WHEN AM I?

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Category: Observations

There where is easy: I'm in a guesthouse in Manila. But when? My computer says it's just about midday, the clock on the wall says it's eight pm and my internal clock is just plain confused. I must admit, I don't do jet lag well.

Yesterday morning, far too early for a Sunday, Sue dropped me off at Heathrow to begin the trek across to Aisa. I had a three hour stop over in Amsterdam during which I managed to chat to Sue on Skype - the look on people's faces as I sat and talked to my laptop was extremely amusing. The flight from Amsterdam to Manila was fine, I had a good seat with plenty of leg room and KLM do very good food and an excellent choice of movies.Â I also buried myself in Ken Follett's latest, World Without End. It's a huge novel, over a thousand pages, but it does make good aeroplane reading. If you have a long flight or three coming up, or just want to lose yourself in medieaval England for a few hours (days, weeks...) then this is well worth getting hold of. Like most of Ken Follett's books, it is not exactly for the faint hearted - so *caveat emptor*.

We landed in Manila around Midnight my time, eight am local time. I was ready to head off and get a shower and a lie down, but the driver who was picking me up was picking up a couple coming in on a different flight and so I had to wait. The short wait turned out to be two hours and I was in best grumpy old man mode by the end of it. After a long flight, sitting in a hot, humid bus shelter for two hours was not my idea of fun. But when the others turned up, I found I had no cause for complaint. Because of flight delays, my Nigerian collegues Jerry and Julie had been travelling for four days, including passing three nights in airports and one on a flight. My two hour wait was nothing!

Tomorrow we head up to the place in the mountains where we will be meeting for the next few days. Heading up into the mountains sounds great - starting at five am doesn't! A lot of caffeine is going to be needed!tr