

FROM THE FRONT PAGE

# Census Bureau launches 2010 Census Campaign with new website

THE US Census Bureau recently kicked off its communications campaign to reach every resident in America with the launch of its 2010 Census Website, 2010.census.gov. The Web site will serve as a platform for

a national dialogue about how the census develops a "Portrait of America."

2010.census.gov features an animated marquee that symbolizes the Census Bureau's place at the intersection of the Ameri-

can experience. By clicking on images representative of the population, visitors can enjoy vignettes that ease fears about the census and encourage participation in the once-a-decade population count. The marquee will evolve over time, bringing the diverse voices of America to the site.

"2010.census.gov puts the census in the hands of the public," said US Census Bureau Director Robert M. Groves. "You can find out when you will get the form, and how to fill it out and mail it back. The site also provides a substantial amount of information regarding our commitment to privacy and confidentiality."

Inside the site, the director's blog will offer a look at census efforts nationwide. Comments will be enabled so that readers can share their thoughts and participate in the conversation. As they go live, social media

sites and tools will provide additional opportunities for the public to get involved.

Site features include an interactive census form that provides a history and explanation for each of the 10 questions. This form is one of the shortest in history and takes less than 10 minutes to complete. In order to track census progress and motivate localities, the site will include next year a map widget that displays interactive mail back response rates.

The Web site also demonstrates the Census Bureau's commitment to reaching traditionally hard-to-count populations. In mid-November, a one-page destination about the census will be available on the site in 59 languages. In addition, users will be able to download an in-language guide about how to answer the form. By the end of 2009, the entire site will be presented in Spanish. ■

# Obama signs FY 2010 DHS...

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ity after their spouse's death, it also covers all family-based petitions, "including petitions for unmarried children of US citizens under 21, family-preference categories who have approved or pending petitions which include the spouse and unmarried children of permanent residents, unmarried children over the age of 21 of US citizens, married children of US citizens, siblings of US citizens and the derivative children of this group," says Atty. Reeves and Atty. Joseph Elias in their regular column article in the Asian Journal (see Community Journal section, p.C1 for more information.)

"Derivative beneficiaries of pending or approved employment-based immigrant visa petitions are also covered by the new law which include the spouse and unmarried children under age 21 of an individual who was sponsored under the employment-based category," the article also stated.

According to Reeves, before the new law was approved, if the

petitioner dies before the petition is approved or permanent resident status is granted, the spouse or child would be unable to obtain permanent resident status.

However, the new law does not apply to surviving family members residing outside of the US, added Reeves.

"Unfortunately, if they are not living in the United States right now they would have to file the traditional humanitarian reinstatement which is very difficult," added Reeves. "The immigration services grants only a very few of them."

The root of the law began in 1970 when the court ruled that a husband's death stripped the wife of her position as spouse, meaning she no longer qualified for a green card. A 1990 law then narrowed that ruling's scope, saying a widow married to a US citizen for at least two years can file a petition for a residency permit on her own behalf, according to the Associated Press.

The new law was championed by Rep. Jim McGovern and Sen. Bill Nelson. ■

# Government urged to implement Climate...

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garda said. She said the most vulnerable to the scourge of disasters are the poorest of the poor, who should be given special attention. They are the small farmers, fisherfolk, upland dwellers, urban squatters living on riverbanks, forestlands, seashores and low-lying areas.

"Without planning and assistance, more will lose their lives, homes and farms that make up their life's possession. Just a single extreme weather event can derail the achievement of our Millennium Development Goals' target. While climate change has recently been at the forefront of international and local discourse, it is perhaps only now that we have seen its devastating impacts," Legarda said.

She said it took tropical storm Ondoy and typhoon Pepeng for us to realize the urgent need to confront the drivers of our vulnerability to disasters and climate change - poor urban governance, vulnerable rural livelihoods and ecosystems decline - in order to save lives and secure livelihoods.

The Climate Change Act will build resilience to the impacts of climate change, Legarda said.

The Commission on Climate Change shall be the sole policy-making body of the government tasked to coordinate, monitor and evaluate the programs and action plans of

the government relating to climate change.

"The Climate Change Act, the first in Asia, sums up the country's great resolve to take the issue of climate change very seriously. It goes to show that we value above everything else the welfare of our people through the protection of the world where we all live," Legarda said.

"This law is for us, our children and the generations after them. Ensuring its full implementation is the great challenge and responsibility posed to us all," she said.

**Medium-term dev't plan**  
A multi-sectoral organization appealed to President Arroyo to consider their declaration for a Medium-Term Philippine Development Plan on Climate Change during the national conference on climate change.

Representatives of local government units, national agencies, policymakers, academe, private and public communities, non-governmental organizations, and the tri-media, were participants of the recently concluded "National Conference on Climate Change Adaptation+2: Moving forward on Albay Declaration 2007," held at the Diamond Hotel in Manila last Monday and Tuesday.

The group came up with a Manila Declaration 2009, which included an Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Climate Change Act, and the National Action Plan on Climate Change, all local development plans

and programs, as well as their budgets.

The group has been cited for recognizing the findings of the global scientific community and the conclusions of the 2007 Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that the "warming of the earth's climate system is unequivocal."

They also affirmed their commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Republic Act 9729, or the Climate Change Act, as the core mechanism for addressing climate change mitigation and adaptation at the local level.

The group recommended the promotion of innovative partnerships with scientific communities and academic institutions to enhance scientifically informed national policies for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

The group also advised the government to recognize the importance of achieving greater synergy between local actions and national strategies and programs and the importance of strengthening cooperation among local government units for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the goals of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005 to 2015 for building resilient communities through the promotion of innovative approaches to reduce disaster risk. ■

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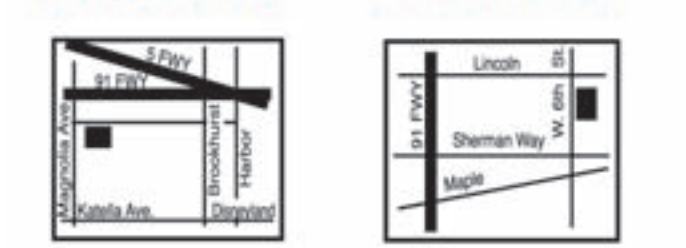


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