

Entry on Domingo Lee in the

華僑華人百科全書，人物卷 Encyclopedia of Chinese Overseas, Volume on Whos Who, (北京，中國出版社，1998) p. 697.

李 L

Li Yongnian

李永年 (Domingo Y. Lee, 1934—) 菲律賓華人企业家、社團領袖。祖籍福建晉江，生于菲律賓。



李永年

曾就讀于馬尼拉聖公會中學，并參加台灣组织的菲華青年回國觀光團活動。加入中國國民黨，曾任中國國民黨駐菲律賓總支部常務委員。后繼承父業，主要经营酒精、建筑材料等業。历任菲華商聯總會理事、常務理事、商總青年委員會委員，新聞

委員會委員，旅菲陝西李氏宗親總會理事兼文教主任等職。与反对党领袖贝尼格诺·阿基诺 (Benigno Aquino, Jr., 1932—1983) 夫妇过从甚密。1983年阿基诺遭暗杀后，在1986年总统选举中李积极支持科拉松·阿基诺。科拉松·阿基诺当选总统后，受命为无任所大使兼总统处理台湾事务的特别顾问。在科拉松·阿基诺支持下，出任菲華商聯總會第17、18屆理事長。

(周南京)

Important is the 6th line -- He joined the Kuomintang (KMT) and at one time was a member of the Executive Committee of the Philippine Headquarters of the Kuomintang Party.

EE

Foreign Policy of the New
TAIWAN

Pragmatic Diplomacy in Southeast Asia

CHEN JIE



H.J. Cheng's Lion Group, Lee Kim Yew's Country Heights Holdings Group, Quek Leng Chan's Hong Leong Group of Malaysia, and Kuo Hock Nian's Kuok Bros. Group, in the Philippines, Tan Yu's Asiaworld Group, George S. K. Ty's Metrobank Group of Cos., Alfonso Yuchengco's House of Investments Group, and Domingo Lee's Philippine Banking Corporation, and in Singapore, Lien Ying Chow's Overseas Union Bank, Wee Cho Yaw's United Overseas Bank, and Kwek Lung Ming's Hong Leong Group.²⁶ The real list is considerably longer than this, and these are just the biggest potatoes.

These people helped arrange meetings between Taiwanese leaders and their Southeast Asian counterparts, functioned as messengers between the two, facilitated some key diplomatic visits, and introduced Taiwanese capitalists to local government officials and generals.²⁷ However, since what they are after is essentially profit, their diplomatic favors and loyalty cannot be taken for granted. Some of them are best known as long-time friends of the leaders in Beijing, and started to warm to Taipei only after 1997, when they coveted Taiwan's deep pockets to rescue their business empires hard hit by the financial crisis. They believed that they could somehow 'charge' Taipei tens of millions of dollars with a critical diplomatic favor which could, for instance, make the Taiwanese government feel obliged to talk a Kuomintang firm or SOE into forming a joint venture with them. Most of Southeast Asian conglomerates enjoying partnerships with Taiwanese business have huge investments in China too.²⁸ For example, the Bangkok Bank of the Bangkok Group was one of the first foreign banks permitted by Beijing to open branches in China in the early 1980s. The Charoen Pokphand Group is simply one of the largest international investors in China. It set up business in Shenzhen Special Economic Zone in as early as 1979, the very year when Beijing declared that Shenzhen be opened up to foreign investment. By 1997, the Group was operating more than 110 enterprises in more than 20 provinces.²⁹ The Salim Group, Lippo Group and Kuok Bros. Group were also anything but strangers in Beijing or in the pro-Beijing circles in Hong Kong. When he visited Singapore in 1997, PRC Premier Li Peng particularly called in eight ethnic Chinese tycoons from the whole region for a social meeting, as a show of Beijing's own tycoon diplomacy.³⁰ Some of the eight guests, including Oei Ek Tjong, Lien Ying Chow, and Liem Sioe Liong, were also close to Taipei. For most of the ethnic Chinese business elite, both China and Taiwan are regarded as attractive business partners. They want to cultivate cozy relations

with leaders in both Beijing and Taipei. It is not about straddling across two boats, since many believe they are grabbing two lifebuoys as long as they can play the game skillfully. Still, during one particular period, some tycoons or business associations may take more interest in one of the 'Two Chinas', depending mainly on their business priorities. For example, Lucia Tan, a tycoon buddy of President Joseph Estrada who has his bread buttered more

