



# 2015 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

A PRINCIPLED DIPLOMACY  
FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY

OFFICE OF POLICY PLANNING AND COORDINATION



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OFFICE OF POLICY PLANNING AND COORDINATION  
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
MANILA, JANUARY 2016

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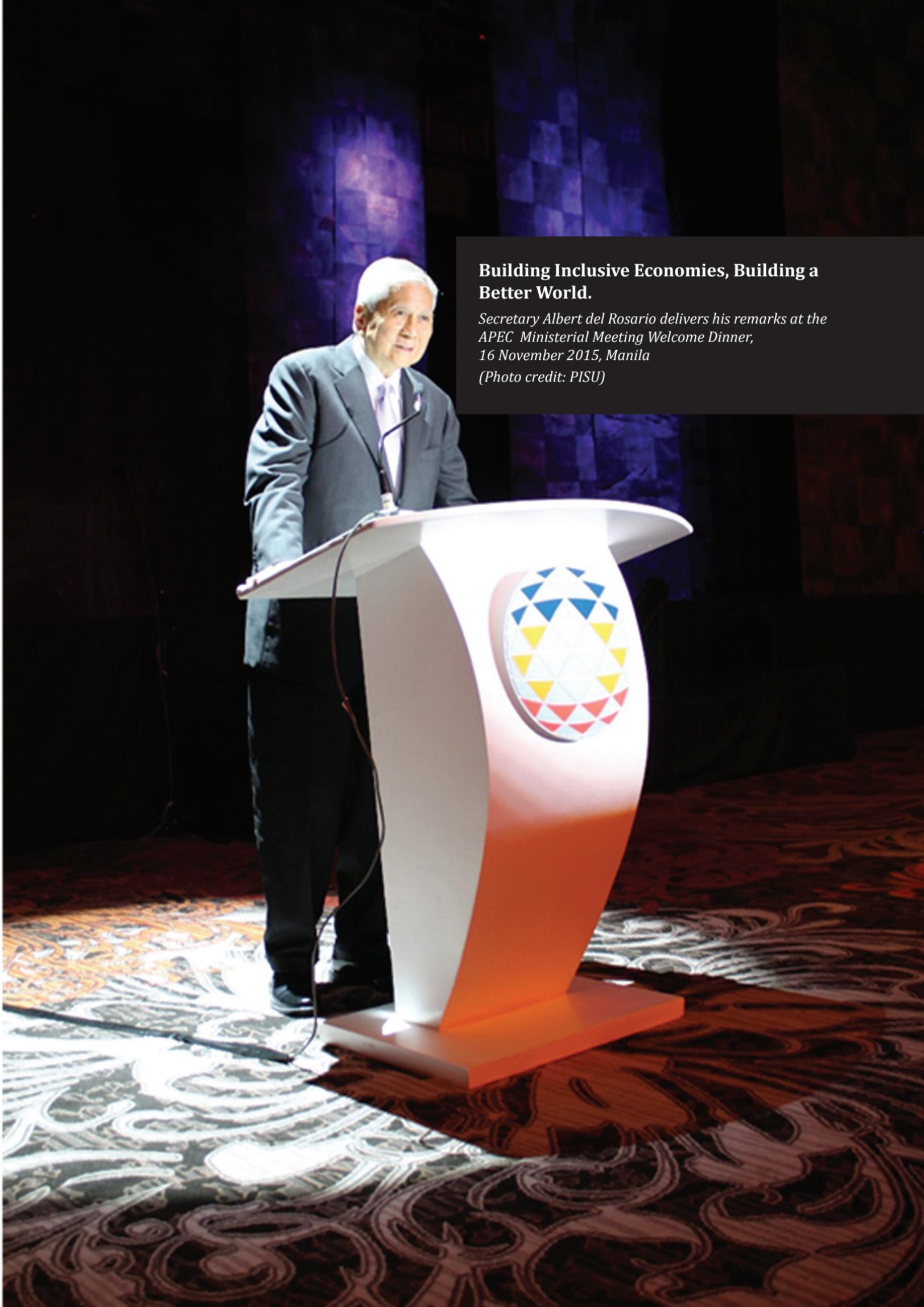
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A photograph of Secretary Albert del Rosario, an older man with white hair, wearing a dark suit and a light-colored tie. He is standing behind a white and orange APEC podium, which features the APEC logo. The podium is illuminated from below, casting a warm glow. The background is dark with a blue and purple patterned backdrop. The floor is covered with a patterned carpet. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

**Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World.**

*Secretary Albert del Rosario delivers his remarks at the APEC Ministerial Meeting Welcome Dinner, 16 November 2015, Manila  
(Photo credit: PISU)*

## CHAPTER I

# OVERVIEW

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## OUR ORGANIZATION

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is entrusted with crafting, coordinating and implementing Philippine foreign policy to advance the interests of the Philippines and the Filipino people in the world community. It discharges its duties through the following fundamental policy planks:

- Contribution to the preservation and enhancement of national security, including the protection of territorial integrity and national sovereignty;
- Promotion of economic security, towards ensuring inclusive growth and sustainable development; and,
- Protection of the rights and promotion of the welfare and interest of Filipinos overseas, recognizing them as partners in national development.

## VISION

The Department of Foreign Affairs is the prime agency of government responsible for the pursuit of the State's foreign policy and the nerve center for a Foreign Service worthy of the trust and pride of every Filipino.

We are an organization of competent, dedicated and highly motivated personnel, who devote their energies to the benefit of the Filipino people.

We implement foreign policy with the highest standards of professionalism and commitment.

We pursue bilateral, regional and multilateral relations to advance the interest of the Philippines and the Filipinos.

We build partnerships with national security and development agencies, think-tanks and the academe, the private sector, the media and civil society in the interest of the nation and the people.

We endeavor to promote regional and global cooperation in order to achieve peace, prosperity and stability.

In the global arena, we work for social justice especially for the poor, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and a democratic way of life.

We are committed to secure a world free from serious environmental degradation, transnational crime and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Our missions abroad are the partners of Filipinos overseas in the pursuit of the national interest and in the promotion and protection of their rights and well-being.

We have a highly responsive system, which ensures effective delivery of services.

Our personnel are our greatest asset. We are committed to the personal, professional and career development of each employee.

In pursuit of our goals, we strive for and live by the principles of excellence, integrity and patriotism.

## MISSION

To advance the interests of the Philippines and the Filipino people in the world community.

## OBJECTIVES

- To contribute to the enhancement of national security and the protection of the territorial integrity and national sovereignty;
- To participate in the national endeavor to sustain development and to enhance the Philippines' competitive edge in a global milieu;
- To protect the rights and promote the welfare of Filipinos overseas and to mobilize them as partners in national development;
- To project a positive image of the Philippines;
- To increase international understanding of Philippine culture for mutually-beneficial relations with other countries; and,
- To increase and maximize human, financial, technological and other resources to optimize the performance of the Department.

# OUR ORGANIZATION AT A GLANCE

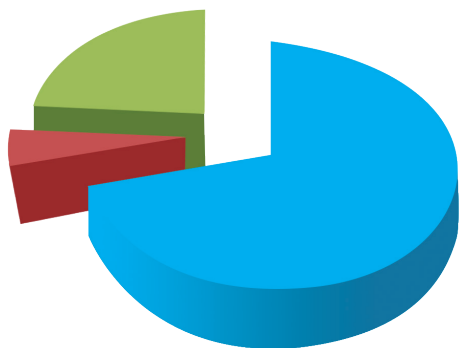
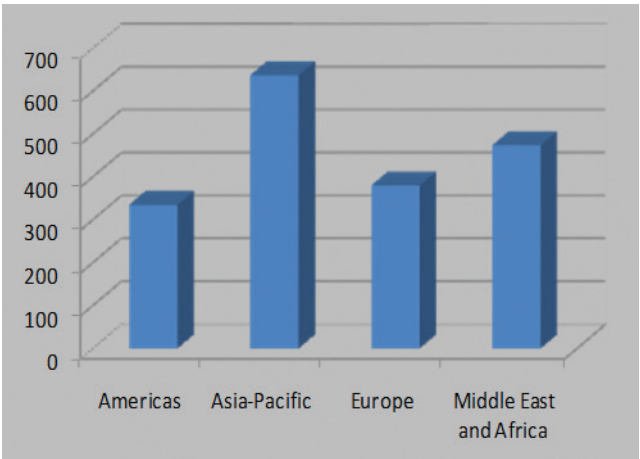


## FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL

- 1,499 Home Office Personnel
  - 260 Staff in Regional Consular and Satellite Offices
- 1,333 Employees on Foreign Assignment
  - 318 Service Attachés
  - 493 Locally-Hired Staff
  - 183 Honorary Consular Officers

## PERSONNEL DISTRIBUTION BY REGION

- 335 Americas
- 637 Asia-Pacific
- 380 Europe
- 474 Middle East and Africa



## TOTAL NUMBER OF FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS

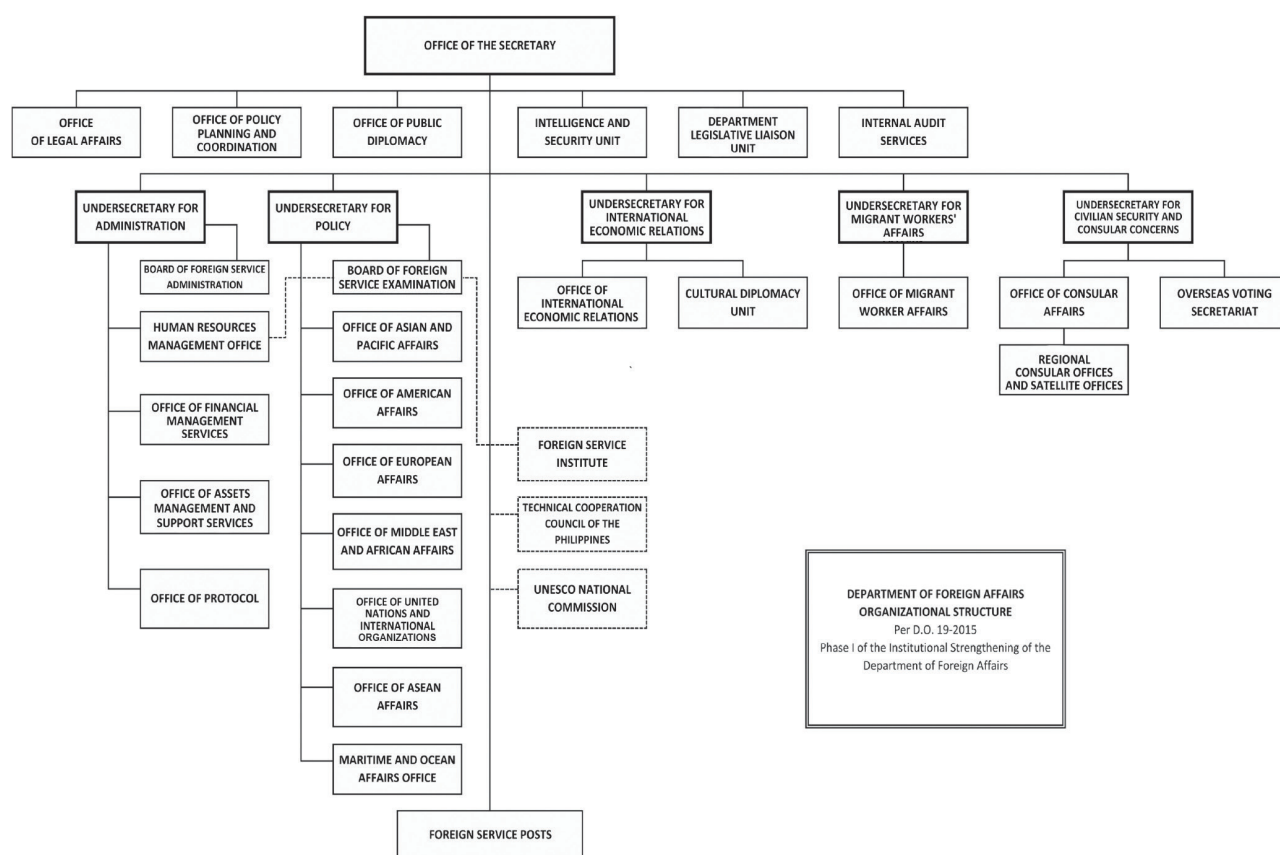
- Embassy
  - 60 Embassies
- Permanent Mission
  - 4 Permanent Missions
- Consulates General
  - 20 Consulates General

## MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND LEASED PROPERTIES ABROAD

- 61 PROPERTIES OWNED
- 112 CHANCERIES/CONSULATES AND OFFICIAL RESIDENCES LEASED

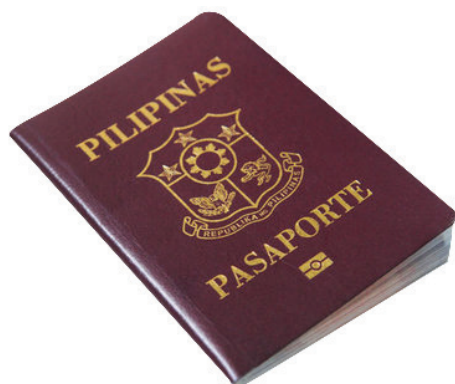


## ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE



### NUMBER OF CONSULAR OFFICES

- 21 Regional Consular Offices
- 5 Satellite Offices

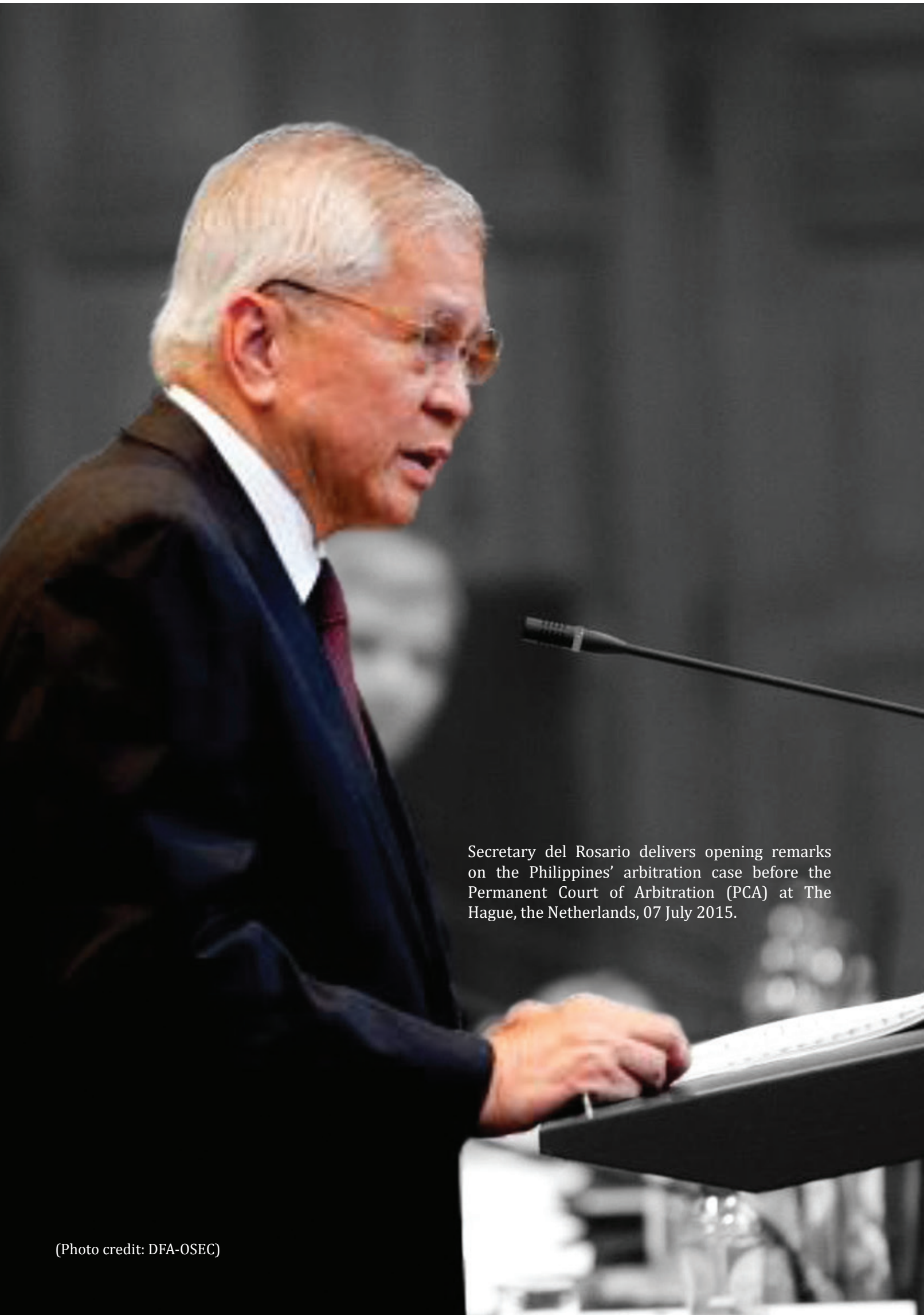


### SATELLITE OFFICES

- NCR East** — SM Megamall
- NCR Central** — Robinsons Galleria, Quezon City
- NCR Central** — Ali Mall, Quezon City
- NCR West** — SM City Manila
- NCR South** — Metro Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City

### REGIONAL CONSULAR OFFICES

- Angeles**—Marquee Mall, Angeles City, Pampanga
- Bacolod**—Robinsons Place, Bacolod City
- Baguio** — SM City Baguio, Baguio City
- Butuan**—Robinson's Place, Butuan City
- Cagayan de Oro** —Centrio Mall, Cagayan de Oro City
- Calasiao**—Robinson's Place, Calasiao, Pangasinan
- Cebu** —Pacific Mall, Mandaue City, Cebu
- Cotabato**—People's Palace, Cotabato City
- Davao** — SM City Davao, Davao City
- Dumaguete**—Robinson's Place, Calidangan, Dumaguete
- General Santos**—Robinsons Place, General Santos City
- Iloilo**—Robinson's Place, Iloilo City
- La Union**—San Fernando, La Union
- Legazpi**— Pacific Mall, Legazpi City
- Lipa**— Robinson's Place, Lipa City
- Lucena**— Pacific Mall, Lucena City
- Pampanga** — Robinson's StarMills, San Fernando, Pampanga
- Puerto Princesa**—Robinson's Place Palawan, Puerto Princesa City
- Tacloban**—Leyte SMED Center Capitol, Tacloban City
- Tuguegarao**—Tuguegarao City, Cagayan
- Zamboanga**—Zamboanga City



Secretary del Rosario delivers opening remarks on the Philippines' arbitration case before the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) at The Hague, the Netherlands, 07 July 2015.

## CHAPTER II

# OUTCOMES AND PERFORMANCE

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## ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 1:

### FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

#### A. PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY

As the lead agency institution pursuing the Philippines' foreign policy under the guidance of the President, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) actively promoted national security interests in the country's bilateral, regional, and global engagements in 2015.

Central to this is the Philippine advocacy for the rule of law, the deepening of partnerships with key allies, and the intensified dialogue and over-all cooperation with bilateral partners across the Asia Pacific, the Americas, Europe, and Middle East and Africa. Aside from the signing of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) with the United States in 2014, the Philippines likewise forged closer strategic partnerships with Japan, Vietnam and Australia in 2015.

The Philippines' peaceful, principled and rules-based approach to the West Philippine Sea/South China Sea (WPS)/(SCS) disputes gained traction and wider support from the international community as the arbitration case against China in the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) progressed towards the conclusion of the oral hearings on the merits on 30 November 2015.

The Philippines also made significant contributions in regional and global platforms to address non-traditional security issues including human trafficking and migration, the protection and promotion of human rights, disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM), disaster resilience and response, climate change, environmental protection, transnational crimes, and countering violent extremism (CVE).

In ASEAN, the Leaders declared the formal establishment of the ASEAN Community and adopted the Blueprint for realizing the ASEAN vision for a more integrated, peaceful, and stable Community by 2025. As one of ASEAN's founding members, the Philippines has consistently supported ASEAN's central role in strengthening the rules-based security architecture that anchors the peace and stability of the Asia Pacific region.

## ADVOCACY FOR THE RULE OF LAW

The maritime disputes in the West Philippine Sea (WPS)/South China Sea (SCS) became the DFA's foreign policy priority in 2015 and its Foreign Service Posts (FSPs) continued to actively engage international partners in both bilateral and multilateral fora to promote and protect Philippine national interests.



*Official Philippine Delegation to the oral hearings on jurisdiction before the Arbitral Tribunal, Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), 08 July 2015, The Hague, the Netherlands*

*(Photo credit: www.gov.ph)*

## THE PHILIPPINES' ARBITRATION CASE

The Philippines continued to work towards a peaceful, enduring, transparent and rules-based resolution to the maritime disputes in the WPS/SCS.

The Arbitral Tribunal issued a ruling on 25 October 2015 stating that it has jurisdiction over seven (7) out of 15 Philippine submissions, and that jurisdiction over the remaining submissions will be determined during the oral hearings on the merits of the case. A significant aspect of the ruling was the Tribunal's declaration that its decision would be legally-binding.

Spearheaded by the Philippine legal team, the Philippine Government Team collaborated in gathering documentation to bolster the Philippines' position. The DFA offices and FSPs engaged international partners in an effort to encourage China to: (1) participate in the arbitral proceedings; and (2) respect the Tribunal's rulings.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES' ARCHIPELAGIC SEA LANES AND MARITIME BOUNDARIES OF THE PHILIPPINES

The DFA continued to provide technical and substantive support to the Philippine Congress in the latter's consideration of the legislative bills on the Philippine Maritime Zones and the Philippine Archipelagic Sea Lanes.

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*



### CO-CHAIR IN THE INTER-AGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA (ICC-WPS)

The ICC-WPS was formed through a memorandum issued by the Office of the President dated 17 January 2015. It meets regularly and submits appropriate reports and recommendations on the WPS/SCS issues.

Candid information exchanges on all issues related to the WPS/SCS are the fundamental outcome of this mechanism. Through these discussions, the policy directions, action plans, and public diplomacy strategies were formulated, which were then submitted for consideration by the President.

Since 2014, the ICC-WPS has served as a mechanism to exchange information and coordinate between and among 18 agencies on policy and operations issues. Other relevant agencies may be invited, as necessary. The DFA presided over a total of eight (8) ICC-WPS meetings in 2015.

### PURSUIT OF A RULES-BASED REGIME IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

For 2015, the DFA intensified efforts in pursuit of a lasting and legally-binding resolution to the disputes in the WPS/SCS including, inter alia, conferences and workshops on various aspects of the 2002 ASEAN-China Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea.

The DFA focused on public diplomacy efforts on promoting greater understanding of the issue to the internal and external publics, including the academic community, think tanks and the media. There was an increase in the number of op-eds and articles that support the Philippines' position vis-à-vis China's assertive policy.

## PHILIPPINE ADVOCACY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DOC



*The Philippines hosted a Seminar-Workshop on the Implementation of the 2002 ASEAN-China Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the SCS (DOC) attended by officials from ASEAN Member States and the People's Republic of China, and; members from the academe and policy think tanks, 14-15 May 2015, Makati City.*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

The DOC embodies the collective commitment of ASEAN and China to promote peace, stability, and mutual trust and to ensure the peaceful resolution of disputes in the South China Sea.

The Philippines continued to actively engage China, both in the bilateral and regional fora, to diplomatically advance Philippine interests and a principled foreign policy.

The Philippines hosted the Seminar-Workshop on the Implementation of the 2002 ASEAN-China Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (ASEAN-China JWG) from 14 to 15 May 2015.

The two-day Seminar-Workshop was undertaken within the framework of the ASEAN-China Joint Working Group (ACJWG) on the Implementation of the DOC. By hosting the workshop, the Philippines promoted focused discussions on the DOC particularly on critical provisions on the non-use of force or self-restraint.

## **DEEPENING OF BILATERAL PARTNERSHIPS**

To further advance its national security and economic interests, the Philippines intensified its dialogue and over-all cooperation with its key partners in 2015. This intensified engagement is rooted in the Philippines' advocacy for the rule of law and principled cooperation.

### **STRATEGIC AND COMPREHENSIVE PARTNERSHIPS**

- **Strengthened Strategic Partnership with Japan**

The Philippines and Japan signed the Joint Statement on Strengthened Strategic Partnership for Advancing the Shared Principles and Goals of Peace, Security, and Growth in the Region and Beyond on 04 June 2015, on the occasion of President Aquino's State Visit, in Tokyo.

The Declaration, which includes an Action Plan for the Strengthening of the Strategic Partnership, reaffirmed the two strategic partners' joint commitment to the maintenance of regional peace and stability, the achievement of an enduring peace in Mindanao, sustained economic growth in the region, and greater collaboration, dialogue, and people-to-people exchanges.

- **Strategic Partnership with Viet Nam**

Viet Nam became the Philippines' third strategic partner upon the signing of the Joint Statement of Strategic Partnership by President Aquino and Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang on 17 November 2015 in Manila.

The Joint Statement provides the framework to elevate the level and intensity of bilateral exchanges between the two countries, and harness advantages for common development. The partnership shall build upon and enhance existing bilateral mechanisms, operationalize concluded agreements and seek even newer avenues to deepen cooperation in various fields in order to carry out the partnership's vision. The governments of both countries will work together on the following key areas: political cooperation; economic cooperation; defense, security, judicial and law enforcement cooperation; maritime and ocean affairs cooperation; scientific and other technical cooperation; socio-cultural cooperation; and multilateral cooperation.

Under the partnership, both countries agreed to convene a Joint Commission on Maritime and Ocean Cooperation which will develop joint projects and activities to promote cooperation in all aspects of maritime and ocean-related affairs, taking into account their obligations under international law particularly the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS); maintain hotlines between both sides' coast guards and fisheries agencies, and continue existing cooperation among the said agencies; and establish a Technical Working Group in Hydrology, Meteorology, Marine Hydro-Meteorology, Climate Change and Marine Environment in order to develop specific projects and programs that will enhance cooperation in this scientific field.

- **Comprehensive Partnership with Australia**

On 18 November 2015, President Aquino and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull signed the Joint Declaration on Philippines-Australia Comprehensive Partnership.

Under this Declaration, both countries agree that their "ministers and senior officials will meet regularly, including through the biennial Philippines-Australia Ministerial Meeting (PAMM) to maximize the opportunities to advance cooperation between Australia and the Philippines, including trade, development assistance, defense, education, people-to-people linkages, counter-terrorism and countering transnational crime."

## POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS

The Philippines conducted bilateral consultation meetings with 13 countries in 2015. Bilateral consultation meetings are held to review the status of the Philippines' relations with its partners around the world to discuss key issues and concerns, and to further develop these relations.



