

Hotelier of the Year

General Manager Bobby Horrigan is recognized at the *17th Mabuhay Awards Night*.



Hotelier of the Year Awardee Bobby Horrigan, Managing Director of Enderun Hospitality and General Manager of Acacia Hotel

The *17th Mabuhay Awards Night* was celebrated last November 26 at the **Sofitel Philippine Plaza**. The annual service excellence awards program is mounted by the **Association of Human Resources Managers in the Hospitality Industry (AHRM)**. AHRM bestows honors to hospitality staff at all levels from rank & file to manager from participating hotels, resorts and restaurants from all over the country. This year nominations were received from as far as Cebu and Baguio.

Among the awardees that night was the *Mabuhay Gold - Hotelier of Year Awardee* in the person of Filipino hotelier **Bobby Horrigan**, currently **General Manager** of the plush **Acacia Hotel** in Alabang.

A HOTELIER AT HEART

Bobby Horrigan is an experienced hotelier. At 41, he has worked with world dignitaries, heads of state and Hollywood personalities. A graduate of the prestigious Les Roches School of Hotel Management in Switzerland, he honed his management expertise with further studies at the School of Hotel Administration of the renowned Ivy League institution, Cornell University. He joined the Hyatt International shortly after graduation and became part of the Dream Team that successfully opened the award-winning Grand Hyatt Hong Kong.

Horrigan's local experience include a two-year stint as Resident Manager of Olympia Courtyard Suites and eight years as Managing Director of Asian Food Concepts, a company that provided food concession services for the Pan Pacific Hotel in Manila. He was appointed General Manager of Discovery Suites in 2006 and was later promoted to HSAI-Raintree's Vice President/General Manager of Hotel Operations in February 2008. In 2009, Horrigan played a significant role in the opening of Misibis Bay

in Cagraray Island, Bicol, the second Small Luxury Hotel (SLH) in the Philippines.

He was an advisor to the *Master of Management in Hospitality Program of Cornell-Nanyang Institute* in Singapore in 2009. He is also a Director of the **Chaine des Rotisseurs (Maitre d'Hotel)** and the **Director of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines (HRAP)**.

His current engagement includes being **Managing Director of Enderun Hospitality**, the management company of Acacia Hotel. The hotel has a total 262 rooms run by 72 highly trained permanent staff and supported by 160 contractual staff. Acacia already enjoys a very high occupancy at 68%, the highest in the area. The staffs are some of the happiest in the industry because their monthly service charge bests many other five-star hotels in Metro Manila. The amazing thing is that Acacia is just one year old.

Horrigan is proud to say that Acacia Hotel is truly the very first all-Filipino hotel, starting with him as GM, as well as key positions usually reserved for expatriates,

including the executive chef. This is a very welcome development. More hotels should follow suit. Horrigan intends to make Acacia Hotel the friendliest and most efficient hotel in town!

Horrigan is a highly spirited and dynamic hotelier. His inspiring leadership style translates into efficiency and effectiveness in the organizations he leads. The AHRM is honored to bestow the *17th Mabuhay Gold - Hotelier of Year Award* to GM Bobby Horrigan, one of the youngest Filipino general managers making Filipino hoteliers very proud!



VIC ALCUAZ

Vic Alcuaz is a hospitality headhunter, trainer, and consultant (www.vicalcuaz.com). He is also the President of Association of Human Resources Managers (AHRM) in the Hospitality Industry (www.ahrmshospitality.com).