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website: <http://www.camerclubph.com>
email: viewfinder@camerclubph.com



Emir Bautista: First Place, Picture of the Month

The theme for the March competition was "Beautiful Girl," a theme that had an easy feel to it. Chances were that members had photographs that fit the theme from their portfolios, and based on the submissions, most members did not need to shoot entries just to respond to the theme. As it usually goes, however, easy themes lull members into a kind of trap, one where standing out proves difficult. Shots taken within a studio or shots of celebrities did not fare well.

The judges for the month's competition were Vikki Rivera, Carlo Zamora, Benj Talosig and Chito Ignacio. It was generally a low scoring round, which spikes every once in a while with the high scores of the judges' picks, which were few. The variance was wide thus guaranteeing that getting a low or high in the competition made a significant difference in the rankings.

Probee Emir Khan, who works as a wedding videographer and photographer, won the award for Top Photograph, besting entries from 59 members. He submitted a photograph of a woman in a white gown with a crown of flowers on her hair, sitting at the foot of a stony step, where a puddle of water was collecting, and beside her were two geese, while rain fell about the entire scene. The light appeared to be from behind the model and to her right (camera left), which, when it hit the drenched stone steps, created the right blend of shimmer and shade. This is masterstroke display of creativity achieved via a single shot.

Emir says that the level of difficulty was the biggest factor in submitting the image. It was taken at Fernwood Gardens in Quezon City. Emir looked for a unique spot at the garden and saw a confined and very dark area. The two geese were there, milling about. He asked his client to sit down and take in the serenity of the scene. He prepared his flashgun, gelled to a warm tone. He saw a guy watering the plants, and he asked if he could direct the water sprinkler his way to create the effect of rain. The two geese moved in closer. Emir

snapped the shot.

This photo got Emir noticed and he landed a gig as a photographer for the teleserye "Ang Probinsyano" and "A Love to Last," where he also played a bit role as what else but a wedding photographer. Emir thinks nothing of his sterling performance in the Master Cup competition; he considers his time in the Club as a gift, as he had always dreamed of becoming a member of the Club.

While it is rare for two photos of the

feels a bit
s e l f -
conscious
as, he says,
he is not
used to it.

His photo that won second place is that of a little African girl, taken in Kenya, which was a risky proposition considering the Western connotations of beauty. But with great risk comes great reward. PSP connected with the photo as he found

it beautiful that the girl appears to have so little yet she exuded such happiness. PSP says that it gave "a happy feeling to [his] conscious mind that despite her predicament, she has so much fun with whatever little she has." It helps that PSP's deliberate use of the bokeh focused the attention to the eyes of the young girl.

PSP's other photo, the one that won third place, was that of Russian girl who just had the knack of communicating several moods one after another. The shot was taken in Baguio. The ambient lighting from a window gave drama to the overall look and her pose for the particular image gave PSP the nudge to submit the particular shot.

With two photos in the Top Photograph category, PSP was a virtual shoe-in as first place Top Photographer, which evoked just another cause of discomfiture for the self-effacing President.

Second place Top Photographer went to someone who has made the podium his second home, three time Master Photographer Jijo De Guzman. For this competition, he submitted two photos of a girl whom he, Jan Ailing and Muchi Lao stalked in the Hanoi OTS in 2016. They had gone to a flower farm just outside of Hanoi where couples go to have their pre-nuptial photos taken. After getting the courage to introduce themselves, they asked her permission if they could take photos of her. Jijo did not think that it was not much of a risk to submit two photos of the same girl as she simply fit the theme to a T.

Adel Samson rounded off the Top Photographer category by securing third place with his photo of a little girl from a poor village in Jaipur, India and that of a maiko just graduating to a full-fledged geisha taken in Kyoto, Japan. Beauty is all around us, says Adel, one just has to open his eyes. He also adds that beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Beautiful Girls of Summer



Paul San Pedro: First Place, Photographer of the Month



Jijo de Guzman: Second Place, Photographer of the Month



Adel Samson: Third Place, Photographer of the Month



same photographer to win in the Top Photograph category, current President Paul San Pedro did so with relative ease. He won both second and third place Top Photograph for the month, ensuring that he will not likely be leaving the stage in the awarding ceremonies at the end of the year.