*11<sup>th</sup> Philippines-India Policy Consultations with Undersecretary for Policy Evan P. Garcia leading the Philippine delegation and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Secretary (East) Anil Wadhwa heading the Indian delegation, 05 Manila 2015, Manila.*

*(Photo Credit: DFA PISU)*

## LIST OF 2015 POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS

Political Consultations	Date & Venue	Highlights
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Philippines-US Bilateral Strategic Dialogue (BSD)</b>  Head of Delegation: Undersecretary for Policy Evan P. Garcia	20-21 January Manila Philippines	The 5 <sup>th</sup> BSD focused on the two countries' strategic engagement on a broad range of issues covering the Rule of Law and Law Enforcement; Defense and Security; Economics, Development and Prosperity; and, Regional and Global Diplomatic Engagement.
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Philippines-Pakistan Policy Consultations</b>  Head of Delegation: Undersecretary for Policy Evan P. Garcia	22 January Islamabad, Pakistan	Following a comprehensive review of bilateral relations, both sides identified ways of further broadening bilateral cooperation, including the conclusion of agreements in the areas of defense and security, economy, culture, science and technology and in labor and education.
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Philippines-Israel Joint Commission Meeting (JCM)</b>  Head of Delegation: Undersecretary for Policy Evan P. Garcia	04 February Manila, Philippines	The two countries discussed and exchanged views on ways to strengthen economic, defense, labor, and development cooperation, and explored carrying out projects on capacity-building and knowledge transfer.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Philippines-Sweden Political Consultations</b>  Head of Delegation: Assistant Secretary for European Affairs Maria Zeneida Angara-Collinson	09 February Stockholm, Sweden	The two countries discussed updates on the WPS/SCS issue, the Mindanao Peace Process, formal launch of the ASEAN Community, mutual support for UN candidatures, trade and investment, Social Security Agreement, Law Enforcement Cooperation, disaster relief cooperation, and tourism cooperation.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Philippines-Norway Political Consultations</b>  Head of Delegation: Assistant Secretary for European Affairs Maria Zeneida Angara-Collinson	11 February Oslo, Norway	The two countries discussed the Philippine peace processes, updates on the WPS/SCS issue, Social Security Agreement, Norway's application as ASEAN Dialogue Partner, investments in renewable energy, compliance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) and the Philippine business climate.

Political Consultations	Date & Venue	Highlights
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Philippines-Slovak Republic Political Consultations</b>  Head of Delegation: Secretary Albert F. Del Rosario	23 February Manila, Philippines	The two countries exchanged views on bilateral, regional and global concerns. The discussion focused on further strengthening ties in key areas of cooperation such as agriculture, trade and investments, education and culture, defense and energy.
<b>11<sup>th</sup> Philippines-India Policy Consultations</b>  Head of Delegation: Undersecretary for Policy Evan P. Garcia	05 March New Delhi, India	Both sides discussed bilateral relations and regional developments, including the situation in the WPS/SCS. India expressed support for Philippine efforts in advancing the peaceful settlement of international disputes as both sides asserted the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight in SCS.
<b>Inaugural Philippines-Bangladesh Policy Consultations/Signing</b>  Head of Delegation: Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Laura Q. Del Rosario	27 March Dhaka, Bangladesh	The signing of the MOU on Foreign Policy Consultations and the Foreign Policy Consultation were held on the same day, with both sides reviewing bilateral relations and identifying ways to bring cooperation and collaboration to a higher level.
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Philippines-South Africa Bilateral Consultative Forum (BCF)</b>  Head of Delegation: Assistant Secretary for Middle East and African Affairs Julius D. Torres	14-15 April Pretoria, South Africa	The two countries shared insights and information on their domestic and regional concerns. The Philippines briefed South Africa on recent developments in the arbitral proceedings on the WPS/SCS, Mindanao Peace Process, ASEAN Community, and the Philippine economy.
<b>9<sup>th</sup> Philippines-Egypt Joint Commission Meeting (JCM)</b>  Head of Delegation: Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Jesus I. Yabes	18 -19 May Cairo, Egypt	The Philippines assured Egypt that it will support its accession to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) once the moratorium on the acceptance of new partners is lifted.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Informal Policy Consultations with Mozambique</b>  Head of Delegation: Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Jesus I. Yabes	21-22 May Maputo, Mozambique	The two countries discussed areas of mutual concern including exchange of views on the WPS/SCS and Mozambique's elections, finalization of various agreements, and possible partnerships in fisheries, maritime cooperation, and a possible negotiation for a Labor Agreement.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Philippines-Germany Political Consultations</b>  Head of Delegation: Undersecretary for Policy Evan P. Garcia	16 June Berlin, Germany	The two countries agreed to strengthen existing ties and pursue further avenues for cooperation in trade, development cooperation, climate change, and renewable energy, and had a substantive exchange of views on bilateral, regional and global concerns.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of Philippines-Mongolia Policy Consultations</b>  Head of Delegation: Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Laura Q. Del Rosario	20 July Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	The two countries not only discussed practical areas of cooperation on security and law enforcement, trade and investment, tourism, socio-cultural and consular cooperation, but also exchanged views on international and regional issues such as WPS/SCS.
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Philippines-Tunisia Joint Commission Meeting (JCM)</b>  Head of Delegation: Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Jesus I. Yabes	23-24 November Manila, Philippines	Prior to the JCM, three bilateral agreements were signed: (1) MOA on the Establishment of a Bilateral Consultations Mechanism; (2) Agreement on Cultural Cooperation; and, (3) MOI between the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and the Diplomatic Institute for Training and Studies (IDFE). The two countries discussed possible political, economic, culture and tourism cooperation.

## HIGH LEVEL BILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

### ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

#### • Australia

On 18 November 2015 on the sidelines of APEC in Manila, President Aquino and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull met and signed the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership. During their bilateral meeting, the two Leaders focused on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Relations; enhancement of trade and investment, including the Philippines' interest to join the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP); enhancement of cooperation in defense, counter-terrorism including foreign terrorist fighters (FTF), and closer cooperation on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) activities; and disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM). The two Leaders also discussed the WPS/SCS issue where Prime Minister Turnbull said the maintenance of the rule of law is absolutely critical.



*Bilateral Meeting between President Aquino and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, 18 November 2015, Manila*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

On 17 November 2015, also on the sidelines of APEC, Secretary del Rosario and Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop discussed Australia's recent AU\$4 million in assistance over the next three (3) years, in partnership with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), to support the joint security and justice mechanisms of the peace process. They also discussed the Philippines' arbitration case against China, Philippine migration policy, counter-terrorism, and the sharing of intelligence information to fight terror.

In an earlier meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop on 28 September 2015 in New York, Secretary del Rosario expressed appreciation for Australia's donation of two (2) landing craft heavy (LCH) vessels to the Philippine Navy. He informed the Foreign Minister that the DFA is working with the Department of National Defense (DND) on the proposed transfer of three (3) additional LCH vessels to the Philippines.



*Bilateral Meeting between Secretary del Rosario and Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, 17 November 2015, Manila*

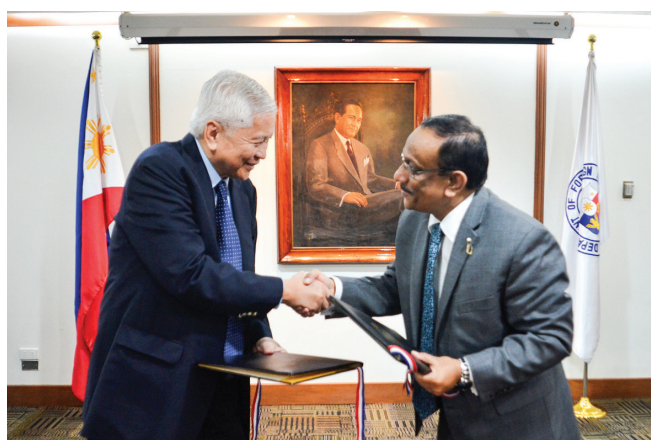
*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

## • Bangladesh

Secretary del Rosario and Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishing Foreign Policy Consultations between the Philippines and Bangladesh on 25 March 2015. On the same day, both countries held the first Foreign Policy Consultations.

Both sides noted the potential to increase trade in goods and services between the two countries. Following the formation of the Philippines-Bangladesh Business Council on 21 January 2015, both countries hoped to generate more activities fostering greater interaction between Filipino and Bangladeshi businessmen and to increase awareness of each country's products.

The Philippine and Bangladeshi delegations also discussed the exchanges between their members of Parliament, education and training exchanges between their Armed Forces and extended invitations to the officers to attend military and defense-related courses in their respective defense colleges. They also explored how the recently concluded MOU on Sports Cooperation can be implemented.



*Secretary del Rosario and Bangladeshi Foreign Secretary Md. Shahidul Haque sign the MOU establishing Foreign Policy Consultations between the Philippines and Bangladesh, 25 March 2015, Manila.*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

## • China



*Secretary del Rosario receives Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi during a Working Visit, 10 November 2015, Manila*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi was in Manila on 10 November 2015 for a one-day working visit where he met with Secretary del Rosario. The meeting was an opportunity for both sides to revisit the agreement between President Aquino and then Chinese President Hu Jintao in 2011 that contentious issues could be separated from the rest of the bilateral relations. Foreign Minister Wang expressed his view that both sides can take steps to contribute to the improvement of bilateral relations and said China values its relationship with the Philippines. Both sides also discussed China's participation in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM).

## • India

The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Philippines-India Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) was held in New Delhi, India on 15 October 2015. Secretary del Rosario and Indian counterpart Minister for External Affairs Sushma Swaraj agreed to further intensify cooperation through the regular holding of relevant Joint Working and Technical Working Groups, including on trade and investments, pharmaceuticals, and information communications technology (ICT).

The meeting resulted in India's support for the peaceful resolution of the WPS/SCS dispute and its agreement on the importance of settlement of all disputes by peaceful means and of refraining from the threat or use of force, in accordance with international law.

In a joint statement, the Philippines and India asserted the importance of safeguarding the freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea.

Earlier, the Department of National Defense (DND) co-chaired the 11<sup>th</sup> Philippines-India Policy Consultations/2nd Strategic Dialogue on 05 March 2015 in Manila with the DFA. The Strategic Dialogue discussed possibilities of strengthening the defense and security relations between the two countries. These include strengthening of relations between Coast Guards of the Philippines and India, combating terrorism and transnational crimes, and other issues of regional and global concerns such as WPS/SCS issue, ISIS, etc.



*Secretary del Rosario's Official Visit to India to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Philippines – India Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC), 14 October 2015, New Delhi*

*(Photo credit: DFA-OSEC)*



*Indonesian President Joko Widodo's State Visit to the Philippines, 8-10 February 2015*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

## • Indonesia

The visit of Indonesian President Joko Widodo from 08 to 10 February 2015 was an opportunity for the two Leaders to establish a better working relationship in order to build upon significant gains in the relations between the Philippines and Indonesia. During the two Leaders' bilateral meeting, they discussed the resumption of the talks on the Extended Continental Shelf, Indonesia's policy against illegal fishing, the WPS/SCS issue, and the Philippines-Indonesia Border Crossing and Border Patrol Agreement.

## • Japan

President Aquino and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe signed the Philippines-Japan Joint Declaration on a Strengthened Strategic Partnership for Advancing the Shared Principles and Goals of Peace, Security, and Growth in the Region and Beyond at the Akasaka Palace during the third day of the President's State Visit to Japan on 04 June 2015. Both Leaders declared that the relationship between the two countries has entered the stage of Strengthened Strategic Partnership. They reaffirmed the guiding principles for its future relations and goals within the Asia Pacific region and beyond, while recognizing the relationship of the two countries' shared universal values of freedom, democracy, adherence to the rule of law and respect for basic human rights.



*President Aquino and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe witness the signing of the Exchange of Notes of an infrastructure project signed by Secretary del Rosario and Japanese Ambassador to the Philippines Kazuhide Ishikawa after the bilateral meeting, 19 November 2015, Manila*

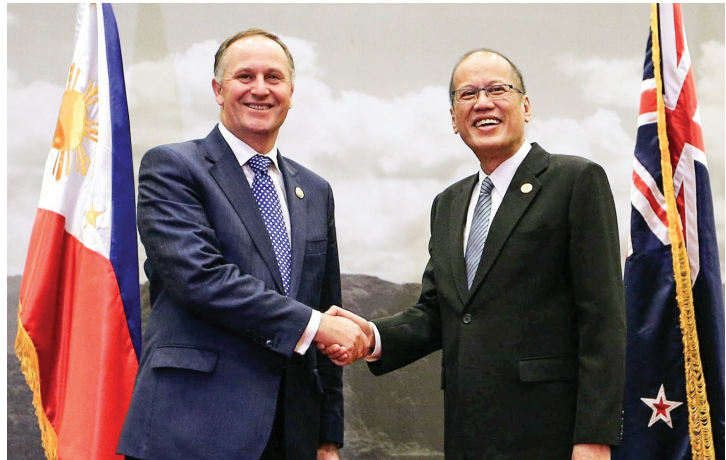
*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

As of September 2015, Japan was the largest source of Official Development Assistance (ODA) for the Philippines among all partners with USD 3.50 billion consisting of ODA loans worth USD 3.37 billion and ODA Grants worth USD 130.17 million (as of September 2015). On 19 November 2015 on the sidelines of the APEC Summit, both countries signed an Exchange of Notes on the North-South Commuter Railway Project worth JPY 241.991 billion. As part of the bilateral cooperation Roadmap for Quality Infrastructure Development for the Transport Section, the project aims to improve efficiency of the land transportation capacity of Metro Manila and provide a more environmentally sustainable mode of transport by constructing a new 36.7 km commuter railway from Malolos, Bulacan to Tutuban, Manila.

