Plantu of the French newspaper Le Monde, is president of Cartooning for Peace. He and five other European cartoonists are in the country for a four-day series of lectures, workshops and dialogues with Filipino cartoonists, journalists and students “to promote understanding among different cultures and beliefs using editorial cartoons.”

Alliance Française de Manille director Patrick Deyvant said a dialogue between the cartoonists is important because “they don’t want to offend [with their works]. It’s never [an]

attack [on] religion. It's all about fighting [violations of] human rights, making everybody understand what's happening."

Plantu, Danish cartoonist Bob Katzenelson, the Inquirer's Manix Abrera and freelance cartoonist Rob Cham collaborated on a drawing for the Inquirer, which Plantu said spoke of their love for their Filipino friends.

"We don't [speak] the same language. I don't know Tagalog. They don't know French. Our language is the picture," Plantu said on Wednesday in an interview at the Inquirer's main office in Makati City.

For the next two days, their drawings will be published on the Inquirer's Opinion page, as part of the paper's Editorial for a Day Program.

Cartooning for Peace, a network of 130 cartoonists from all over the world, was founded in 2006 by then United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and Plantu "to promote a better understanding and mutual respect between different cultures and beliefs using cartoons as a universal language."

The Philippines is the group's first stop in Asia. Plantu said they are here to learn and understand the country's culture.



ALL TOGETHER NOW INQUIRER Comic Relief cartoonists (standing, from left) Albert Rodriguez, Kenneth Cruz, Andrew Villar, Erika Velasco, Jing Segueria, Elizabeth Chionglo, Kimberly Dy Buncio, Christwin Felix and Manix Abrera (seated, extreme left), and freelance cartoonist Rob Cham (seated, extreme right) interact with Denmark's Bob Katzenelson of Berlingske and Cartooning for Peace president Plantu of Le Monde.

ALEXIS CORPUZ

Charlie Hebdo

"Each time [we visit a country is an] opportunity for us to understand what is allowed, what is taboo. We want to continue [drawing] strong cartoons without attacking or offending



Collaborative cartoon by guest cartoonists with the Inquirer's Manix Abrera and freelancer Rob Cham.

religious beliefs,” Plantu said, alluding to the caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad that backfired on the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo four months ago.

On Jan. 7, two Islamist gunmen barged into the offices of the weekly in Paris and killed 12 members of its staff, including editor Stephane Charbonnier, better known as Charb.

The attack sparked worldwide outrage over extremism and a relentless police hunt for the gunmen. Three days later, police killed them in separate confrontations in Paris.

Plantu said the attack on Charlie Hebdo had not affected his work as a cartoonist.

“Nothing is changing. I continue to express my political views,” he said, though adding that he now has two bodyguards.

Katzenelson, vice president of Danish Cartoonists, on the other hand, jokingly said that he walks around the streets of Copenhagen armed “with a nailclipper and a sharpener.”

A freelancer for Berlingske, a major Danish newspaper, Katzenelson said their visit to the country is a way “to find a common ground on how to approach cartooning in the future in the context of helping the peace process or trying to describe or deal with issues related to the peace process here [in the Philippines] and worldwide.”

One lesson learned from the Charlie Hebdo incident was to continue doing their work despite threats of violence.

“We can’t be shut up by people who are trying to stop us with violence. I hope you won’t experience the same in the Philippines. I hope your democracy is solid enough to let you express your opinions through writing, speaking and illustrating cartoons,” he said.

He added that editorial cartoons are part of the democratic process where one can freely express one’s opinion.

“You can deal with difficult topics, such as how you treat gay people, minorities, through cartoons. Cartoons [can make people] see things [and issues] in a brighter light,” he said.

“The job of everybody is to speak with each other with

respect to [the different] religious beliefs. Our job [as cartoonists] is to continue to make very strong cartoons that attack [violations of] human rights,” Plantu said.

He added that if he draws a Pakistani girl denied of education or a priest embroiled in a pedophilia case, it’s not an attack on their religions but on the violation of their rights.

Changing media landscape

The changing media landscape has also helped shape cartoonists’ output, he said.

“Our pictures are not just [confined to] our newspapers. Our pictures are presented to the world. We have to think now of a new view. We have to think differently,” he said.

He added that having exchanges with cartoonists from different countries enables them to draw cartoons that are culturally sensitive, especially now that their drawings can be seen in almost all countries.

Read more: <http://globalnation.inquirer.net/122513/visiting-french-cartoonist-our-language-is-the-picture/#ixzz3ZPOOohmq>

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6 THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2015 **Tempo**

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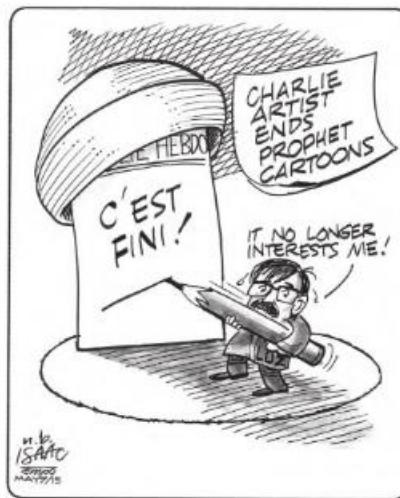
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Promoting peace, fighting prejudice through cartoons

The Manila Times

May 6, 2015 11:10 pm

by ANGEL R. CALSO DESK EDITOR

<http://www.manilatimes.net/promoting-peace-fighting-prejudice-through-cartoons/181442/>

WORKING with others to do a task is a good way to achieve shared goals.

