

## **José S. BRILLANTES (Philippines)**

**Date and place of birth:** 4 February 1938, Manila, Philippines

**Working languages:** English, Filipino, some German, some Spanish

### **Current position/function**

Currently an elected member (and Vice Chairman) of the Committee (CMW) and Ambassador to Canada tasked with representing the interests and upholding the rights and welfare of approximately 500,000 Filipino workers in Canada; has initiated 4 MOUs between Canadian provinces and the Philippines protecting and promoting migrant workers' rights.

### **Main professional activities**

A lawyer by profession and training, a law practitioner for 11 years and a respected diplomat for almost 40 years, presently Ambassador (AEP) to Canada and having served at Philippine embassies in Bonn, Washington D.C. and Kuala Lumpur, he pursues campaigns to protect the welfare of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) on land and sea, by extending to them all possible consular and legal assistance; represents the Philippines in international, regional, multilateral and bilateral dialogues, meetings, seminars and conferences; is resource speaker on migrant workers' affairs and concerns in symposiums and forums drawing on his background and experience as former Labour Minister, as former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, former Ambassador to Malaysia and having attended the UN session that passed the Convention for the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in New York, 1988–1989.

### **Educational background**

Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) Lyceum University, Dagupan City, Philippines, 2005; Bachelor of Laws, Ateneo de Manila University, Manila, Philippines (1956–1960); Graduate Studies in Public Administration; Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada (1975–1976).

### **Other main activities in the field relevant to the mandate of the treaty body concerned**

As current member of the CMW Committee, examines reports of States parties; attend inter-committee meetings, all towards the pursuit of the Committee's objectives. As a diplomat and a CMW Committee member, has spoken as resource person on migration and development in the Philippines and in international fora, e.g. the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Forum in Migration and Development Manila, 2008; Lima Declaration, Peru 2006; Ministerial Conference for Countries of Origin, Colombo Sri Lanka 2003; 1<sup>st</sup> Conference on Diaspora States, Mexico City 2004; advocates the promotion and protection of migrant workers as one of the 3 pillars of Philippine

foreign policy, and oversees the implementation of MOUs with Canadian provinces, including job site visitation.

**List of most recent publications in the field**

“Políticas y mecanismos Filipinos en torno a la migración y el empleo en el extranjero”, México City, November 2006.

“Migration and development, opportunities and obstacles” prepared for Dag Hammarskjold Day, Asian Institute of Management Manila, October 2005.