Both sides also signed a bilateral Social Security Agreement on 19 November 2015. The Agreement will maintain the benefit rights of workers who have divided their careers between the Philippines and Japan.

## • New Zealand

President Aquino and New Zealand Prime Minister John Key met on 19 November 2015 on the sidelines of APEC and discussed Philippines-New Zealand partnership on political matters and defense; trade and investment, including the Philippines' interest to join the TPP; New Zealand's development assistance in the fields of disaster risk reduction; and scholarship provisions to Filipinos. Prime Minister Key mentioned that Filipinos are present in different sectors in New Zealand, including in the dairy sector. President Aquino thanked New Zealand for its support in the development of the Philippine dairy sector.



*President Aquino with New Zealand Prime Minister John Key at the bilateral meeting, 19 November 2015, Manila.*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

## • Pakistan



*Secretary del Rosario receives Pakistani Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry on the occasion of the 4th Philippines-Pakistan Policy Consultations, 22 January 2015, Manila.*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

The 4<sup>th</sup> Philippines-Pakistan Policy Consultations were held in Manila on 22 January 2015. The Philippine delegation was led by Undersecretary Evan P. Garcia. The Pakistani delegation paid a courtesy call on Secretary del Rosario who congratulated both delegations for the successful conduct of the consultations. He expressed gratitude to Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry for the assistance that Pakistan gave to the victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan, and extended his sincere condolences to the families of the victims of the Peshawar school massacre.

Foreign Secretary Chaudhry stated that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government is focused on economic development and that Pakistan also seeks to increase its economic engagement with ASEAN Member States. He said that he is pleased with the friendly relations between the Philippines and Pakistan and that he looks forward to further improving cooperation between the two countries in several areas.

### • Republic of Korea (ROK)

As of September 2015, ROK is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest source of ODA among all partners with USD 522.82 million of ODA (Loan and Grant Net Commitments of USD 453.31 million and USD 87.51 million), respectively.

The Philippines acquired from ROK the following:

1. One (1) Patrol combat corvette (donation approved by ROK on 24 February 2015);
2. One (1) landing craft utility and rubber boats under the Transfer Arrangement signed on 30 March 2015, which arrived in the Philippines on 29 May 2015;
3. 12 FA-50 Fighter/ Surface Attack/ Lead-in Fighter Aircraft from the Korea Aerospace Industry, with two (2) of the aircraft delivered last November 2015.



*President Aquino with South Korean President Park Geun-hye during the bilateral meeting, 18 November 2015, Manila.*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

The DND and the Ministry of National Defense of ROK signed a MOA on the Protection of Classified Military Information on 14 September 2015 in Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The Agreement aims to enhance support and cooperation in the field of defense by promoting the exchange of information, including classified military information. This is relevant given the volatility of the security situation in the Korean Peninsula and Asia Pacific.

Meanwhile, the President's Bilateral Meeting with President Park Geun-hye on the sidelines of APEC-AELM on 18 November 2015 discussed the strengthening of bilateral relations through the holding of more frequent bilateral consultations and meetings.

- **Singapore**



*The Philippine delegation led by Assistant Secretary Minda Calaguian-Cruz, with their Singaporean counterparts, at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of Informal Consultations, 15 July 2015, Singapore.*

*(Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Singapore)*

On 15 July 2015, the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of Informal Consultations on the Philippines-Singapore Action Plan. Both sides discussed the Philippines' proposal to institutionalize bilateral defense engagements including officers exchanges, intelligence training between the Philippine Military Academy and the Singapore Armed Forces Training Institute, and the conclusion of an MOU between the Philippine and Singapore Navies.

- **Thailand**

On 28 August 2015, President Aquino and Thai Prime Minister Gen. Prayut Chan-o-cha met to discuss the overall bilateral relations between the Philippines and Thailand, and the 6th Philippines-Thailand Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC). Prime Minister Prayut expressed Thailand's readiness to complete the commitments and pending agreements covering various areas of cooperation between the Philippines and Thailand. These include defense and law enforcement cooperation, where the President noted the talks between the Philippine and Thai Navies and Thai



*Official Visit of H.E. Gen. Prayut Chan-o-cha, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, 27-28 August 2015*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

Armies, and the negotiations on the draft MOU on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Controlled Precursors and Essential Chemicals (CPECs) between the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) and the Royal Thai Police.

During the bilateral meeting between Secretary del Rosario and then Foreign Minister Patimapragorn on 07 April 2015, the two Ministers expressed satisfaction on the status of bilateral relations between the Philippines and Thailand and expressed their hope for more high-level exchanges and further deepening of relations. Both agreed to the conduct of the Joint Trade Committee (JTC) and the Joint Commission on Military Cooperation (JCMC).



*Secretary del Rosario receives a traditional gift from Thai Foreign Minister Tanasak Patimapragorn, 06-07 April 2015, Manila.*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

#### • Viet Nam



*President Aquino receives Viet Nam President Truong Tan Sang at Malacañang Palace for the bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the AELM, 17 November 2015, Manila.*

*(Photo by the Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

President Aquino met with Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang on the sidelines of the AELM on 17 November 2015. The two Leaders discussed ways to push bilateral cooperation forward in light of the elevation of Philippines-Viet Nam relations to a Strategic Partnership. President Aquino also took the opportunity to discuss issues concerning the WPS/SCS, including the recent favorable ruling of the PCA regarding jurisdiction. The two Presidents agreed on the vital importance of ensuring the full and effective implementation of the DOC, as well as the urgent need for the Parties to conclude negotiations on a legally-binding COC.

After the bilateral meeting, the two Leaders witnessed the signing of the Joint Statement on the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership and the exchange of the signed Protocol to amend the 2010 Philippines-Viet Nam MOA on the Supply of Vietnamese Rice to the Philippines.



*8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Philippines-Viet Nam Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC), 21-22 October 2015, Hanoi.*

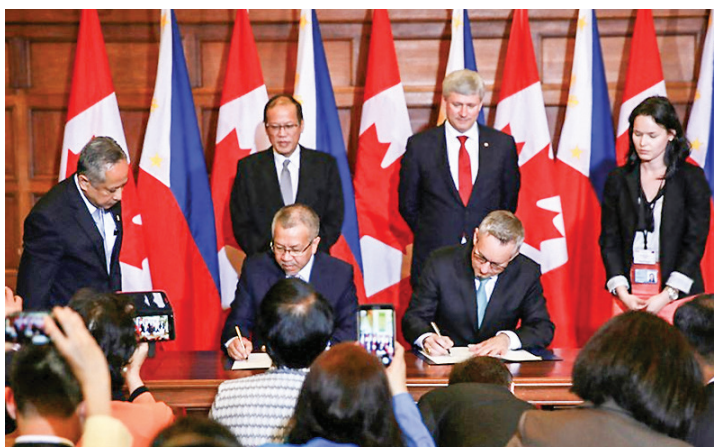
*(Photo credit: DFA-OSEC)*

Secretary del Rosario and Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh agreed during the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Philippines-Viet Nam Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) to fully implement the MOA on Defense Cooperation signed in October 2010. Both sides welcomed the activation of a dedicated hotline between the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) and Viet Nam Coast Guard (VCG) pursuant to the MOA on the Establishment of a Hotline Communication Mechanism between PCG and VCG. Both sides underscored the importance of the full and effective implementation of the 2002 ASEAN-China DOC.

## AMERICAS

### • Canada

President Aquino embarked on a State Visit to Canada from 07 to 09 May 2015. This was the first State Visit by a Philippine president to Canada in 18 years. During his meetings with Governor General David Johnston and Prime Minister Stephen Harper, President Aquino discussed issues of mutual concern such as regional security and increasing the flow of trade and investments, highlighting potential areas where both countries could deepen bilateral cooperation. Following these discussions, the President and Prime Minister Harper witnessed the signing of three (3) major agreements in labor, economic cooperation, and development assistance aimed at strengthening engagement in these key areas.



*President Aquino and Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper witness the signing of the Letter of Intent (LOI) on bilateral cooperation on trade and investment between the Philippine Department of Trade and Industry and Canada's Trade and Development, 08 May 2015.*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*



*Bilateral Meeting of President Aquino with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on the sidelines of the AELM 2015, 19 November 2015, Manila*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

On 10 November 2015, on the sidelines of the AELM, President Aquino met with newly elected Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. The two Leaders affirmed their intention to maintain and further expand the strong bilateral ties between the Philippines and Canada, particularly in the areas of development cooperation and bilateral trade and investment. The two Heads of State reiterated their commitment to furthering people-to-people ties, particularly by promoting the welfare of the growing Filipino community in Canada.

- **Chile**

During the State Visit of Chilean President Michelle Bachelet on 16 November 2015, President Aquino and President Bachelet underscored the consistently positive bilateral relations between the Philippines and Chile, and expressed optimism that this partnership could be further strengthened and enhanced by maximizing available Bilateral Consultation Mechanisms.

President Aquino and President Bachelet witnessed the signing of the LOI on the Enhancement of Trade Relations, aimed at conducting a joint study on the possibility of establishing a bilateral free trade agreement.

The two Leaders also witnessed the signing of the MOU on DRRM, which would facilitate the exchange of best practices and experiences on disaster management.



*State Visit of Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, 16 November 2015, Manila*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

- **Colombia**

On 17 November 2015, President Aquino and Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos agreed during their bilateral meeting to share best practices and experiences with regard to their respective counter-insurgency programs, peace negotiations, and the war against illicit drug trafficking.

Colombia was present during APEC as a special guest of the Chair. Colombia is a member of the Pacific Alliance alongside Chile, Mexico and Peru. The Alliance aims to establish deeper bloc-to-bloc relations with APEC and held a dialogue with APEC member economies in Manila.

In a separate bilateral meeting, following that of the two Presidents, Secretary del Rosario and Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin signed the MOU between the DFA-FSI and Colombia's Diplomatic Academy-Augusto Ramirez Ocampo.



*Bilateral Meeting of President Aquino with Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, 17 November 2015, Manila*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

*Secretary del Rosario meets with Colombian Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin, 18 November 2015, Manila*

*(Photo Credit: DFA-PISU)*



• Mexico



*President Aquino welcomes Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto at the Malacañang Palace, 17 November 2015, Manila.*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto came to Manila on a State Visit on 17 November 2015. He also attended the AELM. The meetings between President Aquino and President Peña Nieto opened a new era in the Philippine-Mexican bilateral relations aimed at providing more frequent political dialogues at all levels of government, continued active economic engagement that would also capitalize on their respective strengths as entry points into their regions, and stronger people-to-people ties underpinned by rich and longstanding historical and cultural linkages. The two Leaders also exchanged views on and secured mutual support for regional and international issues.

The following bilateral agreements were signed during the State Visit:

1. Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion;
2. Memorandum of Understanding on Tourism Cooperation; and,
3. Memorandum of Understanding on Combating Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, their Analogues, Precursor Chemicals and Essential Chemical Products, as well as Products or Preparations Containing Them.

## • United States

The highlight of Philippines-US relations in 2015 was the visit of President Barack Obama to the Philippines from 17 to 20 November to attend the AELM. During the visit, President Obama announced increased US assistance to the Philippines of USD 79 million for maritime security, and the transfer of two (2) vessels: (a) an oceanographic research vessel; and, (b) a high-endurance all-weather cutter. President Obama reiterated the US' "ironclad commitment" to the defense of the Philippines. President Obama also called on China to halt its island-building, construction, and militarization activities in the WPS/SCS. President Obama also expressed support for the Philippines' decision to pursue arbitration under UNCLOS to peacefully resolve maritime disputes.



*Bilateral Meeting of President Aquino and US President Barack Obama, 18 November 2015, Manila  
(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*



On 06 August 2015, Secretary del Rosario and US Secretary of State John F. Kerry had the opportunity to meet on the sidelines of the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meetings in Kuala Lumpur to discuss bilateral and regional issues, including the resolution of the disputes in the South China Sea.

They also discussed new areas and initiatives for defense and security cooperation, which in recent years have focused on maritime security and maritime domain awareness. They reaffirmed the importance of the early implementation of the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement and agreed to reconvene the Philippines-United States 2 + 2 Ministerial Consultations.

