



Issue 12 Philippine Olympians Association, January 2026

Welcome Message

Welcome to another issue of Arête, the official newsletter of the Philippine Olympians Association. There were a lot of good changes last year, electing our new President Stephen Fernandez, Treasurer Jethro Dionisio OLY and Sec Gen Ral Rosario OLY, as well as two new board members, Olympic gold medalist Hidilyn Diaz-Naranjo OLY and boxer Rey Fortaleza OLY. We ran our staple programs: the OSLP Saturday sessions (batch 13) and the OSLP Summit in Mandaue City (our 4th edition) which doubled up as our Olympic day celebration; and embarked on our maiden Athlete Certificate Course, a first in Asia and very possibly the world! At the POA we endeavor to engage and support our Olympians as we remain active and relevant in Philippine sports. Join us as we and inspire and nurture a culture of excellence in sports and life!

Inside the Issue...

- Message from our President Stephen Fernandez
- Filipino Olympians Recognized at the PSA Awards Night
- New POA officers and board members Elected
- Athlete Certificate Course in Motion
- 4th OSLP Summit 2025
- OSLP Batch 3

Message from POA President Stephen Fernandez...

I am deeply honored to take on my new role as President of the Philippine Olympians Association. This responsibility strengthens my commitment to truly embody, live, and promote the Olympic values of excellence, friendship, and respect—not only in competition, but in service to others.

Giving back to the sports community that shaped us is at the heart of this role. Together, we will continue to create meaningful avenues that inspire future generations and keep the Olympic spirit alive across the country.

I extend my sincere gratitude to my fellow Olympians for the trust and confidence you have placed in me. Your belief fuels our shared mission to serve, lead, and uphold the enduring legacy of the Olympic movement in the Philippines.

Filipino Olympians Recognized at the PSA Awards Night

The POA had a wonderful reunion at the beginning of the year courtesy of the Philippine Sportswriters Association who graciously gave each Olympian a beautiful award for their contribution to the country. The PSA awards, which were held at the Manila Hotel on January 27, 2025, gave special recognition to Filipino Olympians “for being part of an elite group of athletes who represented the Philippines at the highest level of sports and in recognition of their hard work and sacrifices for flag and country”. 36 Olympians were present, the earliest or oldest Olympics represented were from the 1968 Mexico Games, by gymnast Ernesto Beren and Basketball player Jamie Mariano. It was a memorable evening well spent.







New POA Officers and Board Members Elected

Olympic Gold Medalist, Hidilyn Diaz-Naranjo OLY and boxer Reynaldo Fortaleza OLY were nominated to the POA board early this year through our online voting platform. Also elected in to office last February 19, 2025 are our new POA President, Stephen Fernandez; Treasurer, Gerardo Rosario OLY; Corporate Secretary, Jethro Dionisio OLY; and Chairman, Freddie Webb OLY. These officers will represent the POA for the next Olympic cycle.



Athlete Certificate Course in Motion

The first batch of young athletes to complete the Athlete Certificate Course gathered last May 15, 2025 for their face to face session at the College of Saint Benilde. 18 athletes from various sports, a majority of them coming from the Hidilyn Diaz Academy, took part in the half day event. Topics discussed by trained Olympian facilitators, Akiko Thomson-Guevara and Stephen Fernandez, were Injury Prevention and Nutrition. The Athlete Certificate Course is run in partnership with the World Academy of Sport and the World Olympians Association; the Philippines is only the 2nd NOA in the world to execute it. To find out more about the program and how you can be part of it, please email Philippines@olympians.org.







4th OSLP Summit 2025

As this year's summit so closely coincided with our Olympic day on June 23 (which was intentional), we consider this our Olympic weekend celebration! Moving forward, we will rename this program, that is evolving into a movement, into the Olympians Sports Leadership Program and will continue to hold the summit as close to our Olympic day.

(Excerpt taken from the Facebook post of the Sacred Heart School Ateneo de Cebu)

The OSLP National Sports Leadership Summit 2025 was a powerful gathering of minds and hearts in Philippine sports! Hosted by the Mandaue City Sports and Development Office in partnership with Sacred Heart School – Ateneo de Cebu, this year's summit was held in the Virginia Chiongbian Theater.



With a strong lineup of international speakers, respected keynote presenters, and the presence of our beloved Philippine Olympians, the summit inspired reflection, connection, and leadership growth.