This is the reason why the “Cartooning for Peace” organizers decided to bring to the country five European cartoonists to collaborate with local artists in creating “cartoons for peace.”

These “cartoons for peace” will serve as a universal tool to encourage understanding among different cultures and beliefs and bridge political divides.

The Manila Times was chosen to host one of the foreign participants, Swiss cartoonist Philippe Baumann, who worked together with our own Steven Pabalinas to produce political cartoons that are featured on page 6 in today’s issue.

Organized by the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) Philippines, the “Cartooning for Peace” project hopes to raise awareness on the role of cartoonists in promoting peace and fighting prejudice.

EUNIC Philippines is composed of Alliance Francaise de Manille and Goethe-Institut Philippinen, along with the embassies of Denmark, France and Switzerland.

The three-day collaboration in the Philippines involves the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility, University of the Philippines-Diliman, De La Salle University-Manila and University of Santo Tomas.

Participating newspapers are The Manila Times, Manila Bulletin, Philippine Star, Tempo and Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Apart from Baumann, the visiting cartoonists include Plantu (France), president of Cartooning for Peace; Bob Katzenelson (Denmark); and Thomas Plassman and Miriam Wurster (both from Germany).

The participating local cartoonists are Steven Pabalinas (The Manila Times), Roni

Santiago (Manila Bulletin), Manix Abrera (Philippine Daily Inquirer), Rene Aranda (Philippine Star), Norman Isaac (Tempo) and freelancer Rob Cham.

The 11 cartoonists will join a series of conferences. Other activities include master classes, interviews and cartooning workshops.

Founded at UN headquarters in New York in 2006 by the then-UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and Plantu, Cartooning for Peace is a network of 130 cartoonists around the world who use the power and language of images to fight for peace and freedom of expression.

Cartooning for Peace: It’s no laughing matter

Manila Times

April 28, 2015 11:41 pm

by ANGEL R. CALSO DESK EDITOR

Cartoons are created to tickle our funny bone.

Political cartoons, however, are no laughing matter. While they hold us in stitches, they can be deadly sometimes. Ask Charlie Hebdo.

The Manila Times condemns violence in whatever form, including those ignited by incendiary political cartoons. That's why it is pushing for the success of the "Cartooning for Peace" project by hosting one of its foreign participants.

Raoul Imbach, Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Switzerland, visited The Times office on Tuesday to complete arrangements for the special visit of Swiss cartoonist Philippe Baumann on May 6.

Baumann will be The Manila Times' guest cartoonist for its May 7 issue.

Spearheaded by the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) Philippines, the "Cartooning for Peace" project will bring to the country in May five European cartoonists from the Cartooning for Peace international network.

EUNIC Philippines is composed of Alliance Francaise de Manille, Goethe-Institut Philippinen, along with the embassies of Denmark, France and Switzerland.

Apart from Baumann, Imbach said the visiting cartoonists include Plantu (France), president of Cartooning for Peace, Bob Katzenelson (Denmark) and Thomas Plassman and Miriam Wurster (both from Germany).

The participating local cartoonists are Steven Pabalinas (The Manila Times), Roni Santiago (Manila Bulletin), Mannix Abrera (Philippine Daily Inquirer), Rene Aranda (Philippine Star), Norman Isaac (Tempo) and freelancer Rob Cham.

The 11 cartoonists will participate in a series of conferences. Other activities include master classes, interviews and cartooning workshops in reputable universities such as De La Salle University, University of the Philippines and University of Santo Tomas.

Founded at the UN headquarters in New York in 2006 by the then-UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and Plantu, Cartooning for Peace is a network of 130 cartoonists around the world who use the power and language of images to fight for peace and freedom of expression.

Among its objectives is to encourage understanding among different cultures and beliefs using editorial cartoons.

The Manila event in May hopes to raise awareness on the role of cartoonists in promoting peace and fighting prejudice. It hopes to provide opportunities for interaction between local cartoonists and their international counterparts.

The event is also expected to open opportunities for Filipino journalists, members of the academe and the general public to share their insight, interact with and learn from the visiting cartoonists.