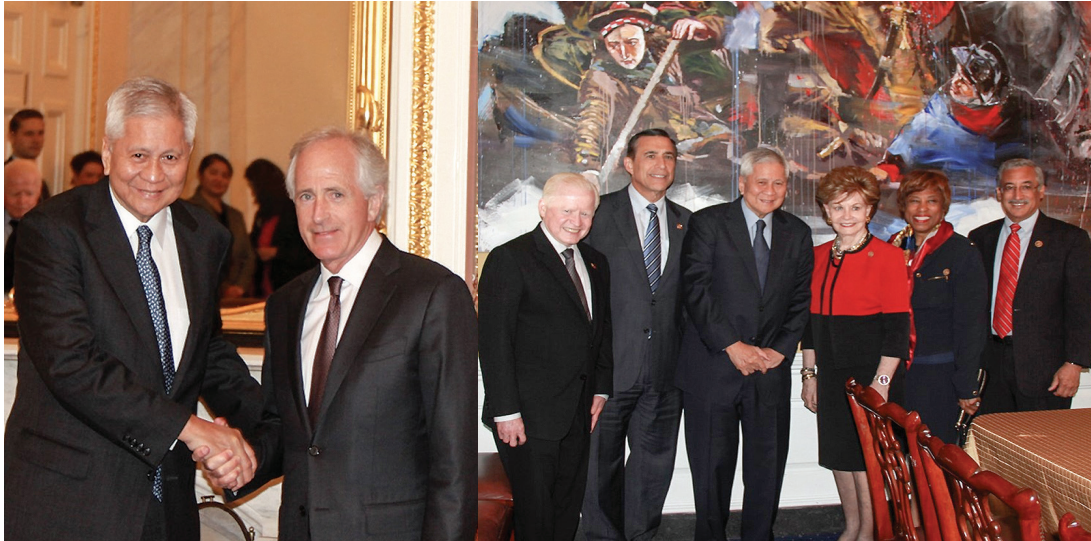
*Secretary del Rosario meets US Secretary of State John F. Kerry on the sidelines of the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meetings, 06 August 2015, Kuala Lumpur.*

*(Photo Credit: Philippine Embassy, Kuala Lumpur).*

*US Ambassador to the Philippines Philip S. Goldberg pays a courtesy call on Secretary del Rosario, Manila.*

*(Photo Credit: DFA-PISU)*





*Left Photo: Secretary del Rosario with US Senator Bob Corker, Chair of Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, 11 May 2015, Washington, DC. Right Photo: Secretary del Rosario (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and Philippine Ambassador to the US Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. (leftmost) with some members of the US-Philippines Friendship Caucus, 12 May 2015, US Capitol, Washington DC. (Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Washington D.C.)*

On 11 May 2015, Secretary del Rosario visited Washington DC where he engaged members of the US Congress. The Philippines has been engaging the US Senate and House of Representatives to help strengthen the Philippines' defense capabilities and for assistance in enhancing Philippine maritime security and maritime domain awareness. US legislators conceptualized the Maritime Security Initiative in the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act to help the Philippines and other littoral states in Southeast Asia build capacity in maritime security. An even closer engagement with the US House of Representatives increased the membership of the US-Philippines Friendship Caucus to 69.



*President Aquino, together with Secretary del Rosario, receives Admiral Harry Harris, Jr., Commander of the US Pacific Command, 26 August 2015, Malacañang Palace.*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

On 26 August 2015, Secretary del Rosario received Admiral Harry Harris, Jr., Commander of the US Pacific Command (PACOM), and had the opportunity to exchange views with him on how to further strengthen the long-standing alliance between the Philippines and the United States.

## EUROPE

### • France

French President François Hollande conducted a State Visit from 26 to 27 February 2015, a first



*President Aquino during the bilateral meeting with French President François Hollande, 26 February 2015, Manila*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

by an incumbent President of France since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1947. The meeting between the two Leaders served to launch the Manila Call to Action on Climate Change. The launch was participated in by Senator Loren Legarda and French actress Marion Cotillard.

President Hollande addressed the opening of the Forum on Climate Change held at the National Museum and also attended the inauguration of the Ferrante Ferranti Photo Exhibit on Philippine baroque churches.

### • Italy

President Aquino conducted an Official Visit to Italy from 02 to 03 December 2015. He met with both President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Matteo Renzi and discussed issues including trade relations, the WPS/SCS issue, AFP Modernization Program, Philippines-EU Free Trade Agreement, Mindanao Peace Process, and the migrant crisis. The President also met with the Filipino community in Italy.



*President Aquino is welcomed by Italian President Sergio Mattarella at the Sala del Bronzino of the Quirinal Palace, 03 December 2015, Rome*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

- Russia



*President Aquino welcomes Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev during the bilateral meeting, 19 November 2015, Manila  
(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

The bilateral meeting between President Aquino and Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev on 18 November 2015 on the sidelines of the AELM discussed cooperation on trade and investment and political-security. The two Leaders also witnessed the signing of the New Air Services Agreement between the Philippines and Russia and the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and Russian Federal Service on Narcotics Trafficking on Combating New Psychoactive Substances.

- **Sovereign Military Order of Malta**

His Most Eminent Highness Prince and Grand Master Frá Matthew Festing of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (SMOM) visited the Philippines from 01 to 07 March 2015. The visit coincided with the commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Philippines and the SMOM. The visit centered on the humanitarian work of the SMOM in the Philippines. Among the highlights of the visit are as follows:

- Turnover of the symbolic key to 700 new shelters built by the SMOM in Bantayan Island, Cebu and Basey, Samar for victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan; and,
- Exchange of decorations with the Prince and Grand Master Frá Festing conferred the Order of Sikatuna Rank of Rajah (Grand Collar) and President Aquino conferred the Order Pro Merito Melitensi (Grand Collar) by SMOM.



*Exchange of decorations between President Aquino and the Prince and Grand Master Frá Matthew Festing of the Sovereign Order of Malta,  
03 March 2015, Manila  
(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

- **Holy See**

His Holiness Pope Francis conducted a State and Apostolic Visit to the Philippines from 15 to 19 January 2015 with the theme “Mercy and Compassion”. President Aquino received Pope Francis in Malacañang Palace on 16 January 2015. Pope Francis had a general audience with senior government officials and members of the Diplomatic Corps.

The Pope held a mass at the Quirino Grandstand attended by a record 6 to 7 million people. He also held an Encounter with the Youth at the University of Santo Tomas and an Encounter with the Families at the Mall of Asia Arena.

Pope Francis visited Tacloban and held mass at the Tacloban International Airport with an estimated 150,000 attendees. He likewise visited the Cathedral of the Transfiguration of Our Lord in Palo, Leyte, had a brief meeting with priests, religious people, seminarians, and families of survivors, and blessed the Pope Francis Center for the Poor.

On 04 December 2015, President Aquino visited the Vatican and had a meeting with Pope Francis. He had a private audience with Pope Francis and discussed the following topics: (1) the Pope’s request for prayers, (2) the Mindanao Peace Process, and (3) an invitation extended by the President for the Pope to visit the Philippines again in the future.

President Aquino witnessed the unveiling of the mosaic image of the Our Lady of Peñafrancia, designed by Italian artist Roberto Cassio, at the Vatican Gardens. The Philippines is the 10<sup>th</sup> country to have a representation of one of its most revered images of the Blessed Mother at the Vatican Gardens.



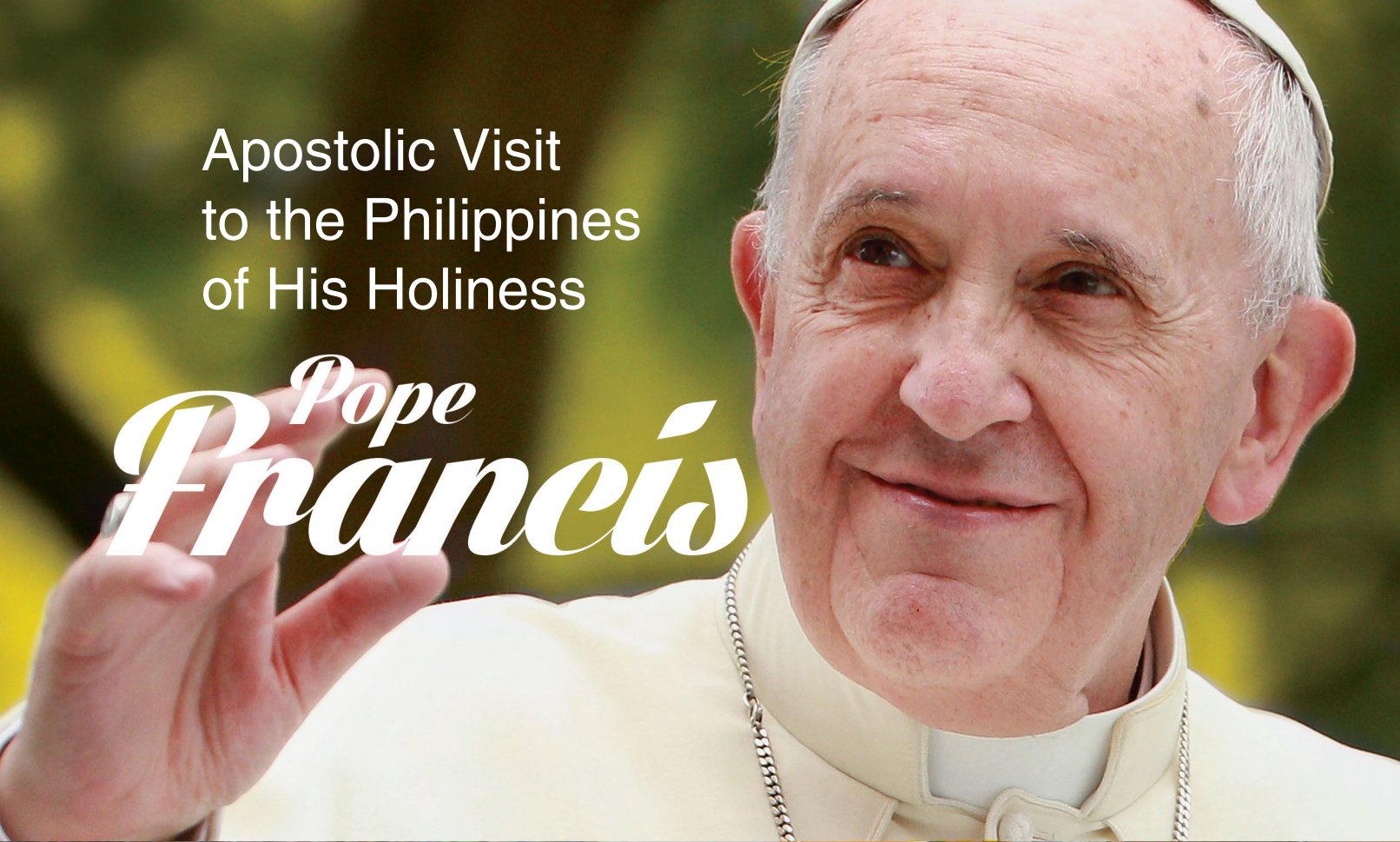
*Formal Visit of the President to the Vatican City, 04 December 2015*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*



Apostolic Visit  
to the Philippines  
of His Holiness

*Pope*  
**Francis**



### 3<sup>RD</sup> EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS' FORUM

To foster closer cooperation and facilitate regular exchanges of views and information with the European region, the DFA through the Office of European Affairs (OEA) held several fora on issues of mutual concern to the Philippines and Europe. The Mindanao Peace Process, Climate Change and the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) were the topics discussed.

*3<sup>rd</sup> European Ambassadors' Forum: Challenges to the Mindanao Peace Process with Prof. Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, Chair of the GPH Peace Negotiating Panel, and Mr. Mohagher Iqbal, Chair of the MILF Peace Negotiating Panel, 13 October 2015, Manila.*

*(Photo credit: DFA-OEA)*



### REGIONAL CONSULTATION MEETING FOR POSTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

In 2015, the series of Regional Consultation Meetings (RCMs) began with the Middle East and African region. The RCM with Heads of Post in the Middle East and Africa was convened from 01 to 04 December 2015 in Manila with the participation of 20 Heads of Post (19 HoPs from the Middle East and Africa + Turkey), high-ranking officials of the DFA, resource speakers from Philippine Government agencies, and field experts who spoke and delivered presentations on various immediate and important topics affecting the region.

The RCM was convened to take stock of urgent developments domestically and regionally (WPS, Terrorism, Terrorist Financing, Human Trafficking, Labor Migration Issues and Illegal Recruitment, Mindanao Peace Process and the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL), the Philippines' bid for Observer Status in the Organization on Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Economic and Cultural Diplomacy, Promoting Tourism in MEA Countries) in order to recalibrate strategies in pursuing Philippine interests and aligning programs of the DFA towards emerging realities.



*The RCM was held from 01 to 04 December 2015 in Manila and was participated in by 20 Heads of Posts, high-ranking DFA officials, resource speakers from various government agencies and field experts, Manila.*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

## MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

### • Egypt

The Philippines participated in the 9<sup>th</sup> Philippines-Egypt Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) held in Cairo, Egypt from 18 to 19 May 2015.

The Philippine delegation was led by Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Jesus I. Yabes while the Egyptian delegation was led by Assistant Foreign Minister for Asian Affairs and the Affairs of Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands Yasser Mourad.

During the 9<sup>th</sup> JCM, the two sides discussed ways to move forward pending agreements, and possible fields of cooperation in skills training and training of diplomats of both countries. The meeting also discussed the preparations to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Philippines-Egypt bilateral relations in 2016. The JCM discussed the launch of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation between the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce (FECC) signed on 18 May 2015.

### • Israel

The 8<sup>th</sup> Philippines-Israel Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held at the DFA on 04 February 2015 with Undersecretary for Policy Evan P. Garcia leading the Philippine delegation and Deputy Director General Mark Sofer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs heading the Israeli delegation.

During the 8<sup>th</sup> JCM, the two countries exchanged views on how to strengthen economic, defense, labor, and development cooperation. Both sides said they are looking forward to carrying out projects on capacity building and knowledge transfer which will be beneficial to both the Philippines and Israel.

A soft launch of the Philippines-Israel Joint Commemorative Stamp was held at the Manila Diamond Hotel on the sidelines of the JCM. The launch of the Joint Commemorative Stamp honored the historic rescue by the Philippines of Jewish people from the Holocaust during the presidency of Manuel L. Quezon. A similar launch of the Joint Commemorative Stamp was held in Rishon LeZion, Israel on 29 January 2015.



*Secretary del Rosario receives Israeli Minister of Tourism Yariv Levin on 18 September 2015 at the DFA during the latter's Official Visit to the Philippines*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

Secretary del Rosario also received Israeli Minister of Tourism Yariv Levin on 18 September at the DFA during the latter's official visit to the Philippines from 16 to 21 September 2015 upon the invitation of Tourism Secretary Ramon R. Jimenez, Jr. The visit of Minister Levin to the Philippines was his first official trip abroad as Minister of Tourism since his appointment in May 2015.

