

Exchange Rate

Closing: Nov. 18,
2005

US\$=P54.59

Down 0.19 centavos

[HOME](#) / [ARCHIVES](#) / [ADVERTISE](#) / [SUBSCRIBE](#) / [ABOUT US](#) / [CONTACT US](#) /
[NATION](#)[BUSINESS](#)[METRO](#)[SPORTS](#)[OPINION](#)[GOODLIFE](#)**News stories**

- [10 soldiers killed in Iloilo ambush](#)
- [Dudut wants Viet sports boss declared 'persona non grata'](#)
- [Hundred-peso bills misprinted but still kosher](#)
- [RP won't force custody rights over 6 Marines](#)
- [Asean bucks US pressure to isolate Myanmar](#)
- [South Korean blogger revisited](#)
- [Suspected drug lord gunned down](#)

South Korean blogger revisited

By Joyce Pangco Pañares

BUSAN (via PLDT) — “Have you cried for the Philippines? I have cried for my country several times. I also cried for the Philippines because of so many poor people.”

Jaeyoun Kim, the current coordinator for international affairs of the Korean National Internet Development, wrote these lines in September 2003 when he was still finishing his post- graduate degree at the Ateneo de Manila University.

His blogpost, entitled “My short essay about the Philippines,” has either been linked or featured by several other local sites and newspapers, including that of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, inq7.net, Sun Star's Citizen Watch, and Standard Today, among others.

Kim has come a long way from the bespectacled Atenean who had Computer Science as major and Chinese studies as minor to become a high-level official of the Korea Network Information Center and his country's representative in the recently concluded meeting of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers in Geneva.

Only a few Filipinos in the Philippines, however, have kept track of the unknown Korean student who wrote such simple yet touching lines such as “I want Filipinos to love their neighborhood and country as much as they love God so that the Philippines will be well off. If you have a child, teach them how to love the Philippines. Teach them why they have to love their neighborhood and country.”

For Filipinos in Korea, however, the essay asking the lack of tears being shed for the Philippines is still widely circulated in blogs and Yahoo groups.

Blogging has, for Filipino workers or immigrants here, become not only a medium for responding to touching essays such as Kim's but also as an outlet for day-to-day anxieties ranging from work-related issues to concerns of Moonie brides.

Based on last month's survey of the The Blog Herald, Korea ranked second to the United States in terms of number of existing blogs estimated to be more than 20 million.

While no data is available on the number of Filipino bloggers in Korea, some of the well-known blog sites include Buhay Korea, Adrian in Chuncheon, Altair in Wonju, Dzune in Seoul, Lhon in Daegu, The K Diary, and Wabs in Ulsan, among others.

But for Kim, who seems to have more faith in the Philippines than most Pinoys, he can take heart in the rejoinder from Filipino bloggers in Korea who, touched by his essay, posed the following questions for them to answer: "Is the Philippines worth crying for? Who will shed tears for the Motherland? Who will lend a hand to lift her spirit, to hold the lonely flag that symbolize (sic) her name?"

Back to top