



Migration Trends and their Socio-economic Implications: The Ethnic Chinese Community

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Zhong Guo Cheng 中国城



PH-China Friendship Arch
(Quezon City, 2014)



Chinatown Friendship arch
(Manila, 2015)



Friendship, Harmony, Integration arches
in Manila, Iloilo and Davao, respectively.



Statement of the problem: Are the ethnic Chinese a critical factor in our strategy?

- **The ethnic Chinese community**
 - The older generation Filipino-Chinese
 - The younger generation Chinese Filipinos or Tsinoy (Tsinong Pinoy)
 - The immigrants
 - Old immigrants or *jiuqiao*
 - New immigrants or *xinqiao*
 - The *zhongguo ren* (中國人) – tourists, temporary visitors
- **Vast differences:** evolution through time, shaped by Philippine history and socio-economic environment.

Visible Signs of New Immigrants

New high-rise condominiums/ residential buildings, especially in Binondo or Chinatown district.



Visible Signs of New Immigrants

Proliferation of Chinese specialty stores or street vendors selling curios, good luck charms, sweets and other food items, VCDs and DVDs.



New Chinese restaurants
Chinese doctors and drugstores
New Chinese students in schools



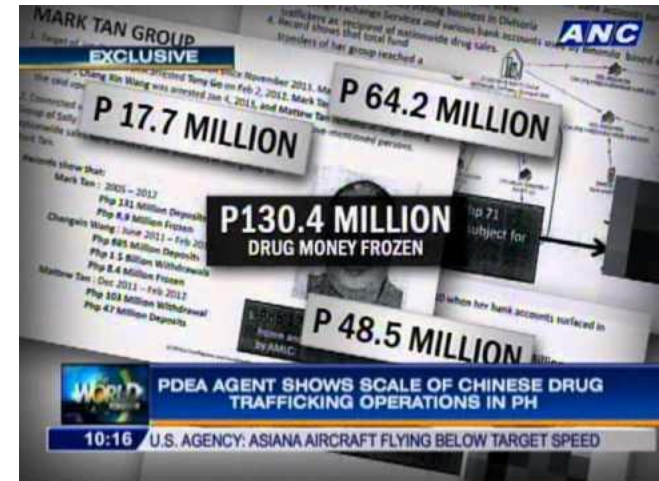
Visible Signs of New Immigrants

- *Xiao yu lian* 旅菲各校友会联合会 1985
 - 培侨中学菲律濱校友会
 - 旅菲福建中学校友会
 - 汉华中学菲律濱校友会
 - 旅菲苏浙校友会
 - 30 校友会 today
- Philippine China Chambers of Commerce
菲律濱中国商会 2007
- Migrant Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of
the Philippines 旅菲华侨工商联总会 2007
- Junior Chinese Chamber of Commerce 菲华青商会 2015
- Filipino-Chinese Friendship Association 菲中友好協會
- Filipino-Chinese Shin-Lian Association 菲华新聯公會

Problems and Concerns

Impact on Phil society and the Tsinoy community

- Crackdown on illegal aliens
- Human smuggling and transit point
- Criminal syndicates
 - illegal drugs
 - kidnapping
- Conflict with Tsinoy community



Negative Images of Xinqiao

- quite prone to get-rich-quick schemes
- criminal activities
 - kidnapping
 - illegal drugs trafficking
 - smuggling
- create unfair competition and undermine local industries
- extensive connections
 - they are not afraid to establish connections with immigration bureau and the police.

5 BI agents sacked over Jackie Tiu kidnapper
State witness vs Michael Ray abroad?
By CECILLE SUERTE FELIPE

A state witness in the abduction and murder of publisher and his driver, Emmanuel Corbito, is enraged to return to the Philippines for their kin's death, said an official of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

COMMONSENSE
By MARICHU A. VILLANUEVA

Shanghai-ed to China

SHANGHAI — Before I left Manila last Oct. 8, Philippine government authorities led by Bureau of Immigration (BI) Commissioner Alvaro Fernandez, has yet to render an official explanation on the case of escaped kidnap suspect Zhang Du.

Zhang, alias Wilson Du, a Chinese national who has no valid passport and other travel documents, was deported to the mainland last May 7 under highly questionable circumstances, this despite his ongoing trial for a celebrated kidnapper-ransom (KFR) case pending before Philippine courts.