The two officials discussed matters concerning tourism cooperation. They agreed that there is a huge potential in increasing the volume of tourism traffic between the two countries by maximizing the Air Services Agreement signed in 2014.



*Soft launch of the Philippines-Israel Joint Commemorative Stamp on the sidelines of the 8th Philippines – Israel Joint Commission Meeting, 04 February 2015, Manila.*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

In 2014, Israel was the third largest tourist market of the Philippines in the Middle East, next to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates while the Philippines ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in Israel's top markets in Asia in 2013.

#### • South Africa



*The representative of the Philippine and South African delegations during the 3<sup>rd</sup> South Africa Bilateral Consultative Forum, 13-14 April 2015, Pretoria, South Africa.*

*(Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Pretoria)*

Assistant Secretary for Middle East and African Affairs Julius D. Torres led the Philippine delegation to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Philippines-South Africa Bilateral Consultations Forum held in Pretoria, South Africa from 13 to 14 April 2015. Deputy Director-General for Asia and the Middle East of South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) Dr. Anil Sooklall headed the South African delegation.

During the consultations, the two countries shared insights and information on domestic and regional concerns. The Philippines briefed South Africa on recent developments in the arbitral proceedings on the WPS/SCS, Mindanao Peace Process, ASEAN Community, and the Philippine economy.

## • Tunisia

On 23 and 24 November 2015, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Jesus I. Yabes led the 17-member delegation of Philippine officials to the Inaugural Philippines-Tunisia Joint Commission Meeting (JCM), which he co-chaired with Secretary of State Mohamed Ezzine Chelaifa of the Tunisian Foreign Ministry, held in Manila. During the JCM, both delegations discussed initiatives and possible bilateral cooperation in the fields of political, economic, people-to-people exchange, culture, and tourism-related activities.



*Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Jesus I. Yabes and Secretary of State Mohamed Ezzine Chelaifa at the Inaugural Philippines-Tunisia Joint Commission Meeting, 23-24 November 2015, Manila*  
(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)

With their common desire to fulfill their commitment to combat terrorism, the two countries agreed on a proposal to cooperate in the field of intelligence sharing and other counter-terrorism related projects.

Prior to the commencement of the JCM, three (3) bilateral agreements were signed namely:

1. MOA on the Establishment of a Bilateral Consultations Mechanism between the DFA and the Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA);
2. Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the Philippines and Tunisia; and,
3. MOI between the FSI and the Diplomatic Institute for Training and Studies (IDFE) of Tunisia.

The close relations between the Philippines and Tunisia were manifested by Tunisia's assistance to the Overseas Filipinos (OFs) during the Libyan crisis and its approval of the establishment of a Philippine Temporary Mission in Tunis in September 2014.

In order to facilitate the growing bilateral trade relations of the Philippines and Tunisia, both sides established a Joint Philippines-Tunisia Business Council on 24 November 2015.

## ENHANCING REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

### KEY ADVOCACIES

#### • Human Rights

In ASEAN, the ASEAN-Philippines (ASEAN-PH) National Secretariat, in cooperation with the University of the Philippines Law Center Institute of Human Rights, hosted the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) *Workshop on the Development of ASEAN Legal Instruments on Human Rights* from 14 to 15 September 2015 in Manila. The workshop provided an opportunity for participants to identify strategies for strengthening cooperation among ASEAN bodies and other concerned national government bodies and stakeholders on human rights promotion and protection work.

The ASEAN-Philippines National Secretariat and the Office of the Philippine Representative to the AICHR of the DFA convened the *Regional Consultation Workshops on Strengthening AICHR's Protection Mandate through Exploring Mechanisms and Strategies to Protect Women and Girls from Violence*, in Manila on 27-29 March 2015.



*AICHR Representatives and other participants from ASEAN Member States during the Regional Consultation Workshop on Strengthening AICHR's Protection Mandate through Exploring Mechanisms and Strategies to Protect Women and Girls from Violence, 27-29 March 2015, Manila*

*(Photo credit: ASEAN-PH National Secretariat)*

In the UN, the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (SPT-OPCAT) visited the Philippines from 25 May to 03 June 2015.

The SPT-OPCAT delegation headed by Ms. Suzanne Jabbour met with the House Committees on Human Rights and Public Order and Safety. The meeting focused on the proposed legal framework to establish a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) against torture.

The SPT-OPCAT delegation also met with officials of the Commission on Human Rights and visited detention facilities.

## • Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM)

The DFA contributed to the work of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) on DRRM related discussions, issues, and developments in bilateral, regional and international platforms.

In 2015, the DFA participated in numerous DRRM-related meetings and workshops, namely:

- Indonesia-Australia 2015 East Asia Summit Rapid Disaster Response Workshop, June 2015;
- Republic Act No. 10121 (otherwise known as “Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010”) Sunset Review Policy Workshop, 6-10 July 2015;
- Visit to Leyte of Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for Disaster Risk Reduction Margareta Wahlström to inspect rehabilitation projects and conduct briefings on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), 13-14 September 2015;
- High-level Dialogue: “Implementing the Sendai Framework for Resilient Development with Special Representative of UN Secretary-General (SRSG) for DRR Margareta Wahlström, 15 September 2015;
- Visit of Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) Margareta Wahlström, to Leyte to inspect rehabilitation projects and conduct meeting/briefing regarding Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), (13-14 September 2015); and,
- 9<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Disaster Management Forum, 22 September 2015; and,
- Consultation Workshop on the Results of the Greater Metro Manila Area Risk Assessment Project Phase II Bridging Activity, 09 October 2015.
- The DFA also took the lead in drafting the International Humanitarian Assistance Cluster (IHAC) Operational Guidelines of the NDRRMC.



*Permanent Representative of the Philippine Mission to the UN and Other International Organizations in Geneva Ambassador Cecilia B. Rebong (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) leads the negotiations of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 adopted during the 3WCDRR, March 2015, Sendai, Japan*

*(Photo credit: Philippine Mission, Geneva)*

At the UN, the Philippines was active in the preparatory sessions, the negotiations and the roundtable discussions on the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (3WCDRR) in Sendai, Japan in March 2015. The Conference resulted in the historic adoption of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. The Philippines advocated for the central role of States in DRR and in preventing and reducing disaster risk as well as in enhancing risk governance, transparency and accountability; the full engagement of all State institutions at all levels and clear articulation of responsibilities across public and private stakeholders; the empowerment of local authorities and local communities in DRR; the importance of Pre-Disaster Risk Assessment in undertaking risk; and the inclusion of climate change and health issues in the DRR conversation.



*Left photo: Senator Loren Legarda addresses 3WCDRR.  
(Photo credit: Philippine Mission, Geneva)*

*Right photo: DSWD Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman with Ambassador Cecilia B. Rebong and Ms. Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on DRR.  
(Photo credit: Philippine Mission, Geneva)*



## • Prevention of Child Abduction

The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction was signed on 25 October 1980 and entered into force on 01 December 1983. As of November 2015, there are 93 State Parties to the Convention. The Convention is one of the conventions of the Hague Conference on Private International Law (HCCH). The Convention is aimed at protecting children from the harmful effects of abduction and retention across international boundaries by providing a procedure to bring about their prompt return.

The DFA coordinated with the Department of Justice (DOJ), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) and Inter-Country Adoption Board (ICAB) regarding the Philippines' accession to the Convention. All agencies concurred in the proposed accession. President Aquino signed the Instrument of Accession on 16 December 2015.

## • Climate Change and Environmental Protection

At the Leaders Event of the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference of Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), President Aquino delivered the National Statement outlining Philippine achievements and plans for cutting carbon emissions as part of its contribution to addressing the adverse effects of Climate Change.

President Aquino also delivered his Keynote Speech at the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) High Level Event, where he highlighted the Philippines' efforts to address climate change and Philippine initiatives as the current Chair of the CVF, a group of 20 developing countries most vulnerable to climate change.



*President Aquino delivers his address at COP21 Leaders Event, 30 November 2015, Paris*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*



*Right photo: President Aquino chairs the Climate Vulnerable Forum, 01 December 2015, Paris*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

*Left photo: Assistant Secretary for United Nations and Other International Organizations Jesus R.S. Domingo appeals for support to the Philippines and other vulnerable nations at the COP21, 02 December 2015, Paris.*

*(Photo credit: DFA-UNIO)*



## • Women's Issues

The Philippines advocated for the inclusion of language on priority issues which, among others, are as follows: (1) protection of migrant workers; (2) protection of persons living with HIV, indigenous peoples, and women and girls; (3) ensuring access to decent work and all other proposed insertions related to domestic work and the informal sector; and, (4) participation of women and girls in decision-making in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction in the international and regional fora.

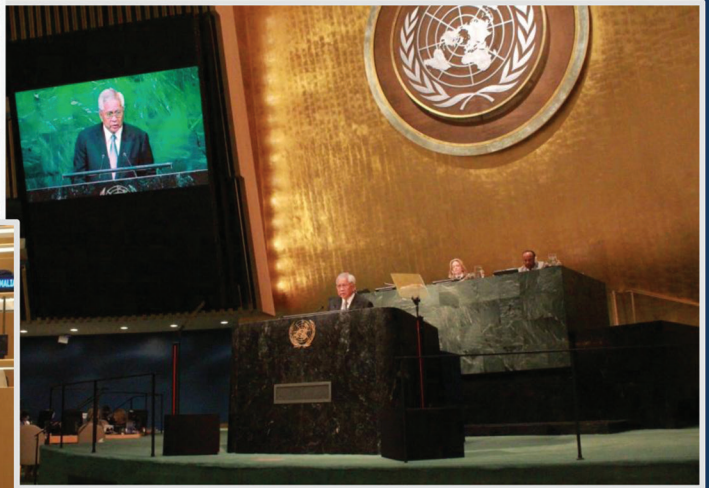


*CHED Chairperson Patricia B. Licuanan leads the Philippine delegation to the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 09-20 March 2015, UN Headquarters, New York*  
(Photo credit: UN Women)

The Philippines also hosted the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR) Workshop on Strengthening the Participation of Women in Peace Processes and Conflict Resolution in Cebu City from 18 to 19 March 2015 and the AIPR Symposium on the Plight of Women and Children in Conflict Situations in Tagaytay City from 08 to 09 December 2015.

The key recommendations of the two conferences are: (1) AIPR should continue to provide a platform to discuss women's participation in peace processes and conflict resolution; (2) AIPR should organize training and workshops for women to become peace mediators; (3) AIPR should consider organizing an ASEAN network of women on peace and security, including a pool of experts on peace and mediation; and, (4) ASEAN Member States (AMS) should continue undertaking activities to formulate policy recommendations, including the development and implementation of national action plans on women, peace, and security in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

# Multilateral Diplomacy in Action



UNITED NATIONS



ASEAN



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## SUCCESSFUL PHILIPPINE CANDIDATURES IN THE UNITED NATIONS

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### DR. RAUL C. PANGALANGAN'S CANDIDATURE TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC) 2015-2021



*Dr. Raul Pangalangan, former Dean of the University of the Philippines College of Law, takes oath before the Assemblies of States Parties President and Senegal Minister of Justice, Sidiki Kaba (left) as Judge of the ICC, 13 July 2015, ICC Headquarters, The Hague, the Netherlands.*

*(Photo credit: ICC-CPI)*

Dr. Raul C. Pangalangan was elected as Judge of the International Criminal Court (ICC) during the resumed 13<sup>th</sup> session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute in The Hague on 24 June 2015. Dr. Pangalangan will serve in the ICC for six (6) years from 2015 to 2021 and his election to the ICC will guarantee the Philippines'

continuing support for the Court's work in ending impunity by ensuring that individual criminal responsibility is enforced through the highest judicial standards.

### PHILIPPINE CANDIDATURE TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (HRC) 2016-2018

The Philippines secured the fifth slot in the Asia Pacific Group in the Human Rights Council (HRC) for the term 2016-2018. The Philippines will serve in the Council for three (3) years. With its election to the HRC, the Philippines will continue its commitment to promote and protect human rights and to serve in the Council as a bridge for genuine dialogue and cooperation on human rights issues, in relation to migrant workers and climate change.

## UN COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE LAW (UNCITRAL) 2016-2022

The Philippines was re-elected to the UN Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) for the term 2016-2022 at elections held on 09 November 2015 in New York.

The Philippines, along with 22 other countries, will serve in the Commission from June 2016 to June 2022.

With its re-election to the UNCITRAL and its continued participation in the activities of UNCITRAL Working Groups, the Philippines will be constantly updated on international commercial law conventions, model laws, and important legal texts. It will also be able to take advantage of the technical assistance to Member States in their efforts toward commercial law reform and adoption of UNCITRAL texts.

## COUNCIL OF THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO) UNDER CATEGORY C 2016-2017

The Philippines was re-elected to the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) under Category C for the term 2016-2017 at elections held during the 29<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the IMO Assembly on 27 November 2015 in London.

With its re-election to the IMO Council, the Philippines will continue its commitment to ensure maritime safety and security, marine environment protection, and the protection and enhancement of the welfare and rights of all seafarers.



*The Philippines is re-elected to UNCITRAL for term 2016-2022 and will continue to participate in the activities of its Working Group related to commercial law reform, 09 November 2015, New York.*

*(Photo Credit: Philippine Mission to the United Nations in New York)*

## MAJOR EVENTS

### • ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat

Secretary del Rosario attended the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' (AMM) Retreat held on 28 January 2015 in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, where he proposed that ASEAN ask China to stop its island-building activities in the WPS/SCS, and that the ASEAN appeal to the international community to urge China to do so.