The event was graced by PSC Chairman Richard “Dickie” Bachmann, who not only delivered his message of support but also went room to room—listening, talking, and connecting with coaches, athletes, and sports leaders from across the country.

The sessions focused on 3 main topics: Storytelling – Learning from lived experiences, Networking – Building bonds across disciplines and Systems Thinking – Driving lasting change in sports and in the communities.

The summit was participated by close to 200 Sports leaders, Coaches and athletes from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. Founded by Coach Noli Ayo and Akiko Thomson-Guevara OLY, the summit was further strengthened by the presence of members of the Philippine Olympians Association, led by its president, Stephen Fernandez OLY.

We are honored to have hosted the OSLP National Sports Leadership Summit 2025 in partnership with the Mandaue City Sports and Development office led by Mary Joy Tabal-Jimenez OLY. We believe in the power of sports to shape character, inspire leadership, and build communities. By bringing together coaches, athletes, and leaders from across the country and beyond, we aimed to foster meaningful dialogue, build bridges, and empower the next generation of sports leaders. Supporting this summit is a reflection of the schools commitment to holistic education and formation - Jon Inot, SHS-AdC Athletics Director.

OLYMPIANS

Eric Buhain OLY Swimming
Ral Rosario OLY Swimming
Jethro Dionisio OLY Shooting
Henry Dagmil OLY Long Jump
Akiko Thomson - Guevara OLY Swimming
Mary Joy Tabal Jimenez OLY Marathon

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

AJ Koikoi
Arkendu Banerjee

SPOTLIGHT SPEAKERS

Paolo Trillo
Nicole Tiamzon
Migs Bustos



A heartfelt Magis thank you to all who made this summit a success. Let Us Work Together!



OSLP SUMMIT 2025

OSLP SUMMIT 2025

June 20 & 21, 2025
Virginia Chiongbian Theater
Sacred Heart School Ateneo de Cebu

OLYMPIANS ASSOCIATION PHILIPPINES

LPU

ADENALINE

Sponsors: MYP, Smart Sports

Host: Manduae City Sports Office

Partner: SACRED HEART SCHOOL ATENEO DE CEBU

KEY NOTE SPEAKERS

- Mr. A.J. Koikei, UNITAR, Japan
- Mr. Arkendu Banerjee, Mount Royal University, Canada
- Ms. Akiko Thomson-Guevara, OLY/OSLP CO-founder
- Coach Noli Ayo, OSLP Co-Founder

SPOTLIGHT SPEAKERS (SYSTEMS THINKING)

- Mr. Paolo Trillo, Executive Director of MYP Sports Foundation
- Ms. Nicole Tiamzon, Founder of Spike and Serve Philippines
- Mr. Migs Bustos, Advocate for World Vision

REGISTRATION FOR LOCAL PARTICIPANTS:

- 1,000 - Regular - 900 - Student
- Inclusion: Event shirt, Lunch Meal (2 days), am/pm snacks for the 2 days

BREAK OUT SESSIONS

- With Olympians



Online SPORTS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
Batch 13

Our sessions will be held during Saturdays from **February 22 to March 8, 2025 via Zoom.**

Feb 22 (10am) | Feb 15, March 1, 8 and 15 (3pm)

Open to all sports leaders and coordinators of schools, LGUs and sports associations

Facilitators

FEB 22
Miguel Mendoza OLY
Swimming (2000 Sydney, 2004 Athens)

MARCH 1
Mildred Canete Colico OLY
Judo (1984 Tokyo)

MARCH 8
Jasmine Strachan-Simpoa OLY
Taekwondo (2000 Sydney)

Akiiko Thomson-Guevara OLY, Coach Noli Ayo and Coach Stephen Fernandez OLY

To register, please send a message to the OSLP FB Page.

All sessions via Zoom. A batch orientation will take place on February 15 and graduation on March 15. All OSLP participants are invited to the **National Summit** in June 2025.

Social Media Partner
ADRENALINE SOLUTIONS

Receive your OLY Certificate

In recognition of the accomplishments of Olympians worldwide, World Olympians Association are providing Olympians with an Olympian.org email address and a certificate of recognition with the post-nominal letters - OLY. These are available to global Olympians at no cost.

To obtain your certificate and Olympian.org email address, simply register on the WOA website: <https://olympians.org/olympians/oly/>