It turned out that Zhang, who was one of the eight accused in the kidnapping of Filipina-Chinese Jackie Rowe-na Tiu, was practically "shanghai-ed" back to his homeland. Zhang, 35, is probably now reunited with his family in Fujian, China after he underwent an apparently anomalous deportation proceedings that enabled him to escape from Philippine justice.

I found it funny to recall this incident about Zhang to

Jacky said she very impatiently time on Oct. 24, Manila Shu Foreign Affairs lease of two of Xewang and Zh...

The meddling no less than the... quently declared... new grata for al... in our criminal... Considering... family expres... and apprehen... the country be... And the... nightmare as... himself cau...

ILLEGAL ALIENS

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NBI says 45 tons of coins brought to China this year
By Katrice R. Jalbuena, Reporter

A SYNDICATE may have already smuggled 45 tons of Philippine P1 coins into the People's Republic of China this year alone, said the National Bureau of Investigation.

A few days ago the NBI arrested two Taiwanese for the crime—Lin Ming Chin, alias Kevin Lin, and Hsin Lee. They were suspected of being part of the syndicate that purchases the coins from a Chinese-Filipino group.

Full Story >>



China's Attitude toward Immigrants in Modern Times

- “*Tua-kiao po diao diao, Sio-kiao bo chap siao* (in Hokkien),” meaning, for big-time investors, China can give all the protection needed but for small-timers, ordinary citizens, China would not care less (i.e. Basilan kidnap victim).
- Despite the humiliation and degradation many of the new immigrants are subjected to (illegal raids, extortion, exploitation etc -- Basilan 3-year victim), the Chinese gov't has not interceded on their behalf or proactively tried to address the problems.
- **Leaving China for better (business) opportunities -- they may make noise but little chance of being exploited by China**



Bureau of Immigration figures on alien Chinese registrants

- 25,446 Chinese registrants out of total 40,116 alien registrants = 63%
- out of 40,116 native-born = 27,834
- 63% of 27,834 = at least 17,655 Chinese aliens are already native born: meaning, these are people who are already permanent residents of the Philippines, their interests are tied with the Philippines and not China, which they left despite the fact that their country is experiencing phenomenal growth.



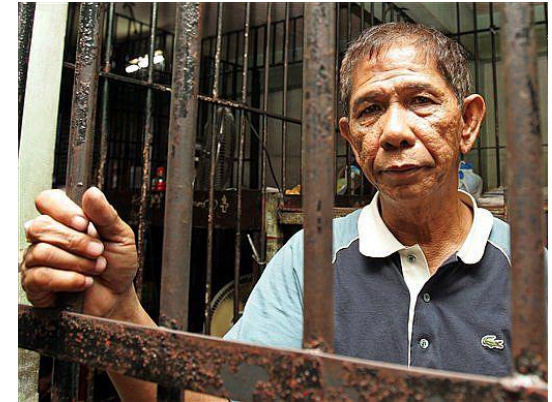
Bureau of Immigration figures on alien Chinese registrants

- They may not be as well integrated as the local Tsinoys but I believe (calculated speculation) that they are predominantly neutral in the SCS-WPS disputes
- When they become victims (kidnapping, extortion, exploitation, etc) then and now, they depend only on the Philippine gov't and local NGOs, not on China. The Chinese Embassy in the Philippines, in particular, fails to lift a finger on behalf of their nationals .

- *Figures from Ivy Ganadillo, Asian Center*

Undercurrents of Racism

- **Amando "Jun" Ducat Jr.** scaled the monument at Welcome Rotonda (Mabuhay Rotonda) in 2007 and staged a hunger strike at the top. He did this to dramatize his opposition to Tsinoy candidates running for public office, which he opposed because of the alleged control of the Philippines' rice trade by Chinese Filipinos. He wanted the government to ban Chinese Filipinos from being candidates and he sought to convince voters to vote against them.



- **Frankie Sionil Jose:** “I know now that in the event of a war with China, many of our ethnic Chinese will side with China so I will not ask anymore on whose side they will be if that war breaks out. I will ask instead my countrymen — they who are aware of our revolutionary and heroic tradition — the Filipinos who revere Mabini, Rizal, all those who sacrificed for this land and people: ‘What will you do now?’”



National Artist for
Literature F. Sionil Jose

In terms of background, upbringing, orientation and education, there are significant and vast differences between this younger generation Tsinoy and the older immigrant generation Intsik or huaqiao.