*ASEAN Foreign Ministers during their Retreat held on 28 January 2015, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah  
(Photo credit: DFA-OSEC)*

The Retreat reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and regional stability, and the need to establish trust and confidence among parties.

### • ASEAN Summit

Secretary del Rosario, as member of President Aquino's Official Delegation, participated in the 26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit held in Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi, Malaysia from 27 to 28 April 2015 with the theme "*Our People, Our Community, Our Vision*". The Philippines pursued the following advocacies:

- ASEAN Centrality;
- Conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP);
- Greater participation of stakeholders in peace and reconciliation initiatives;
- Empowering the people through increased support in various social programs;
- The Philippines as a responsible partner of the regional and international community in addressing current issues such as Extremism and Humanitarian Emergencies; and
- Welcoming new members and Dialogue Partners.



During the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 20 to 22 November 2015, the ASEAN Leaders signed three (3) documents, namely:

*President Aquino joins ASEAN Leaders for the traditional photo during the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, 23 November 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

- 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community;
- Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the ASEAN 2025 (with three blueprints—ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025; ASEAN Economic Blueprint 2025; and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025); and
- ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP), Especially Women and Children.

The Philippines served as the volunteer country shepherd for ACTIP and played a crucial role in finalizing this agreement within the ambit of the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crimes (AMMTC) after eight (8) years of negotiations.

President Aquino also announced that the Philippines will ensure implementation of ASEAN's Vision 2025 in line with its Philippine Development Plan (PDP). He called for the involvement of the broadest spectrum of society in the community-building efforts and the implementation of Vision 2025. The President also highlighted the urgency of developing a post-2025 ASEAN Connectivity Agenda.

- **ASEAN-Australia Ministerial Meeting**



*Secretary del Rosario co-chairs the ASEAN-Australia Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, 05 August 2015, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

*(Photo credit: DFA-OSEC)*

Secretary del Rosario co-chaired the ASEAN-Australia Post Ministerial Conference Session (PMC) with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 05 August 2015. The Meeting welcomed the commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations to a Strategic Partnership, which was adopted by Leaders at the ASEAN-Australia Commemorative Summit on 12 November 2014. In recognition of said strategic partnership, the Meeting agreed to convene biennial Leaders' Summits starting 2016. The Meeting also underlined the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, and freedom of navigation in and overflight above the South China Sea.



*Philippines hosts the 27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-Australia Forum, 26 March 2015, Manila.*

*(Photo credit DFA- PISU)*

*From L-R: Director-General for ASEAN-PH National Secretariat, Luis T. Cruz, Philippine SOM Leader to ASEAN Evan P. Garcia and Philippine Permanent Representative to ASEAN in Jakarta, Ambassador Elizabeth P. Buensuceso*

- **UN General Assembly**

The 70<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted as its theme, *“Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”*, during the UN Summit from 25 to 27 September 2015 in New York. The Agenda is composed of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets



covering economic, social, and environmental dimensions of development which defines the international, regional and national development priorities to eradicate poverty in all its forms, fight inequality and tackle climate change over the next 15 years. It is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity that also seeks to strengthen universal peace. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this people-centered Agenda.

The 2030 Agenda is firmly founded on these four principles: (1) human rights; (2) equality, equity, people empowerment, social cohesion, and justice; (3) accountable governance; and (4) sustainable and inclusive development. All of these principles are embedded in the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

*Secretary Del Rosario addresses the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the UNGA High Level General Debate, 02 October 2015, New York*

*(Photo Credit: DFA-OSEC)*



*Members of the Philippine Delegation to the UN Summit, from left to right, front row: National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) Assistant Director General Rosemarie G. Edillon, Philippine Permanent Representative to the UN in New York Ambassador Lourdes O. Yparraguirre and NEDA Director General and Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Arsenio M. Balisacan, 27 September 2015, New York*

*(Photo Credit: Philippine Mission in New York)*

#### • Asian-African Conference Summit

The Government of Indonesia hosted the Asian-African Conference with the theme “Strengthening South-South Cooperation to Promote World Peace and Prosperity” from 19 to 24 April 2015 in Jakarta and Bandung. The Conference served as a Commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the First Asian-African Conference and the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP).

It brought together representatives from 93 Asian and African countries. The Philippine delegation was headed by Vice President Jejomar C. Binay and supported by the DFA.

The Conference consisted of a Senior Officials Meeting on 19 April, followed by a Ministerial Meeting on 20 April and a Summit from 22 to 23 April held at the Jakarta Convention Centre. On 24 April, a Commemoration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Asian-African Conference was held in Bandung.

The Conference adopted three (3) Outcome Documents, namely:

- Bandung Message 2015;
- Declaration on Reinvigorating the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP); and
- Declaration of Palestine.

#### • Forum for East Asia-Latin American Cooperation (FEALAC)

Speaking during the Plenary of the 7<sup>th</sup> Forum for East Asia-Latin American Cooperation (FEALAC) Foreign Ministers Meeting held in San Jose, Costa Rica from 18 to 21 August 2015, Head of Philippine Delegation Undersecretary for Policy Evan P. Garcia expressed the Philippines’ support for FEALAC as the primary link in facilitating cooperation between East Asia and Latin America. Undersecretary Garcia emphasized that the forum is now more relevant, given the dynamic growth of the regions and the many opportunities for partnership.



*Undersecretary for Policy Evan P. Garcia heads the Philippine Delegation to the 7<sup>th</sup> FEALAC Forum Foreign Ministers’ Meeting, 21 August 2015, San Jose, Costa Rica (Photo credit: DFA-OAA)*

## • Group of 77 (G77)

The Philippines assumed the chairmanship of the Geneva chapter of the G77 and China in January 2015. This was the first time that the Philippines held this office in Geneva. From this position of leadership, the Philippines was able to help shape the multilateral discourse on trade and investment and related issues.

As Chairman of the G77 and China 50 years after the founding of both the Group and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the Philippines provided leadership to help achieve the organization's avowed goal of "prosperity for all" through its three (3) pillars of consensus building, research and analysis, and technical cooperation. The Philippines' leadership resulted in an agreement on the theme and subthemes for the 14<sup>th</sup> meeting of UNCTAD that will be held in Nairobi in July 2016. The main theme, *"From Decision to Action: Moving*

*towards an inclusive and equitable global economic environment for trade and development"*, highlights the role of UNCTAD in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular goal 8 which calls for sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth.



Ambassador Cecilia B. Rebong (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) presides over the meeting of the Group of 77 and China, Geneva Chapter, right after the handover ceremony. Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD (1<sup>st</sup> from left) joins her on the podium with Mr. Miguel R. Bautista, Chief of Intergovernmental Support Services, UNCTAD (3<sup>rd</sup> from left), Mr. Martin Khor, Executive Director of the South Centre (1<sup>st</sup> from right), and Ms. Yvette Fernandez of UNCTAD (second row).

(Photo credit: Philippine Mission, Geneva)

## • OIC

In 2015, the DFA sponsored and participated in various Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)-related meetings, workshop and activities, namely:

- 42<sup>nd</sup> OIC Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting in Kuwait from 27 to 28 May 2015;
- Preparatory Meeting on the Tripartite Review Process wherein the DFA sponsored a meeting, together with Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), Office of the Executive Secretary (OES), and the members of the OIC Peace Committee on Southern Philippines (PCSP) based in the Philippines to brief the body for the Technical Meeting on the Tripartite Review Process; and
- Technical Meeting on Tripartite Review Process where DFA Officials and personnel participated in the two-day meeting on the Tripartite Review Process from 07 to 08 September 2015.



Secretary del Rosario receives OIC Secretary General Iyad Ameen Madani, 17 April 2015, Manila

(Photo credit: DFA-OSEC)



*President Aquino welcomes the Leaders of the 21 APEC member economies and their spouses at a family photo opportunity, 18 November 2015, Mall of Asia Arena*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

## **B. PROMOTION AND ATTAINMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY**

In 2015, the DFA continued to lead the government's efforts in promoting and advancing the Philippines's economic interests through the One Country Team Approach. With the support and assistance of the Philippine FSPs, the DFA strengthened its relationship with bilateral, regional, and multilateral partners through various initiatives which are aimed at contributing to sustainable development through inclusive growth.

With the DFA Strategic Plan for 2012-2016 in place, the FSPs have been guided by the following overarching goals for economic diplomacy:

- a. Strengthen DFA structures and capacities in relation to economic security;
- b. Contribute to jobs generation; and
- c. Assist in poverty reduction.

In 2015, the Philippines signed 25 economic agreements including in labor, trade, education, and air services. The senior officials at the DFA also continue to be trained in economic diplomacy as an instrument of statecraft through our partnership with the Asian Institute of Management (AIM).

Moreover, the DFA worked closely with various agencies and business organizations in crafting strategies and implementing programs to enhance the country's competitiveness and create greater and better trade, investment and tourism opportunities for the Philippines.

The DFA also supported the conduct of inbound and outbound business missions to promote Philippine goods and services and to attract foreign investments.

<b>ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS</b>	
<b>Name of Agreement</b>	<b>Date Signed</b>
Protocol 7 of the ASEAN-Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT)	24 February 2015
Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of France Agreement on Tourism Cooperation	26 February 2015
Declaration of Intent of the Philippines and France on the Protection of the Environment and the Sustainable Development of Marine Resources	26 February 2015
Memorandum of Understanding on Philippines-France Cooperation in the area of Higher Education and Research	26 February 2015
Philippines-France Agreement for the Management, Operation and Maintenance of the Subic Clark Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX)	26 February 2015
Philippines-France Credit Facility Agreement for Cebu Bus Rapid Transit Project	26 February 2015
Protocol to Implement the 6 <sup>th</sup> Package of Commitments on Financial Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Financial Services	20 March 2015
Philippines – Japan Grant Aid Project for Community Development in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao	26 March 2015
Philippines – Japan Grant Aid Project on Mini-Hydropower Development Project in the Province of Ifugao	26 March 2015
Philippines – Japan Non-Project Grant Aid for Provision of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Products;	26 March 2015
Philippines – Japan Non-Project Grant Aid on the Provision of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Equipment	26 March 2015
Philippines – Japan Two Yen Loan Projects for Metro Manila Interchange Construction Project, Phase VI And Flood Risk Management Facilities 2014	26 March 2015
MOU of the Filipino, Korean, and Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Hawaii	08 April 2015
Protocol Amending the Agreement between Philippines-Netherlands on Export of Social Insurance Benefits	21 April 2015
MOU on Occupational Safety and Health between DOLE and Canadian Center on Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS)	08 May 2015
Mutual Accountability Framework for Development Cooperation between the Philippines and Canada, 2015-2020	08 May 2015
MOU between DOLE and the Province of British Columbia as represented by the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training concerning cooperation in Human Resource deployment and development	09 May 2015
Philippines-Qatar Memorandum of Understanding on Increased Flights between the Two Countries	28 May 2015
Ratification MOC in the Field of Healthcare between DOH Philippines and Japan Ministry of Health Labor and Welfare	04 June 2015
Philippines –Japan Exchange of Notes on the Japanese Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) Project 2015	03 July 2015
Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines to Improve International Tax Compliance and to Implement the Foreign Account Tax Compliance	13 July 2015
Philippines – Japan Exchange of Notes and Loan Agreements of Two Japanese Yen Loan Projects namely: Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project and the Davao City Bypass Construction Project (South and Center Sections)	25 August 2015
Philippines – Japan Exchange of Notes for the Grant Assistance for the Project for Reconstruction of Municipal Halls in Lawaan and Marabut Municipalities	23 October 2015
Philippines -US Agreement to Support Filipino Game-Changers in the Digital Economy	06 November 2015
Agreement on the Establishment of a Philippines-Russia Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation	18 November 2015



# Philippine hosting of APEC 2015





## ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC)

### THE PHILIPPINES' APEC CHAIRMANSHIP

The Philippine hosting of the 2015 APEC Meetings commenced in December 2014 with the holding of the Informal Senior Officials' Meeting at the Shangri-la Hotel, Makati. From December 2014 to November 2015, 219 APEC-related meetings were held in the country, while 10 meetings, including three (3) APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) Meetings, were held abroad.

The meetings were guided by the APEC 2015 theme of *"Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World"*, consistent with the Philippine development goal of promoting inclusive growth. Initiatives pursued in the APEC meetings contributed to the following 2015 priorities:

- Enhancing the Regional Economic Integration Agenda;
- Fostering Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises' (MSMEs) Participation in Regional and Global Markets;
- Investing in Human Capital Development; and,
- Building Sustainable and Resilient Communities.

The Philippines' Chairmanship of APEC 2015 not only built on APEC's achievements over the past 25 years, but also steered APEC towards a more inclusive development agenda through the Philippine-led focus on inclusive growth: one that expands the region's growth story to include a vision of economic prosperity and interconnectedness felt at all levels, such that no one individual or country is left behind.

Through various initiatives, projects, and policy recommendations, APEC enriched its multi-year trade and investment agenda by looking at the human and societal dimensions of economic growth. APEC's focus on inclusive growth thus meant delving into widening people's access to opportunities and enabling them to realize their full potential, which would result in more productive employment opportunities, dynamic economic growth, and greater well-being.

The Philippines, as host economy, led APEC-wide efforts to contribute to the four (4) APEC 2015 priorities and generate these outcome documents. These documents – except (1) APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth and (2) APEC Services Cooperation Framework, which were annexed to the Leaders' Declaration – were annexed to the Joint Ministerial Statement, for endorsement to Leaders.

