

WORLD class remote controlled helicopter pilots will display their skills with the miniature models as as the 2008 Asia-Oceania Continental Championship for F3C—Remote Controlled Helicopters blasts off today at the South Reclamation Properties.

A total of 18 elite participants coming from the nine nations will play in the event, which is sanctioned by the Federation of Aeromodellers International (FAI).

FAI Philippines vice president Miguel Ramos said remote controlled helicopter pilots from Australia, People's Republic of China, Chinese-Taipei, Singapore, Thailand, Korea, Hong Kong, host Philippines and powerhouse Japan will be competing in this four-day competition.

Neophytes

The Philippines will be represented by Alvin and Mark Alcantara and Cebu's Justine Neri.

FAI sub-committee chairman for model helicopters Horace Hagen of the US is glad with the active participation of the Philippines, which made the event possible.

Hagen is impressed with the Philippines that even if the local players are relatively neophytes to the sports, its growth has been very fast and the Philippines even managed to place second to Japan in the Team Sports event in the

a lot of practice and training. But I admire the way how the Filipinos are doing in this sports. They showed a lot of promise and I am looking forward to seeing them in the World Championships next year," Hagen told **Sun.Star Cebu** yesterday.

Although, judging will be very technical—Hagen assured the Cebuanos that the competition will be very exciting.

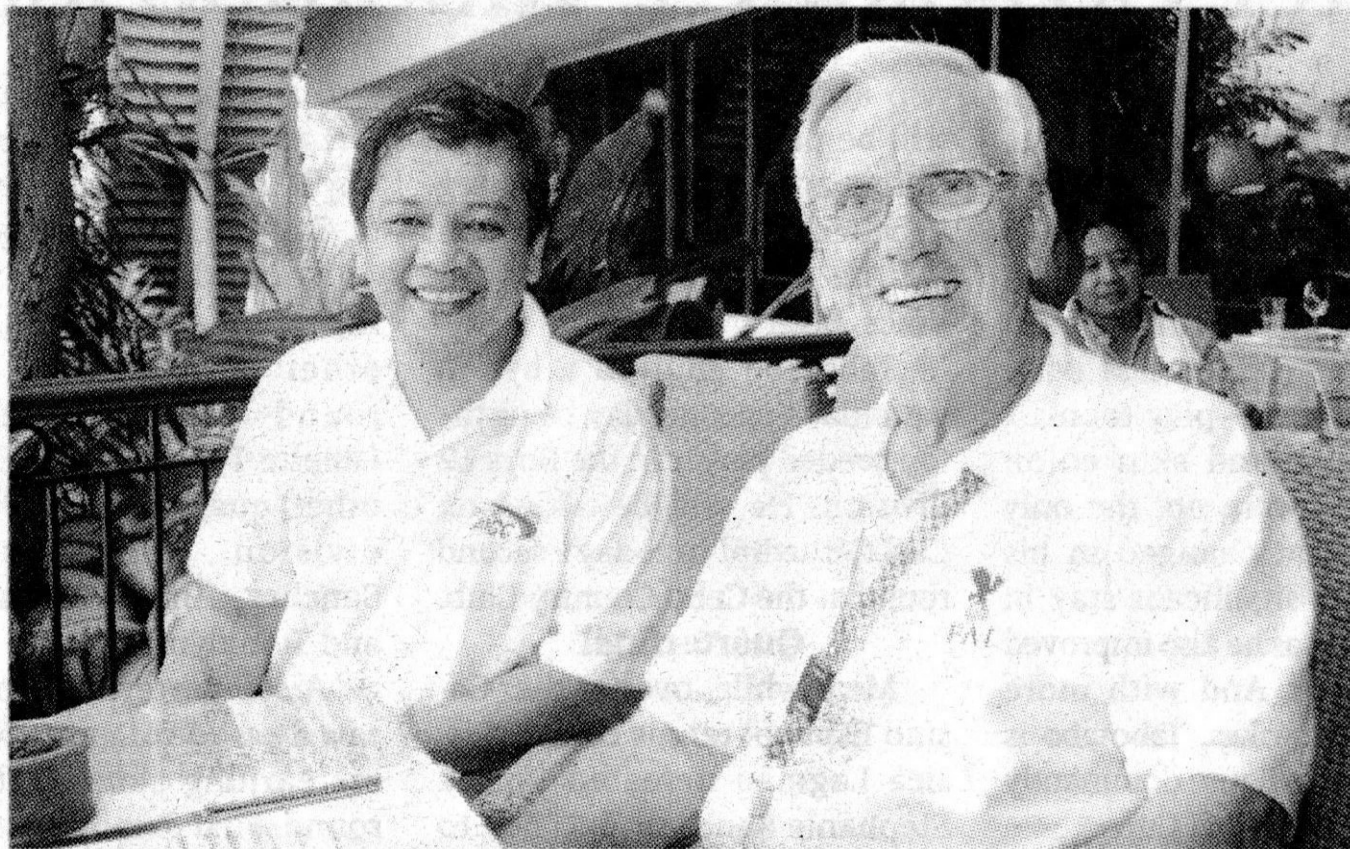
However, his concern is the weather, which has become unpredictable nowa-

days.

"That's my concern when I first arrived here. But if it is only drizzle we can continue, however, if it will be pouring down we have to cancel it," added Hagen.

Today and Wednesday will be the preliminary rounds, while the final rounds are scheduled on Friday and Saturday.

Hagen picked the Japan squad to be the pilots to beat. **RCM**



IMPRESSED. FAI's Horace Hagen (right) said he is impressed with the growth of the sport among local RC helicopter enthusiasts. Hagen, together with Mike Ramos (left) the vice president of FAI Philippines is in town for the 2008 Asia-Oceania