Younger Generation	Older Generation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born after the Pacific war 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born before the Pacific war
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born in the Philippines, usually have adopted a Christian name 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Born in China, usually have Chinese name
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify more with the Philippines and have no firsthand experience of China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have deep sentiments toward China and firsthand or at least childhood experiences of China
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confine their lives and activities within the Chinese community, socialize more with Chinese 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can easily cross ethnic barriers, socialize both with Chinese and Filipinos, at ease in both environments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join Filipino groups like Rotary, Jaycees, Lions Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join family and hometown associations, local chambers of commerce
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have greater facility in using Tagalog or English 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First language is Chinese.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend Philippine colleges or universities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend only Chinese-language schools or minimal college
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westernized in taste, values, and lifestyle, observe minimum of traditional Chinese rites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very Chinese in looks and lifestyle, observe Chinese rites and traditions, use Chinese form of social conventions and etiquette
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the Philippines as home and have no deep attachment to China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider China as motherland and the Philippines as second home

The young generation Tsinoys are not bystanders but active participants in political events and issues.





2016 survey summary – Tsinoys

- 97% local born, 90%+ Filipino citizens
- 93% consider the Philippines as home
- 85% are Christians
- 87% has English, Filipino or dialect as first language,
- Mandarin speaking increased, Hokkien speaking decreased
- 60% do not mind marrying Filipinos

Table 1. Citizenship

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Chinese citizens	20	3.9
Natural born Filipino	369	72.3
Naturalized Filipino	110	21.6
Others*	4	0.8
No answer	7	1.4
Total	510	100

**2 British, 2 Americans*

Source: "The Ethnic Chinese as Filipinos," *Chinese in the Philippines: Problems and Perspectives*, vol. 2.

What is your citizenship?

Filipino	444	88.27%
Chinese	24	4.77%
Dual citizen	26	5.17%
Others (<i>Fil-Am, British, American</i>)	6	1.19%
No answer	3	0.60%
Total	503	100.00%

Survey on Problems of Integration and Identity of Present-day Tsinoys, 2016

Table 4. What Country Do You Call Home?

<i>Country</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Philippines	496	97.3
China	6	1.1
Others/No Answer	8	1.6
Total:	510	100

Source: "The Ethnic Chinese as Filipinos," *Chinese in the Philippines: Problems and Perspectives*, vol. 2.

What country do you call home?		
Philippines	470	93.44%
China	9	1.79%
Both (PH & China)	5	0.99%
Other (Australia, USA, Canada, HK, Brunei, Japan)	15	2.98%
No answer	4	0.80%
Total	503	100.00%



Table 7
Language Ability (1988)

	<i>Percentage</i>
Fluent in Filipino	85
Fluent in Hokkien	47
Speak Hokkien only at home	10
Speak a mixture of Filipino and Hokkien at home	77

Source: "The Ethnic Chinese as Filipinos," *Chinese in the Philippines: Problems and Perspectives*, vol. 2.

Language Ability (2015)

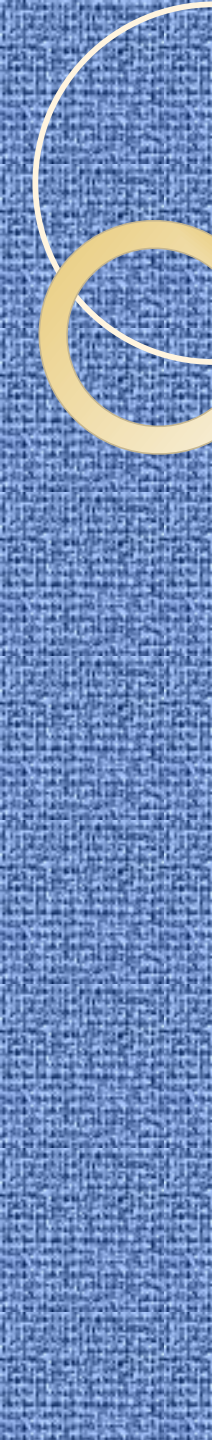
		<i>Percentage</i>
Speak read write understand Filipino	472	93.84%
Speak read write understand English	443	92.05
Speak read write understand Mandarin	313	62.13
Speak read write understand Hokkien	170	33.80

Community Overview: 1995/2016 partial result

Who will you side with?

In a game (like basketball) between Chinese and Filipinos, which one will you side with?

