



News Release

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: March 2, 2007	Contact: Cynthia Harris (619) 557-7250 x1155
Release Number: 07-09	Internet Address: http://www.sba.gov/localresources/district/ca/sandiego/news/index.html

SBA Forms Strategic Alliance with the Mabuhay Alliance

The district director of San Diego's U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) office, Ruben Garcia, has signed a strategic alliance with the Mabuhay Alliance and its president/executive director, Faith Bautista. Mabuhay Alliance works to enhance the quality of life for San Diego's Filipino and other Asian/Pacific Islander communities by providing their members with networking opportunities and access to resources that benefit the community, which are not attainable as a single entity.

The signed agreement is expected to allow SBA and the Mabuhay Alliance to work together to improve business access to technological information through educational opportunities and SBA resources, and provide maximum financial opportunities and training to entrepreneurs. Mabuhay Alliance is the preferred conduit of technical assistance between government, corporations and minority groups throughout California. Its programs include Small Business Technical Assistance, Alternative Micro Lending, Supplier Diversity, Financial Literacy, Home buying workshops and VITA/EITC program.

"I'm very pleased with the work that's being accomplished by the Mabuhay Alliance and its excellent leadership through Ms. Faith Bautista" said Garcia. "Faith has a strong background of helping entrepreneurs take their place as business owners and I know that she'll continue doing a great job of assisting potential owners to fulfill their dreams of small business ownership."

The collaboration between the SBA and the Mabuhay Alliance is building a strong foundation for the future. The U.S. is in the midst of the largest entrepreneurial surge ever. According to SBA projections, nearly 672,000 new companies with employees were created in 2005. That's 30,000 more startups than in 2004, and 12 percent more than at the height of the dot-com growth in 1996.

"Having the SBA of San Diego as a Strategic Alliance partner only enhances an already strong foundation of services this organization provides to its clients" said Bautista. "In a nutshell, our organization is geared primarily to provide hard-to-find information, the 'know-how' and guidance to small business owners interested in penetrating highly profitable markets with the least amount of effort and expense."

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To learn more about the SBA call (619) 557-7250 or visit the web at www.sba.gov/ca/sandiego. To find out more about the Mabuhay Alliance you can visit their web site at www.MabuhayAlliance.org or contact them by phone (858) 566-9247 or email: info@mabuhayalliance.org.