

Sandip uses dance, drama as a medium to raise awareness on social issues

Bhutan issues stamp featuring Soparrkar and Dance for a Cause

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: Internationally acclaimed choreographer Sandip Soparrkar was recently honoured by the Government of Bhutan with official stamp issued for his initiative 'Dance for a Cause'. A personalized postage stamp featuring Choreographer Sandip Soparrkar and Dance for a Cause logo was issued by the Government of Bhutan.

In 2008 Sandip Soparrkar had launched his Initiative Dance for a Cause at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland with help of late Parmeshwar Godrej. This initiative is a way through which Sandip uses dance and drama as a medium to raise awareness about various social issues prevalent in society.

Karma Wangdi, Chief Executive Officer, Bhutan Postal



Bhutan government issued special stamp featuring 'Dance for a Cause'.



Sandip Soparrkar

Corporation Ltd said, "Dance for a Cause is a heartwarming initiative by Mr Sandip Soparrkar that has received international appreciation, be it United Nations or The government of India, all have praised the Worldwide social awareness work that Dance for a Cause has been doing. This stamp costing 30 Bhutanese Ngultrum issued by the Bhutan Postal corporation Ltd celebrates and recognises 10 years of Dance for a Cause."

In the past decade Sandip Soparrkar and team have raised awareness for issues such as animal rights, cancer awareness, aids, care for mentally challenged individuals, drugs awareness and more. Last year the Government of India honoured the initiative with the National Excellence

Award too

Sandip Soparrkar said, "There are so many big and small social issues in the world we live in. As a dancer I believe it is my responsibility to bring to light the problems that surround us because to me dance is not just a form of entertainment but also a form of education and it is the best way to make an impact and bring change and that is what exactly dance for a cause does. It awakens souls of people making them more sensitive towards issues prevalent in the society."

This is the first time ever that an official postage stamp has been issued in the name of any international style dancer by the government of Bhutan making India and the entire dance community proud of this very special achievement.

Int'l Domestic Workers Day



Photos from the event

Sandigan Awards commemorates 'ILO Convention 189'

Outstanding employers, domestic workers awarded during IDWD

By Marlon Aquino Malinao
Arab Times Staff

KUWAIT CITY, July 5: Sandigan Kuwait (SK) and Sandigan Domestic Workers Association (SKWDA) in collaboration with the International Labor Organization (ILO), International Domestic Workers Federation and Philippine Labor Office and Overseas Workers Welfare Offices held its 1st International Domestic Workers Day (IDWD) celebration in Kuwait and the whole Gulf region on June 23, 2018 at the Holiday Inn, Salmiya with the theme "Domestic Worker Resilient Heart Amalgamate Spirit" and global theme "Support ILO Convention to Stop Gender-based Violence, Equal Rights, Respect and Justice for Domestic Workers" in commemoration of the ILO Convention 189. The event was graced by both local and international governments, advocates and leaders of different NGO around the globe.

Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) Administrator Hans Leo J. Caceda attended the event and delivered the message of the Secretary

of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Silvestre R. Bello III. The Sandigan Awards was formally opened by Sandigan Head Volunteer Mary Ann Abunda followed by a production number headed by Wredz Villanueva. The best of the best local artist namely Ma Roel Guarin, John Joseph B. Braga, Trissy de los Santos-Torres, Jumel Trinidad Carvajal, Marchie Roxas, Chan-Chan Cervantes, Francis Jaranilla, Rowena P. Tinio and Felda Basnilla made the program extra special. The celebration was hosted by Alejandro Ben B. Braga IV.

The highlight of the celebration was the awarding of 19 Outstanding Domestic Workers who served their employers for more than 2 decades and the 19 Outstanding Employers of the domestic workers. The recognition was held in the presence of Philippine Labor Attaché Restico S.M. Dela Fuente, Sophia Kagan, Merrin Abbas, Mariela Acuña, Sri Lanka Labor Attaché Nilmini Abeygunawardhana and Philippine Embassy C. D. A. Mohm. Noordin Lomodont.

The awardees are as follows (read as outstanding domestic worker and outstanding employer):

- 1.) Remedios Laylo Paglinawan, 20 years in service – Khalid Othman Al Othman
- 2.) Carmelita Omo Ordone, 20.5 years in service – Ali Naser Almudaaheem
- 3.) Elebia Rualo Cariaga, 21 years in service – Adel Ismael Abdul Kareem Al-Ansari
- 4.) Lucidel Tolentino Malasa, 23 years in service – Naser Ali Naqi Al-Naqi
- 5.) Jessena Oco Balazon, 23 years in service – Fawaz Al Shareifh
- 6.) Victoria Jasmin Ayag, 26 years in service – Nasjeed Saleem Hussain Al Shatti
- 7.) Tessie Muega Gacuma, 27 years in service – Khaled Saleem Hussain Al Shatti
- 8.) Lydia Navarro, 27 years in service – Abdulaziz Ahmad Nour Abdullah
- 9.) Lerma Cablayan Bagayan, 27 Year in Service – Abdulrahman F.M. Buzubar

10. Clea Palma Lacurom, 28 years in service – Hassa Hussain Ali Farhan
11. Miriam Bongat Logrono, 28 years in service – Naser Ali Naqi Al Naqi
12. Leonardo Uminga Soriano, 30 years in service – Jassim M.H. Qabazard
13. Ofelia Ocampo Sebastian, 31

14. Patricia Mendoza Flores, 32 years in service – Fawaz Salman Malek Al Sabah
15. Emely Bardón Cancela, 32 years in service – Fawzi M.A. Al Mansour
16. Erlinda Parinas Ganal, 32 years in service – Mohammad Saud Naseeb

Al Hunaif
17. Feliciano Casilla Dumaguin, 33 years in service – Adel Ismael Abdulkareem Al Ansari
18. Nelia Caoyonan Salmon, 33 years in service – Khalid Abdullah Al Tarawah
19. Elena Ramos Santos, 39 years in service – Abdullah Saud Al-Humaidi
The International Domestic Workers Day wouldn't be possible without the assistance of Marites Sarquilla of Ferrand Human Resources International, David Bujalance of 1010 Ephesians Human Resources Inc., Mariam Macapudi of Duterte Restaurant, ICSEA Kuwait, Hash Tag Health Institute and Saloon for Men, Max's Restaurant, Hanan Dashti, Farcon Cargo, and private individuals. Gratitude also goes out to non-government organizations: Triskelion International, Sanay Sa Hirap, Coalition of Guardians Fraternal Brotherhood International Inc., Pinoy Ambulance Nurses in Kuwait, Second Chance and Maniniyot Kuwait.
Moreover, the first Domestic Workers Handbook was also unveiled during the event.



A photo from the event