Cartooning for peace

Business Mirror

[Envoys & Expats](#)

by [Thelma Gecolea](#) - May 9, 2015





Thelma Gecolea
INSIGHTS

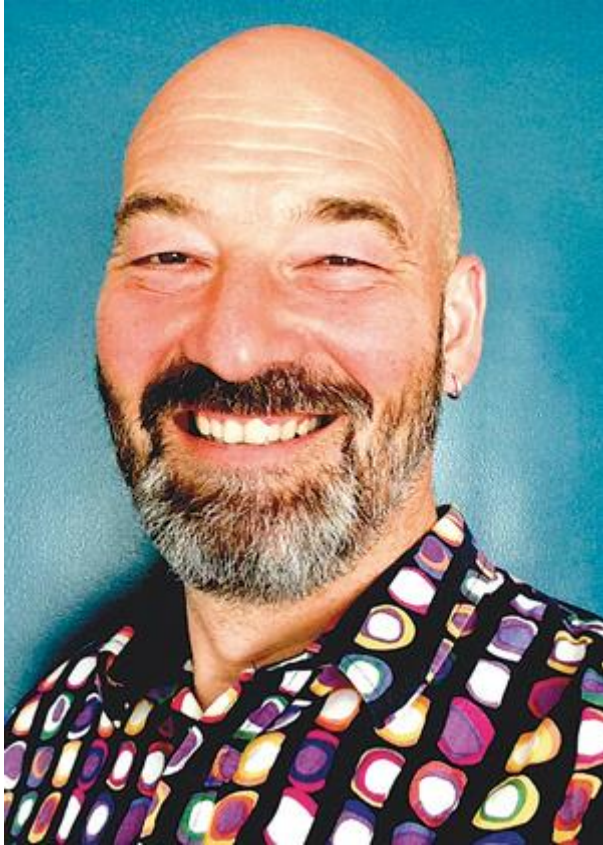
AS a child growing up in the 1980s, Sundays always offered me windows of surprises. I anticipated the weekends because I had to grab my parent's magazines and newspapers to look for the cartoons of the late Larry Alcala.

I always had fun looking for the bemoustached Alcala, who hid his cartoon image obscurely in the walls, chairs, furniture, shirts and cups, in his famous "Slice of Life" series. I had to turn the whole page of the magazine upside down, or sometimes sideways, to find Alcala. It was a challenge. I definitely learned patience as I enjoyed his unique brand of humor.

His "Asiong Aksaya" character was a big spender who turned on many air-conditioning units or electric fans at the same time, or let the water from the faucet flow constantly. Asiong endlessly wasted everything he had.

He was so popular that a movie was made to popularize the character. Asiong became a living icon to promote energy conservation in my generation.

Alcala was a creative genius. His comic renditions with a dash of satire were purely exceptional. Never did he know that he had a profound impact in my life. Through his drawings, I was exposed to realities of Filipino society—family togetherness, religiosity and respect for elders, the concept of mistresses, abuses of government officials, good governance, energy-saving tips and other daily nuances. It was too bad that I did not get the chance to meet him in person.



Katzenelson

European and Filipino cartoonists at work in Manila

My fascination with cartoonists was rekindled when I met Bob Katzenelson, who arrived from Denmark early last week.

He joined other cartoonists Plantu (France), Philippe Baumann (Switzerland), Thomas Plassman and Miriam Wurster (Germany). They joined local cartoonists Norman Isaac, Steven Pabalinas, Roni Santiago, Mannix Abrera, Rene Aranda and freelancer Rob Cham for the Cartooning for Peace event.

The European cartoonists collaborated for one week with their local counterparts, while also participating in a series of conferences, master classes, interviews and cartooning workshops in select Metro Manila universities.

The Cartooning for Peace is a network of 130 cartoonists around the world who use the power and language of images to fight for peace and freedom of expression. It was founded at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2006 by the then-Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Plantu.

Bob Katzenelson

Katzenelson said upon his arrival that if they joined cartoonists here, they can break cultural borders. Katzenelson has been working as an illustrator, cartoonist and caricaturist since the middle of the 1980s with a variety of Danish newspapers and magazines both as an employee and as a freelancer.

Now freelancing for *Berlingske*, a major Danish newspaper, he is now vice president of the Danish Cartoonists.



Larry Alcala cartoon

“Making drawings is a way of living and a way of seeing the world. If you like to draw and want to refine your expressions, then cartooning is for you. Even though it looks easy, it is hard work,” Katzenelson said.

He added: “You have to do a lot of sketching. If you have the passion, you have to keep on drawing. But if don’t have the talent to make it a way of living, you can still have it as a great hobby.”

Katzenelson said cartooning is a means to communicate.

“We like to highlight the commonalities. There are cultural differences. I like to find out if there is a common language between us. You have different rules and perspectives which I want to find out about,” he said when asked about his expectations in his participation in this initiative.

A first-time visitor in the Philippines, Katzenelson said that peace process, in general, is very complicated. He said they can focus on the wrongdoings and misuse of power.

“You can pinpoint the wrong things. We cannot give all solutions. We are not prophets, but we can pinpoint problems through metaphors. We can open people’s eyes,” Katzenelson said.

European Union’s Peace Journalism Awards

Perhaps because of my journalism background, I always draw up programs to acknowledge the role of the media as agents of social transformation, especially in the context of the European Union’s (EU) commitment to the peace process.

Together with partners, the EU Delegation to the Philippines is holding the EU Peace Journalism Awards. Entries can be submitted until the end of the month to DELEGATION-PHILIPPINES-PPI@eeas.europa.eu. The grand winner goes to Brussels this year.

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