

BIBAK SWITZERLAND AND THE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY 2015 IN UETENDORF, THUN

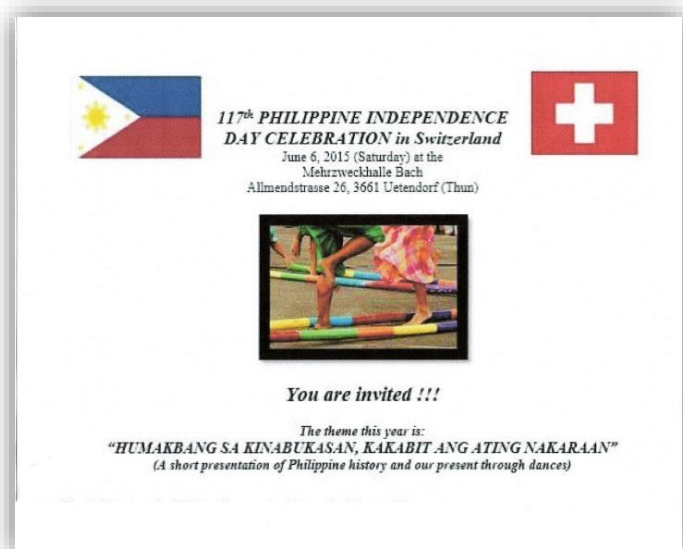
LEAVING FOR UETENDORF

It seems that it was only yesterday when Henry, Sarah, Melissa and I left the PID feast in Geneva 2014 back to Wallis. The sounds of the Solibao and the gongs seem to be ringing in my ears when I left Bubendorf direction Uetendorf, Thun in Berne.

This time I travelled alone meeting some co-expats in the regional train from Thun to Uetendorf disembarking a station before the venue. It's a nice weather hiking almost a kilometer and a chance to sight the venue village.

« For this year's Philippine Independence Day presentation, BIBAK-CH based its attire from the PID Contemporary

Theme. We want to show the world that our dances and traditional costumes can also be switched into modern outfit without changing our dance movements, neither cutting a piece off from our costumes nor removing the gracefulness of our dances. »*rebing*



« We are eight ladies who will represent BIBAK-CH creating dance formations that portray the different traditional dances of the Cordillera complying with this year's theme of modernizing Filipino traditional dances » *jenny*

BIBAK SWITZERLAND AND THE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY 2015 IN UETENDORF, THUN



“Cool pictures ladies... you all look gorgeous with your attire although we miss your male counterparts...? I am confident, you will garner again the loudest claps, whistles and compliments as usual.” *lo*

“It will surely be a grand festival with larger number of CAR attendance.” *julio*

MEHRZWECKHALLE BACH

The venue is already crowded with Filipinos and their families, friends and visitors. The food stands smell good from the different Filipino cuisine. My stomach revolted as I made my way to the dressing room passing by the hall entrance so I had a chance to peep inside the auditorium. Although dark, I noticed that there are plenty of ladies dressed in Benguet costumes. The group from Geneva, I thought and found my way to the ladies corner.

Outside, my eyes searched for ladies in Tapis but I'm just like lone Igorot Redskin all alone completely dressed in Bontoc attire.

“ BIBAK, where are you?”

BIBAK SWITZERLAND AND THE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY 2015 IN UETENDORF, THUN

UNDER THE PLANE TREE

The BIBAK group came, one after the other carrying foods and drinks. We gathered beside the playground where there are couple of plane trees and enough space for the dance rehearsal.

Ladies from Geneva, Lugano and a pair from Barcelona came to join us.

The lady dancers made their rounds

without our native instruments but with CD player.

Corrections, one more round, one more correction. Perspiring and with the words “that’s what we do” the ladies ended their rehearsal.

We gathered around the plane tree and enjoyed the different cuisine with full gusto.

After the meal, Ric left us to prepare for the Igorot gathering in their home when the programme is over.

Meanwhile, the BIBAK-CH dancers wore their attires helping each other or by their husbands.



BIBAK SWITZERLAND AND THE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY 2015 IN UETENDORF, THUN

BIBAK DANCE 2015

“The present Cordillera Cultural dances have resisted major innovation amidst its transformation from ritual reenactment into a new art form performed on stage. The dance steps and costumes have not abandoned their traditional forms retaining familiar signifiers of Igorotness or Cordilleranness.

This typifies the Cordillerans: proud of their roots, resistant to foreign oppression, acknowledging their Igorot identity and its differentiation among their global community.

The Cordilleran ladies proudly present their different dance steps of the six provinces of the Cordillera Administrative Region : Benguet, Ifugao, Mountain Province, Abra, Apayao and Kalinga.” *lorena*

THE PROGRAMME

The feast began with the banner parade. Rebecca Riesterer-Tamilan and Sabina Kuenzi-Luminang represented BIBAK-CH proudly holding the BIBAK banner,



smiling as they passed the crowd entering the hall followed by the Benguet Igorot Association.

In the hall, the banner holders presented their organization banners so the audience has the chance to make snapshots of them or together with them.

BIBAK SWITZERLAND AND THE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY 2015 IN UETENDORF, THUN

THE INTRO

With modern music, the Bibak-CH dancers appeared on the stage carrying mini Filipino flags followed by the Benguet Igorot Association (BIAS), a newly formed Igorot group from Geneva and the other Pilipino groups.

THE DANCE

The dance presentations begin from Luzon, Visayas then Mindanao. BIBAK-CH lady dancers have the honor to present first their dance accompanied by an Igorot traditional music in CD. Their Kalinga tapis, converted into midilook dresses show that our tapis can be multipurpose ; traditional or modern.



The Benguet Igorot Association group

appeared second, the solibao percussioned by a woman walking together with the dancers and half kneeling while the others danced their part. Their dance with one man together with two ladies as gong players presented their dance in different formations.

Again, it showed that the dances of the Igorots are well appreciated by fellow Filipinos. As Lo mentioned, clapping was there after each dance presentation.

<https://youtu.be/FaVtXs5-cRg>

(links for BIBAK-CH and BIAS dances)

BIBAK SWITZERLAND AND THE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY 2015 IN UETENDORF, THUN

Congratulations to these two groups of dancers. Although different in names, both proudly showed our dances and our costumes...and that they are striving for one: TO SHOW OUR CULTURE AND TRADITION.

COUNTRY SIDE

After the programme, the Igorots were invited for a grill party at Ric Kilongan's place.



Bernet family gave me a lift driving up to Ric's. Wow, nice panorama, cows and cowbells... the country side of Switzerland.

It's nice to sit all together and talk about the PID, exchanging stories from the others and enjoying the chicken pulotan which Sabina brought with them while the other ladies are busy preparing the food for dinner.



The Bucher family and I have to leave earlier, Christoph Bucher drove extra to Thun so I could catch my train to Olten. On the way, heavy rain poured tremendously that it's even hard to see the cars ahead of us. Then suddenly a knocking

BIBAK SWITZERLAND AND THE PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY 2015 IN UETENDORF, THUN

noise over our heads...hailstorm. "My nice car" Christoph sighed as he drove over the flooded road.

Claire and I asked ourselves how the group save themselves from this sudden change of weather. We hope they are okey.

Family Bucher dropped me in Thun. Thanks. We said goodbye and I hurried in the subway waving my hands as they drove their way out to Immense.