



## **ROTARY CLUB OF NEW MANILA EAST – METROBANK FOUNDATION Metrobank Foundation Search for the Country's Outstanding Policemen in Service (C.O.P.S.)**

### **PROFILE**

The Metrobank Foundation's Search for the Country's Outstanding Policemen in Service (C.O.P.S.) is a joint undertaking of the Rotary Club of New Manila East and the Metrobank Foundation, implemented in close coordination with the Philippine National Police. Recognizing the shared responsibility between the policeman and the community, the award seeks to identify gallant men and women in the police force who are able to work with the community to prevent and solve crime. Every year, four Commissioned Officers, and six Non-Commissioned Officers will win this prestigious award.

#### History of the Competition

Since 1993, the Metrobank Foundation has provided support to programs benefiting dependents of uniformed personnel of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, in recognition of their invaluable role in nation building. This support took the form of grants that benefited primarily the Philippine National Police. In 1999, the Foundation decided to recognize selected individuals who have excelled among the ranks of the police force, highlighting their achievements and promoting them as models who would hopefully bring back public confidence and respect to the PNP. At the same time, the Rotary Club of New Manila East established the Best Community Oriented Policemen (COP) Award in recognition of the important role of the vocational and community service component of police work in pursuit of peace and order. Starting as an award for policemen in Metro Manila in 1998, the competition was expanded nationwide, garnering the support of the PNP, particularly the Directorate for Police Community relations, and other community shareholders as well.

#### Coming Together and the Birth of a New Program

With the rise of terrorism globally, it has become apparent that the usual police action no longer suffices. More and more, the need for the police to work with the community becomes ever more apparent. Likewise, the Philippine National Police itself launched a program that addresses this particular concern. Under the "Organizational Development, Neighborhood Mobilization, and Continuing Education (ONE)" Program of the PNP, community involvement was affirmed as a vital component of police work.

With the emphasis shifting to community involvement, the RCNME began looking for partners that would help support and further develop their award program. Sharing in the vision and objectives of both the RCNME and the PNP, the Metrobank Foundation began exploratory talks with the RCNME in 2001. The following year, the partnership between RCNME, Metrobank Foundation and the PNP was formalized with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement that outlined the parameters of the tri-partite partnership.