PSP says he felt mixed emotions about the awards, a roller coaster of happiness and diffidence, his words. He was very happy that the judges gave him good scores and but he



Jake Lagonera: Member's
Choice award



CONTEST

BEAUTIFUL GIRL

SSCP

RANK	PHOTOGRAPHER	ENTRY 1	ENTRY 2	TOTAL
1	San Pedro, Paul	4.3400	4.3757	8.7157
2	De Guzman, Jijo	4.2182	4.1002	8.3184
3	Samson, Adel	4.3170	3.4697	7.7867
4	Bautista, Emir	3.2650	4.5202	7.7852
5	Cancio, Tony	4.2075	3.5625	7.7700
6	Hermogenes, Jimmy	4.2527	3.3865	7.6392
7	Littaua, Raoul	4.1875	3.3752	7.5627
8	Gaite, Manny	4.0800	3.3125	7.3925
9	Flores, Javi	3.1202	4.2377	7.3579
10	Lagdameo, Dindin	3.8300	3.3950	7.2250
11	Santos, Raffy	3.7125	3.5000	7.2125
12	Chavez, Annabelle	3.5250	3.6752	7.2002
13	Villarica, Udsie	3.7500	3.3750	7.1250
14	Cachero, Eric	3.4375	3.5007	6.9382
15	Reyno, King	3.0000	3.9230	6.9230
16	Garrido, Jun	3.5625	3.2525	6.8150
17	Riingen, Leo	2.9375	3.8750	6.8125
18	Antonio, Joey	3.5775	3.1755	6.7530
19	Aliling, Jan	3.1250	3.6275	6.7525
20	Bautista, Bien	3.0627	3.6837	6.7464
21	De Leon, Rudy	2.5670	4.1505	6.7175
22	Garbanzos, Even	3.5277	3.1655	6.6932
23	Yuson, Fed	3.4002	3.2790	6.6792
24	Lagonera, Jake	3.4625	3.2102	6.6727
25	Grabador, Evan	2.8880	3.7702	6.6582
26	Castillo, Quincy	3.7127	2.8750	6.5877
27	Burgos, Mark	3.2500	3.2752	6.5252
28	Del Rosario, Fred	2.9375	3.5320	6.4695
29	Jaucian, Jay	3.0027	3.4525	6.4552
30	Montifar, Raul	3.6502	2.7790	6.4292
31	Vinas, Chito	3.0250	3.3752	6.4002
32	Benitez, Manette	3.0970	3.2155	6.3125
33	Lagrimas, EJ	3.2000	3.0937	6.2937
34	Fidelino, Boyet	3.5625	2.6930	6.2555
35	Yu, Philip	3.0000	3.2507	6.2507
36	Mills, Bob	3.1875	3.0625	6.2500
37	Guigona, Jojo	3.2500	2.9070	6.1570
38	Uy, Patrick	2.8125	3.2125	6.0250
39	Balagtas, Kiko	2.8125	3.1522	5.9647
40	Apuya, Armand	2.9510	2.9580	5.9090
41	Gozum, Lito	2.9900	2.9057	5.8957
42	Sison, Bob	3.4527	2.4407	5.8934
43	Gutierrez, Gutch	2.9000	2.9752	5.8752
44	Ocampo, Nesty	2.6902	3.1457	5.8359
45	Lilles, Tony	2.7002	3.1250	5.8252
46	David, Ruth	2.8750	2.8750	5.7500
47	Paraan, Renee	2.8750	2.8377	5.7127
48	Santos, Tito	2.4405	3.2277	5.6682
49	Quimel, Lito	2.8275	2.8132	5.6407
50	Roxas, Manolo	2.7150	2.8875	5.6025
51	Venturina, Nap	2.8875	2.6912	5.5787
52	Masuga, Boyet	2.7562	2.8130	5.5692
53	Ortiz, Rey	2.9602	2.5312	5.4914
54	Mondonedo, Billy	2.1250	3.2510	5.3760
55	Serrano, TG	2.6902	2.4377	5.1279
56	Valera, Stephen	2.4375	2.5657	5.0032
57	Castro, Gerry	2.3125	2.6875	5.0000
58	Montalban, Joey	2.4405	2.4685	4.9090
59	Buenaventura, Jorge	2.3402	2.4375	4.7777
60	Valmonte, Cha	2.1875	1.9625	4.1500