in Beijing and Hong Kong than in Taipei, was a pain in the neck of Taipei in terms of connection politics in the Presidential circles. If one looks at the records from a longer historical perspective, then it becomes clear that reform and open-door policy in China since Deng Xiaoping has been winning the friendship of Chinese business elite in Southeast Asia. To the extent that more and more regional business leaders or associations have thus had to balance their interest in Taiwan with their ever increasing interest in China, this historical development has been at Taiwan's political expense. A classic example is the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Inc., the largest ethnic Chinese business organization in the Philippines. For decades since its inception in 1954, it was one of Taipei's best diplomatic allies in Manila. In fact, it was directly guided by Taiwan's embassy in the old days. The Chairman of the Federation usually served as a go-between between Taipei and Malacanang (the Presidential Palace in Manila), particularly after the official ties were severed.⁹¹ In particular, Domingo Lee, the Chairman during Corazon Aquino's presidency and also a close friend of her late husband, was appointed as her special adviser. More dramatically, Domingo Lee was appointed as Manila's quasi-ambassador to Taipei (then called Director of Asian Exchange Center) soon after her presidential inauguration. What made the whole picture even more fabulous for Taipei was that Lee was actually a member of the standing committee of Kuomintang's *de facto* branch in Manila.⁹² However, the lure of China deepened the division in the leadership of the Federation since the 1990s. In 1994, the Federation sent a delegation to Beijing for the first time. Then in 1997, Chinese President Jiang Zemin personally received another delegation from the Federation. The time when Taipei could take the federation's loyalty for granted has become a historical memory.

BIO-DATA

NAME : **DOMINGO Y. LEE**

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: tower_steel@ymail.com

DATE OF BIRTH : November 15, 1934

PLACE OF BIRTH : Capas, Tarlac

MARRIED TO : LIM SIU KENG (EVELYN LIM LEE)

CHILDREN : Rexford, Davy, Rosemarie & Redmond

EDUCATION : High School – Far Eastern University
: College – B.S. Management, University of the East (1954 – 1957)

GOVERNMENT POSITION : Ambassador At Large
Asian Pacific Region
(1986 – 1987)

: Ambassador
Republic of the Philippines
Designated by former Pres. Corazon Aquino,
1987

: Presidential Special Adviser for TECO Taipei, Taiwan Affair
(1986 – 1987)

BUSINESS AFFILIATION : Chairman of the Board & CEO, Philippine Banking Corporation
(1987 – 1992)

: Director, San Miguel Corporation (1987 – 1992)

: Director, San Miguel Neptuna – Hongkong (1987 – 1992)

: Chairman & President, New Dynasty International,

: Adviser, Metrobank Foundation

: Adviser, Asia Pacific Top Management International Resources Corp

: Senior Adviser – Philippine Savings Bank

CIVIC AND OTHER

- AFFILIATION** : President, Federation of Filipino –
Chinese Chambers Of Commerce and Industry, Inc.
(1987 – 1991)
- : Vice Chairman, Hero Foundation, Inc.
- : Awarded Outstanding Alumni – St. Stephen High School
- : Vice-Chairman, Board of Trustees,
Lorenzo Ruiz Foundation for Filipino Chinese Community
- : Member, Board of Governor,
Employers Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP)
- : Member, Advisory Board, Philippine Special Olympics Foundation
- : Honorary President,
Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and
Industry, Inc.

PAST

- ACTIVITIES** : Member, Businessmen's Group,
State Visit of Pres. Corazon C. Aquino to the United States
in September, 1986
- : Member, Official Party,
State Visit of President Corazon C. Aquino to Japan in
November, 1986
- : Head of Mission,
Phil. Businessmen's Mission to Taipei, Taiwan
(July 28 – 30, 1987)
- : Head of Mission,
Trade and Goodwill Mission,
Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore & Thailand
(March 24 – April 6, 1988)
- : Member,
Businessmen's Group,
State Visit of Pres. Corazon C. Aquino to
Germany, France and Belgium on July 09-14, 1989
- : Member,
Businessmen's Group,
State Visit of Pres. Corazon C. Aquino to
Canada and United States on November 04-12, 1989

* At age 53, youngest President of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of
Commerce and Industry, Inc (1987 – 1991)