

BDO awards a model seafarer

For Alberto R. Antonio, a bedroom steward at Magsaysay Maritime Corp., family knows no distance.

Antonio's family was one of the regional winners for the 2012 Model OFW Family of the Year Award (MOFYA) that received P10,000 from BDO.

During the welcome dinner for MOFYA winners, Antonio admitted that being onboard the ship and away from his family most of the time is not easy. "Bad influences are always there. That's why I make it a point that my children are properly guided even if I'm away," he said.

Antonio makes it a point to call his children every day. "Open communication is very important. It enables me to instill in them good values."

Like any other OFWs, Antonio experiences homesickness, too. He, nevertheless, draws his strength from their Christian fellowship on the ship. "We have Bible reading and Bible study. We also encourage our fellow OFWs to join us in our activities," he said.

Antonio's children are his inspirations for his perseverance. "I dedicate my hard work to my children. I want to give them good education. Two or three times a month, I send them money through BDO Kabayan Savings Account. At present, three of my six children are graduates already. "

Antonio is thankful to BDO for helping OFWs like him. "BDO allows our remittances to get to our loved ones safe and fast. It lets us save a part of our income, too. Through my savings, we were able to build our own house and buy lots. My wife also started a vinegar fermentation business in Binalonan, Pangasinan."

Truly, Antonio is an ideal father and a model OFW, who is willing to sacrifice and strive to provide his family a better life.



Alberto R. Antonio, one of the regional winners for the 2012 Model OFW Family of the Year Award, receives P10,000 from BDO.



Photo shows Alberto family with (from left) BDO First Vice President and Head for Remittance Distribution Genie T. Gloria, OWWA Administrator Carmelita Dimzon and DOLE Undersecretary Danilo Cruz.