

## **Philippines**

### **Facts and Statistics**

**Location:** Southeastern Asia, archipelago between the Philippine Sea and the South China Sea, east of Vietnam

**Capital:** Manila

**Population:** 86,241,697 (July 2004 est.)

**Ethnic Make-up:** Christian Malay 91.5%, Muslim Malay 4%, Chinese 1.5%, other 3%

**Religions:** Roman Catholic 83%, Protestant 9%, Muslim 5%, Buddhist and other 3%

### **Languages in the Philippines**

Filipino (formerly Pilipino) is based on Tagalog and is the official language of the Philippines. In spite of being the national language, only about 55 percent of Filipinos speak the language. In addition to Filipino are about 111 distinct indigenous languages and dialects, of which only about 10 are important regionally.

English is generally used for educational, governmental and commercial purposes and is widely understood since it is the medium of instruction in schools. The Philippines are the third largest group of English speaking people in the world, after the United States and the United Kingdom.

Since English is widely spoken in the Philippines, it is common to hear Filipinos use a mixture English and Filipino words or phrases, known as "Taglish" (a mixture of English and Tagalog), in their everyday conversations. A steadily dwindling minority still speak Spanish, which had at one time been an official language.

### **Filipino Society & Culture**

#### **Filipino Family Values**

- . The family is the centre of the social structure and includes the nuclear family, aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins and honorary relations such as godparents, sponsors, and close family friends.
- . People get strength and stability from their family. As such, many children have several godparents.
- . Concern for the extended family is seen in the patronage provided to family members when they seek employment.
- . It is common for members of the same family to work for the same company.
- . In fact, many collective bargaining agreements state that preferential hiring will be given to family members.

#### **Filipino Concept of Shame**

- . *Hiya* is shame and is a motivating factor behind behavior.
- . It is a sense of social propriety and conforming to societal norms of behavior.
- . Filipinos believe they must live up to the accepted standards of behavior and if they fail to do so they bring shame not only upon themselves, but also upon their family.
- . One indication of this might be a willingness to spend more than they can afford on a party rather than be shamed by their economic circumstances.
- . If someone is publicly embarrassed, criticized, or does not live up to expectations, they feel shame and lose self-esteem.