

# The 3rd World FMA Festival or Modern Arnis Festival

By Punong Guro Abner Anievas KEAT\_CMS



Still reminiscing from the First National FMA Festival held in Intramuros last May. I cannot believe that I am looking at my calendar and booking another flight again, going back to the Philippines in July. Due to my company's leave policy I have already visited the Philippines several times, which started last January, so I have to settle for the Gala Night to show my support to the event.

As my family drove me to the Heritage Hotel, we were stuck in heavy traffic in Makati. We passed by Ninoy Aquinos monument. I feel a sudden flash back of memory when I was a volunteer NAMFREL during the election that gives way to the ouster of Ferdinand Marcos.

During the promotion of the 3rd World FMA Festival Senior Master Bambit Dulay who served as the Event secretariat, is working so hard to coordinate with different people, whose going to be the instructors, the venue, fees and dates. Going to the place where a special certificate will be made, they have many sleepless nights and often forgot if it was day or night.

A lot of criticism has been circling around that this is a not an FMA Festival but it is a Modern Arnis Festival. Most groups are having second thoughts if they are going to attend or even give their support. Browsing the Website even confuses a lot of people as the main page will clearly shows that it's all Modern Arnis People with the photos and the articles.

At last comes the day, many participants were shown in one of the Philippines Morning TV shows and was hosted by the same person I met, when we had a done a demo with team Philippines. Last August 2005.

It was nice too see that after all the criticism, the hard work that Senior Master Bambit Dulay and the rest of the organizing committee paid off big time. I am sure everybody in the Philippines was surprised that there is an International Event going on in the Philippines about Filipino Martial Arts. I was so proud of myself, seeing foreigners wielding their sticks... a stick not only as a weapon but a representation of my culture, my heritage and my identity.



Master Bambit Dulay - Headmaster Mike Vasquez  
Punong Guro Abner Anievas

As we passed by Ninoy Aquino's monument, I remember the time that all the opposition parties were united, walking hand in hand in front of a TANK, without fear, without a personal mission, setting aside differences, looking ahead with one voice with a single goal, with one intention. If we can do this in the Filipino Community... all the things that we aim for, will be successful.

No matter what system we are, which group we belong, we should treat any festival/seminar or even demo as a Filipino event... something we forget at times.

Arriving at the lobby of the hotel, to my surprise the first person I see is Senior Master Dulay, I look at him and I saw the image of Grandmaster Presas in him the likes of "Rudy" Lisondra - training partner of Grandmaster Remy Presas and Master Dulay first martial arts teacher, Bebing Lisondra, the 1st Blackbelt of Professor Remy Presas and one of the most entrusted students of Professor Remy Presas. I look at him and I said to myself... I wish I could just be half of the person he is now.

He waved at me and together we go inside the Hotel...

FMA Festival or Modern Arnis Festival? Does it matter? What is most important is, I show my support... as an Arnisador.... as a Filipino.

“If you have done good things today... you will have a nice day tomorrow”



Master Godofredo Fajardo - Punong Guro Abner Anievas  
Master Jon Escudero