The Hong Kong of our Minds

block where Google said it was, but he could not find the restaurant's signage. Finally, his wife gave up and said that she'll settle for the *carinderia*-



style place by the side of the street. It turned out to be the 1-star Michelin restaurant that they were looking for.

Trust the members though not to stay within the bounds of the known; they just had to go beyond the usual travel destinations. Mark Burgos and JR Velasco found themselves at an eerie abandoned Ma Wan Village. Getting there was a little tricky as it is not in any list of tourist attractions. Mark and JR, eventually joined by Garrick Ang and Gutch Gutierrez the next day, found themselves in the middle of dilapidated and deserted wooden houses on stilts rotting by the water. Mark, a regular of HK,

Beautiful Girls of Summer

Member's Choice award for the month goes to Master Photographer Jake Lagonera with his shot of young girl whose big emotive eyes were highlighted by Jake's use of an orange shawl, reminiscent of Steve McCurry's Afghan Girl photograph. The subject is the daughter of Jake's friend. Her father is French and her mom is Filipina. Jake

took the photo of the 12-year old by the window to take advantage of natural light. With the conclusion of the March competition, it also signals the end of the first conference. With back-to-back sterling performances, Sterling Bank President PSP will walk away with the first place award for Best Photographer of the 1st Conference. Jijo De Guzman and Javi Flores secured second and third place award for the Best Photographer award of the 1st Conference.



which meant he had his own queue coming and going through airport immigration, led the group to the otherworldly location. At one point, Mark was chased with a frying pan by a fisherman he was photographing. But all ended well for the group and the sunset shots they came

out with were ample rewards for the risks they took.

Javi Flores found himself in the quiet confines of the iconic Yick Fat building, a tenement housing that has since become a favorite subject of photography, though it is by no means a tourist destination, not in

the Disneyland sense, that is. Far from being dangerous, however, Javi found the residents immune to the visits of photographers parachuting in the middle of their courtyard.

Jan Aliling and Jijo De Guzman took Ngong Ping 360 Cable Car to Lantau Island, home of the Tian Tan Big Buddha. The duo however could not be pulled away from the sunset and the delights of the blue hour that they were left behind by the cable car. They faced the prospect of a walk though a dimly lit mountain path that would take 90 minutes, with Jan suffering from sore ankle. Thankfully, they were accommodated in the last bus used by the staff and were dropped off at Tung Chung. To celebrate, the duo ate their worries away, splurging the equivalent of P13,000 at a surf and turf.

Hong Kong needs to keep being rediscovered as it never ceases to amaze. This is the second time in recent memory that an OTS was held in Hong Kong, yet its appeal remains, and by the taste of it, it looks never to wane for a very long time.



