

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY
MAYOR



CITY HALL
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07302
TEL:(201) 547-5200
FAX:(201) 547-4288

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Contact: Jennifer Morrill
Press Secretary
201-547-4836
201-376-0699

Mayor Healy Welcomes Illac Diaz, Founder of MyShelter Foundation and Isang Litrong Liwanag (1 Liter of Light), and Consul General Mario Lopez de Leon, Jr. During the Filipino Flag Raising Ceremony

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy welcomes *Illac Diaz*, founder of *MyShelter Foundation* and *Isang Litrong Liwanag (1 Liter of Light)* during the Filipino flag raising ceremony at **3:30 pm** on **Friday, June 1, 2012** in City Hall, 280 Grove Street.

Scheduled to attend the flag raising ceremony are **Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, Consul General Mario Lopez de Leon, Jr., Illac Diaz**, elected officials, and members of **PAFCOM**. The event is open to the public and is sponsored by the **Philippine-American Friendship Day Parade & Festival Committee (PAFCOM)**.

Illac Diaz is dubbed as a social entrepreneur and renowned philanthropist whose work empowers communities and provides a significant global impact and influence. On Friday, June 1, 2012 at 9:00am at Hudson Catholic, he will be speaking regarding his latest innovation and project, *Isang Litrong Liwanag (1 Liter of Light)*.

Isang Litrong Liwanag (1 Liter of Light), *MyShelter Foundation's* latest venture, is a sustainable lighting project which aims to bring the eco-friendly *solar bottle light* to underprivileged communities worldwide. Designed and developed along with students from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the Solar Bottle Light is rooted on the principle of Appropriate Technologies – a concept that provides simple and easily replicable technologies that address basic needs in developing communities. *1 Liter of Light* is a program inspired by many innovations from around the world. Many cultures have used glass bottles to allow lighting through the roof, and Alfredo Moser from Brazil began pioneering methods of experimenting with plastic bottles. There have been modifications to the Philippine model, which has begun to grow it to scale, and it is the hope of *MyShelter Foundation* that “others take their work and continue to grow the concept, spreading it rapidly to empower and lighten the lives of people.”

For information regarding the *Liter of Light* project, please call Maria Dacanay at 201-424-3495.

(more)

About Illac Diaz

A true philanthropist and innovator, particularly in the ASEAN region, **Illac Diaz** is recognized around the world for his work. In 2008, **Illac Diaz** was named a “Young Global Leader of 2008” by the World Economic Forum in Geneva, Switzerland in recognition of his work with *Pier One Seafarer’s Dormitory*, an inexpensive lodging place for seafarers which he founded in the Philippines. He has also developed the *CentroMigrante Project* which offers a build-for-stay system—the tenants will be able to stay in the compound in exchange for their labor in constructing parts of the project. The shelters developed under this project will then offer seminars on personal finance, remittance management for overseas Filipino workers, as well as on career development and small business management. Along the way, *CentroMigrante* will also coordinate with more than 400 agencies that will help its constituents find jobs. The eventual goal is to reduce the waiting time of overseas Filipino workers from seven months to only three months.

Illac Diaz holds a Bachelor’s degree in Management Economics from the Ateneo de Manila University, a Masters degree in Entrepreneurship at the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston to study Urban Planning Course II – Urban Studies and Planning, and more recently, pursued a Masters degree in Political Administration at Harvard University.

About MyShelter Foundation

MyShelter Foundation was established by **Illac Diaz** to create a system of sustainability and reliability through its capability-building and employment-generating projects. Introducing groundbreaking social enterprise, appropriate low-cost technologies, and alternative construction in the Philippines. *MyShelter Foundation* has pioneered projects such as the Design Against the Elements (DAteE) competition and the Bottle School Project with the vision of spreading the gift of light to underprivileged communities globally — giving an economically- and ecologically-sustainable source of light that will provide an immediate solution to their problems.

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.////