Philippine	75.9	88.3
China	15.9	11.2
No Answer	7.6	0.5
	1995	2015



**Community Overview: 2016 survey partial result
In the maritime dispute (WPS/SCS)
between China and the Philippines,
which side are you on?**

Philippines	190	49.5
China	21	5.5
Neutral	98	25.5
It depends	72	18.8
No answer	3	0.7
	384	100

**Tsinoyos should just stay quiet about political issues like Charter Change/
impeachment?**

Agree	32	6.36%
Strongly agree	13	2.58%
Disagree	201	39.96%
Strongly disagree	141	28.03%
Neutral	113	22.47%
No answer	3	0.60%
Total	503	100.00%

Tsinoyos must complain and point out to the government if things are wrong?

Agree	232	46.12%
Strongly agree	175	34.79%
Disagree	12	2.39%
Strongly disagree	9	1.79%
Neutral	73	14.51%
No answer	2	0.40%
Total	503	100.00%

Are you concerned with events and developments in China?		
Very concerned	73	14.51%
Concerned	144	28.63%
Somewhat concerned	202	40.16%
Not at all	79	15.71%
No answer	5	0.99%
Total	503	100.00%

Is China just like any foreign country to you (Ex. Singapore, USA)?		
Yes	298	59.24%
No	198	39.36%
No answer	7	1.39%
Total	503	100.00%

“Very Concerned” to “Concerned” total 43.14%, almost equal to somewhat concerned of 40%

Community Overview: 2016 survey partial result

If there is a feud between China and the Philippines, which will you side with?

Philippines	140	36.5
China	7	1.8
It depends	236	61.5
No answer	1	0.2
	384	100



Tsinoy Factors: Race, Class, Politics

- **Lack of understanding, differentiating generations**
 - local-born Tsinoy
 - Metro-Manila vs. provinces
 - integration and transformation
- **Differentiation even among immigrant generation: attitudes, values, politicization, orientation**
- **Undercurrents of racism: easily exploited**
 - Class vs. race -- racial vs social class divide -- the social cost of economic success
- **The power of social media – fanning/blowing up exacerbating controversies vs. reason and intelligent discussion**



Tsinoy Factors: Race, Class, Politics

- Exploit the potentials of Tsinoy as natural bridges to Chinese-language communities all over the world
- Examine and exploit the impact of business interests of China in the Philippines and Chinese Filipinos in China, i.e. San Miguel Corp., Oishi, Jollibee, SM Holdings
- Back channeling , opening up channels of communication -- Fu Ying, Huang Gui Fang, Shun Xiang Yang, Bai Tian -- ties with Tsinoy community
- Upgrade quality of embassy personnel both sides: importance of spokesperson

Concluding Remarks



- Older generation Tsinoyos respect the Philippines' right to defend its position but they likewise support China's claim. They are predominantly businessmen and know that conflicts are not good for business.
- New immigrants are pro-China, right or wrong. Many are unhappy about PH government, extortion, racial profiling exacerbate negative attitudes. But equally unhappy about lack of China government's concern and protection. Majority will stay neutral
- As ALIENS, **they cannot** proactively support Philippine position or interfere in Philippine politics – they can get deported.

Concluding Remarks



- Young generation Tsinoys, deeply rooted in Philippine soil, will not support China's position especially if China is the aggressor
- As long as it is clear that the Philippine position is not unreasonable, it is not mere nuisance and most importantly it is not dictated by U.S. pivot to Asia
- There is a dispute, acceptance from both sides -- work together to settle it.

Give diplomacy a chance

- There is **no other solution** but diplomacy
- We cannot go to war due to dispute -- **PH – not used as a pawn in the clash between two big powers**
- U.S. will NOT support us
 - betrayal post Spanish-occupation masked as benevolent assimilation
 - betrayal during Japanese-occupation; abandonment at the darkest hour, escape to Australia with promise I Shall Return
 - False liberation/Japanese surrender (Nagasaki and Hiroshima)
 - Gunboats vs. merchant vessels



Diplomacy: the only viable strategy

- Open up channels of communication
- Continuing dialogue is essential
- Enhance better understanding, learn more, be better informed, not guessing
- Enhance competency, diplomacy
- Downplay factors that divide, play up the ties that bind
- People to people exchanges, cultural understanding as a bridge.
- Ramos' back channel is a good move.