The Hinabi Project: *The Art of Philippine Textiles*

Anthony Cruz Legarda
Fashion designer, textile technologist, and researcher

Mr. Legarda has a long history dedicated to textiles. In 1993, he went back to the Philippines and became involved with Katutubong Filipino Foundation whose mission was to revive Philippine folk arts and crafts. He studied, learned and procured traditional Philippine textiles from the different provinces and incorporated them in his clothing design. Then on August 24, 1995, he presented his work through a clothing collection showcase made from traditional Filipino fabrics in conjunction with an exhibit entitled "Land of the Morning: Treasures of the Philippines" at the San Francisco Craft and Folk Arts Museum.

Other similar significant projects were produced on July 17, 1999 entitled "Various Aspects of Filipino Textiles" and on September 15, 2005, as part of the Asia Alive program both at the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco. Additionally from 1998-2003, Pilipinas Art Group, which Mr. Legarda headed, had two-consecutive projects partially funded by the California Arts Council under the Multicultural Entry Grant. His group produced *Arkiteknik*, a hardcover coffee table book that highlighted and honored Filipino American artistry and creativity in textile, fashion design, photography, graphic design and creative writing as well as a DVD that featured an Artisan portion that is a documentary of weavers and craftspeople from the Philippines.

In 2004, Mr. Legarda started working as a textile technologist and artist with Filipino weavers. Before his collaboration with these weavers, they utilized materials that were only available in their local market which were usually fibers of low quality and/or synthetic. They produced fabrics that were low-priced for the local market. He then provided them with eco-friendly materials and later in 2006 worked with the Philippine Textile Research Institute to develop other green indigenous fibers and dyes to incorporate into the finished fabrics.