MASTER PHOTOGRAPHER'S CUP MARCH

RANK	PHOTOGRAPHER	TOTAL
1	San Pedro, Paul	25.58320
2	De Guzman, Jijo	25.02600
3	Flores, Javi	24.45080
4	Cancio, Tony	24.07570
5	Bautista, Emir	23.83970
6	Montifar, Raul	23.20670
7	Chavez, Annabelle	22.92100
8	Littaua, Raoul	22.80180
9	Hermogenes, Jimmy	22.70830
10	Antonio, Joey	22.64230
11	Guingtona, Jojo	22.53810
12	Garrido, Jun	22.46400
13	Villarica, Udsie	22.44000
14	Lagonera, Jake	22.42240
15	De Leon, Rudy	22.34290
16	Reyno, King	22.30250
17	Lagrimas, EJ	22.20890
18	Riingen, Leo	22.08130
19	Ortiz, Rey	22.05190
20	Aliling, Jan	22.05120
21	Lagdameo, Dindin	22.04420
22	Gaite, Manny	21.99000
23	Santos, Raffy	21.86220
24	Viñas, Chito	21.66500
25	Garbanzos, Gino	21.61070
26	Yuson, Fred	21.44570
27	Balagtas, Kiko	21.32270
28	Lilles, Tony	21.26920
29	Bautista, Bien	21.24080
30	Sison, Bob	21.13720
31	Ocampo, Nesty	21.12580
32	Apuya, Armand	21.05650
33	Del Rosario, Fred	20.98700
34	Mills, Vicente	20.96750
35	Yu, Philip	20.92590
36	Benitez, Manette	20.86560
37	Burgos, Mark	20.82770
38	Fidelino, Boyet	20.82410
39	Castillo, Quincy	20.72170
40	Gozum, Lito	20.71840
41	Roxas, Manolo	20.63640
42	Cachero, Eric	20.58560
43	Jaucian, Jay	20.38090
44	Venturina, Nap	20.34450
45	Paraan, Renee	20.30190
46	Gutierrez, Gutch	20.04990
47	Santos, Tito	20.03320
48	Mondofredo, Billy	20.01900
49	Quimel, Lito	20.01320
50	Serrano, TG	19.88040
51	Uy, Patrick	19.76940
52	Valera, Stephen	19.50370
53	Castro, Gerry	18.75720
54	Buenaventura, Jorge	18.73140
55	Valmonte, Cha	17.70740
56	Samson, Adel	15.28420
57	Chan, Rocky	14.62220
58	Cumagun, Jaime	14.39250
59	Velasco, JR	14.30150
60	Grabador, Evan	13.85320
61	De Vera, Arps	13.66750
62	Mesuga, Boyet	13.08420
63	David, Ruth	12.75500
64	Montalban, Joey	11.51400
65	Montifar, Miko	8.19340
66	Risma, Vicoy	7.16200
67	Lopez, Ardie	6.68000
68	Camarillo, Sonny	6.62500
69	Buendia, Paolo	6.44500

The Hong Kong of our Minds

If there was an award for the best OTS destination for the Camera Club of the Philippines, Hong Kong would be up there among the best of the lot. Although prices have steadily gone up maybe due to fluctuations in currency, timely purchases of plane tickets and accommodations still keep Hong Kong within a cost-sensitive budget.

Hong Kong's allure is that it has one of the highest numbers of Michelin-starred restaurants within close relative proximity of one another and it has many off-the-beaten-path Instagram-able locations, aside from well-

Indeed, Hong Kong would not have won us over without the delectable feasts it has offer. Patrick Uy, our very own walking travel and food encyclopedia, recommends DimDimsum with branches at Jordon, Mong Kok, Wan Chai, and Sha Tin as well as the Bowrington Cooked Food Center at Causeway Bay on 21 Bowrington Road, which is akin to our own *dampa* and a food court.

Fred Yuson vouches for Din Tai Fung with branches at Causeway Bay and at the 3/f of the

Silvercord in Tsim Sha Tsui. Garrick Ang recommends Kam's Roast Goose, a popular destination for its signature roast goose & char siu (BBQ pork). Jan Aliling and Jijo De Guzman recommend Yung Kee at the airport, also with its own version of roast goose and barbecued pork. Javi Flores, meanwhile, was looking for Yat Lok in search of its famed roast goose, and had been circling a

