Optimism reigns supreme as new year dawns

By Mariecar Jara-Puyod

Sharjah: Hello 2015, 2014 just passed.

Of course, trials and tribulations would be very much around but then....hey, life would be extremely bland if it would always be a walk in the park.

The keys are optimism and positive outlook.

“Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending.” – Maria Robinson.

The Gulf Today asked a few how optimistic they are and what they are looking forward to in 2015.

Dubai Cosmetic Surgery managing partner Asiya Ismail: “Yes, I am very optimistic about 2015. This is because health and medical tourism in the UAE is growing at a very fast rate. I believe 2015 will be the year that the health sector will cement its position as a medical tourism destination.

“In addition to the many attractions that the country has to offer, a lot has happened in the industry since 2011, including many renowned doctors and surgeons coming to practise here. More hospitals are opening up or expanding to accommodate more people. So yes, 2015 looks very promising.”

Ismail is “looking forward to more exciting improvements in the healthcare sector like 2014 did when the Ministry of Health, Dubai Health Authority and the Health Authority in Abu Dhabi agreed on the unification of licenses for medical practitioners; allowing them to practise anywhere in the country.

“More strategies like these, if implemented in 2015, will make big positive changes in the sector itself.
"In addition, I am also looking forward to expanding our medical facility across the GCC and beyond.

"To all nations and families, good health, peace and love to us all."

Royal fashion designer Jimi Buenconsejo: “In the beginning of 2014, I was hired as an exclusive designer for one of the royal families here in Dubai and it has been really a good year for me. That is why I am very optimistic for 2015.

"Dubai economy is going strong. Dubai is getting ready for Expo 2020 plus the fact that the Dubai Design District is being developed which is a hub for designers like us where local inspiration interacts with international influence in the global market.

“There are a lot of opportunities for everyone. There is no reason to be pessimistic."

Grace Evangelical Church-Sharjah pastoral assistant Vaughn Marles: “I am optimistic of 2015. This January, we will celebrate one year since our church opened in Al Yarmook, Sharjah and we have been greatly encouraged so far.

Marles is “looking forward to my children growing up from babies into little boys, to be able to start interacting with them and playing with them as they learn to communicate. This will be such a joy.

“I am also looking forward to developing more training and learning opportunities within our church throughout the week.”

Dubai resident Joel Olindan: “I see 2015 to be a positive year for us. It would be the year of great changes in our lives and in our society, in our country and its government.

“2015 will start a new beginning in terms of our faith with God by being more open to His plans and promises.

“Each year should be looked upon with optimism and in doing so, we must leave our past behind or perhaps turn them to positive.”

Olindan is “Looking forward to a new career growth, a big change that would be more beneficial to me and my family.

“In terms of our society, I look forward to better governance from our leaders. Better solutions that would address the problems of the Philippines. A wider understanding of the needs of every Filipino who seek no more than to improve more on their lives, may this be in our homeland or overseas.”

Businesswoman Emelina de Castro Palermo: “As the new year dawns, my anticipation for all possibilities grow. I am very much optimistic that 2015 will hold so many opportunities to be able to bring out the best in each of us though the past year had squeezed most of us.

“I strongly believe that we have more to give. I am very confident in facing all the new challenges because I know I am equipped to hold my battles strongly, forged by what we faced last year.
“I believe that 2015 has a lot in store for us, for us to become better citizens as we strive to make the best of every situation.

“We were presented with a lot of trials. We failed and we succeeded. We became stronger and wiser.

“Every day is a big challenge. Economic crisis tends to outbalance us but through it all, we emerge as victors. We have to be strong, very strong.

“We have to remain strong. I will remain strong to embrace the destiny 2015 has for me.”