The APEC meetings culminated in the AELM from 18 to 19 November 2015, with the Retreat theme: *"The Way Forward: Beyond 2020."* At the end of the Retreat, the Leaders adopted the APEC Leaders Declaration.

*The AMM Co-Chairs, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario and Secretary of Trade and Industry Gregory Domingo, at the AMM Press Conference, 17 November 2015, Manila.*  
(Photo credit: DFA-OSEC)



The Declaration entitled, “*Building Inclusive Economies, Building a Better World: A Vision For The Asia-Pacific Community*” and its two Annexes, will be implemented in 2016:



*APEC Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Trade pose for a family photo, 17 November 2015, Manila*  
(Photo credit: DFA-OSEC)

- *APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth.* This Strategy embedded the principles of *institution building, social cohesion/equity, and concern for environmental impact* of economic/industrial activities as new dimensions to consider in generating quality growth. The Strategy underscored how quality growth was about the economic well-being of every individual and of every economy, focusing on how growth can be sustained over the medium- to long-term. Thus, governments of each APEC member economy were called to ensure the principles of good governance, transparency, and inclusion in their individual economic pursuits.
- *APEC Services Cooperation Framework (ASCF).* The ASCF is a long-term strategic document which provides a common direction and more coherence in APEC’s work on services and helps economies gain a deeper understanding of the policy and regulatory settings that will best facilitate innovative, productive, and vibrant services sectors, as appropriate to their needs. This Framework recognizes that more competitive services sectors help create jobs, produce quality goods, widen choices for consumers, and harness opportunities for businesses particularly for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).

The Declaration outlined new commitments for APEC member economies to move forward over the coming year to build inclusive economies; foster MSMEs participation in regional and global markets; build sustainable and resilient communities; invest in human capital development; and enhance the regional economic integration agenda.

The Declaration stated that while achieving ongoing economic transformation will not be easy, APEC Leaders were confident that APEC member economies would continue to drive regional and global economic prosperity through quality economic growth, as supported by these collective commitments:

- To support comprehensive and ambitious structural reforms, achieve positive economic, social, and environmental outcomes; and promote good governance;
- To deepen our financial markets and mitigate risks;
- To foster an enabling trading environment that was responsive to new ways in which goods and services were produced and delivered and that promoted inclusiveness, especially for MSMEs;

- To build sustainable and disaster-resilient economies;
- To make urbanization work for growth;
- To redouble our efforts to empower our people with the tools to benefit from and participate in economic growth;
- To achieve an integrated community in a comprehensive and systematic manner;
- To develop the services sector as an enabler of economic growth and inclusion;
- To work with stakeholders to address common challenges; and,
- To strongly support the work of our Ministers, the APEC Process, and all its Committees and Fora.

## APEC BUSINESS MOBILITY GROUP

The DFA successfully hosted the APEC Business Mobility Group (BMG) meetings during the First and Third Senior Officials' Meetings (SOM1 and SOM3) in Subic from 30 January to 02 February and in Cebu from 22 to 24 August 2015, respectively. As a result of these meetings, investors can stay longer in APEC member economies. This further enhanced the Philippines' investment-friendly environment.

## APEC 101

The DFA, as the Philippine National Secretariat for APEC, conducted the "APEC 101" information roadshow series on the APEC 2015 Philippine Host Year in 20 universities across the Philippines, as well as in various institutions and business events from September 2014 to December 2015.

In support of the Philippines's hosting and APEC Chairmanship in 2015, the DFA aimed at reaching out to stakeholders, particularly students, to elevate the public's understanding of APEC as an organization,

the Philippines's role in APEC, and the benefits derived from the Philippines' APEC membership, particularly in terms of economic growth and development. The APEC 101 series was also conducted in Cebu, Iloilo, Clark and Manila, cities that hosted APEC 2015 meetings.



*Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Laura Q. del Rosario delivers a lecture on APEC in one of the roadshows and meets with the public as part of the APEC 101 series, Ateneo de Cagayan de Oro.*

# WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

At the World Trade Organization (WTO), the Philippines sustained its strong development interests in the core areas of agriculture, industrial goods, and trade in services.

In December 2015, at the 10<sup>th</sup> WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi, the Philippines was one of the strong voices that pushed for the agreed package on Agriculture and Development outcomes, including the immediate elimination by developed countries of export subsidies, and by 2018 by developing countries. The Philippines was a main proponent of the G33 proposals on public stocktaking for food security purposes and the safeguard mechanism. These important outcomes would help correct distortions in international agricultural trade and protect our stakeholders, as well as promote food security, livelihood security and rural development of the Philippines. In addition, the expansion of the Information Technology Agreement (ITA II) was envisioned to significantly contribute to the increase of Philippine electronics and IT exports, both key to employment generation and inclusive growth.

The Philippines is known in the WTO as a member of good standing and as a champion of good governance. The country exerted utmost efforts not to be the subject of disputes, preempting them by faithfully abiding by multilateral trade rules. Part of this good governance thrust and support to the multilateral trading system has been the Philippines' contribution of two (2) WTO Appellate Body Members, six (6) panelists, and a few legal experts who worked for the WTO Secretariat. Furthermore, the Philippines provided leaderships through the appointment of its officials as Chairs of various WTO bodies and meetings. Philippine Permanent Representative to the WTO Ambassador Esteban B. Conejos, Jr. chaired the APEC Geneva Caucus. The Philippines served as Alternate Coordinator of G33 and as ASEAN Committee in Geneva Coordinator for Trade in Services, Agriculture, SPS, and ITA/e-commerce.



*Philippine Permanent Representative to the WTO Ambassador Esteban B. Conejos, Jr. leads discussions at the Third Heads of Delegation meeting of the APEC Geneva Caucus, 23 September 2015, Geneva, Switzerland*

*(Photo credit: Philippine Mission to the WTO)*

# EUROPEAN UNION

## • Philippine Application to the European Union’s Generalized Scheme of Preferences-Plus (GSP+)

The DFA worked with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and other relevant government agencies in lobbying for the inclusion of the Philippines in the GSP+ program of the EU, a scheme that aims to assist developing countries in their efforts to alleviate poverty, advance good governance, and promoting sustainable development. The Philippines filed its GSP+ application in February 2014, which the European Commission endorsed in August 2014, and referred to the Council and the Parliament for their approval. After the Parliament’s approval of the Philippines’ GSP+ application on 18 December 2014, the EU Director General on Trade (DGT) conducted a GSP+ Monitoring Mission to the Philippines from 14 to 18 September 2015 to discuss the Philippines’ GSP+ Monitoring Scorecard. The members of the Mission lauded the Philippines’ commitment to implement the 27 international conventions on

human rights, labor rights, environment, and governance. The EU DGT was expected to come up with a commission report in January 2016 that will be submitted to the European Parliament.

- **Philippines-European Union Free Trade Agreement Scoping**

In 2015, the DFA concluded scoping discussions between the Philippines and EU to lay down the parameters, objectives, and key principles of Philippines-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations. The prospective FTA will cover a broad range of areas that affect trade and economic relations, including trade in goods, customs and trade facilitation, technical regulations, services and investment, public procurement, intellectual property rights, competition and trade and sustainable development. It will also include a comprehensive chapter to ensure that closer economic relations between the Philippines and the EU will go hand in hand with environmental protection and social development.

- **Lifting of the EU Ban on Philippine Air Carriers**

The European Commission Directorate General on Mobility and Transport sent an Air Safety Assessment Team to the Philippines from 16 to 24 April 2015. These visits were undertaken following the EU's overall assessment that the Philippines had made sufficient progress to warrant an EU Air Safety List on-site visit after the Air Safety Technical Meeting in March 2015. The EU decision on 25 June 2015 to lift the ban allows Philippine air carriers to operate in Europe.

- **Philippine Action Plan on Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) Fishing**

The European Commission lifted on 21 April 2015 its warning or “yellow card” to the Philippines after the country made significant progress in the implementation of its laws and regulations to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

## ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

The DFA conducted a Seminar on Philippines-OECD Engagement on 23 March 2015, in cooperation with the OECD. The OECD Delegation of seven (7) officials, led by Mr. Marcos Bonturi, Director for Global Relations, provided a briefing on the Organization and its initiatives on trade, investments, finance, enterprise, and agriculture and fisheries, as well as on specific topics of interest to the Philippines. Each session also presented initial proposals to further strengthen Philippines-OECD relations.

*Undersecretary for International Economic Relations,  
Laura Q. del Rosario, delivers Opening Remarks before  
the Seminar on Philippines-OECD Engagement,  
23 March 2015, Manila.*

*(Photo credit: DFA-OUIER)*



## ASEAN-HONG KONG SAR

The Philippines actively participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Round of the ASEAN-Hong Kong, China Trade Negotiating Committee Meeting from 29 November to 03 December 2015 that discussed ways to expand trade and investment between the ASEAN and Hong Kong and deliberated on the key elements and provisions of the free trade agreement.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENTS

### ETHIOPIA

Following the successful Philippines-Ethiopia Air Services Talks, Ethiopian Airlines launched its inaugural direct flight to Manila on 09 July 2015. Ethiopian Airlines is the first African airline to fly directly to the Philippines, thus making this a historic flight that will open doors to the entire African continent (*Ethiopian Airlines currently serves 52 African countries*). The direct flights will augur more dynamic and vibrant bilateral trade, and investment and tourism opportunities.

*Assistant Secretary for Middle East and African Affairs  
Julius D. Torres delivers remarks during the launch of  
the inaugural direct flight of Ethiopian Airlines,  
09 July 2015, Manila*

*(Photo credit: DFA-OMEAA)*



### FRANCE

The Philippine Embassy in Paris hosted a dinner for a dozen top French companies on 23 November 2015 as part of its efforts to promote the Philippines as an Information Technology and Business Process Management (ITBPM) destination. These companies belong to various industry sectors, from aeronautics to construction, and are already present or doing business in the Philippines. Undersecretary Laura Q. del Rosario graced the affair to provide updates on the country's economic developments, particularly the ITBPM industry, and the outcomes of APEC, particularly the APEC Services Cooperation Framework.

*Undersecretary for International Economic  
Relations Laura Q. del Rosario and Ambassador  
Ma. Theresa P. Lazaro with top French business  
representatives at a dinner at the Official  
Residence, 23 November 2015, Paris, France*

*(Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Paris)*



## HONG KONG SAR

Invest Hong Kong (InvestHK) conducted a seminar and networking luncheon in Manila on 24 September 2015. During the event, the Board of Investments of the Department of Trade and Industry (BOI-DTI) signed a Memorandum of Intent on Cooperation with InvestHK.

Highlights of the agreement focused on: (1) information exchange on the investment opportunities and best practices in investment promotion; (2) incentives in expanding business opportunities; and (3) provision of policy and technical support to facilitate inward investment.

In addition, inbound medical tourism can be one of the tourism products that the Philippines can offer to Hong Kong SAR given the number of ISO-accredited health facilities in the country.

## REPUBLIC OF KOREA (ROK)

During the three-day outbound business missions to Seoul from 27 to 29 May 2015 to promote Subic, Clark, and Bataan to Korean locators and investors, the business delegation participated in the following activities: (1) Investment Promotion Conference held at the ASEAN-Korea Center; (2) Business-to-business meetings with Korean companies at the Embassy of the Philippines; and (3) Briefings for the investment promotion agencies at the LS Industrial Systems (LSIS) headquarters and at the Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ).

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a joint study on designing an ODA model was signed on 28 August 2015 between the DOST-Metals Industry Research and Development Center and the Korea Association of Machinery Industry, as part of the latter's Industry Technology Official Development Assistance (ODA) Initiative for the Philippines' Mold and Die Industry. This MOU presented an invaluable opportunity for the Philippines to avail itself of Korea's technological expertise in advancing the strategic development of the country's industrial sector through KIAT's proposed ODA Initiative on a Comprehensive Molding Technology Roadmap for the Philippines.

## UNITED STATES

The Philippine Embassy in Washington, DC, in partnership with the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago, organized the Roundtable Meeting of President Aquino with the US business community in Chicago on 06 May 2015. The event was co-organized by the US-ASEAN Business Council, the US Chamber of Commerce and the National Center for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (NCAPEC).

In June 2015, a High Level Trade and Investment Mission to the US took place from 24 to 29 June 2015. The Mission was led by DOF Secretary Cesar V. Purisima, DTI Secretary Gregory L. Domingo, and DPWH Secretary Rogelio L. Singson for public sector representatives, while National Competitiveness Council (NCC) Co-Chairman Guillermo Luz led the private sector delegates. The Mission included Conferences in Washington DC (24 June), New York (25-26 June), and San Francisco (29 June).

The mission to the US was considered to be an important follow-up to the Philippines-US Memorandum of Cooperation on the Infrastructure Collaboration Platform, which was signed in February 2015 during the 8th Global Infrastructure Leadership Forum (GILF) in New York.

## THE MIDDLE EAST

As a follow up to the success of a business matching mission in November 2014, the Philippines conducted an Outbound Business Mission (OBM) to the Middle East from 03 to 17 November 2015 which covered Jordan, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates (Dubai). The DFA assisted DTI's Export Marketing Bureau and the members of the mission composed of four (4) Philippine Government representatives and 30 delegates from the food sector (fresh/processed and halal), personal care, and health & wellness products sector.



*President Aquino meets with officials of the US Chamber of Commerce, the US ASEAN Business Council, and the NCAPEC before the Roundtable Meeting at the TransUnion Headquarters in Chicago for his Working Visit to the US, 06 May 2015, Washington, DC.*

*(Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Washington DC)*



*Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. delivers his Welcome Remarks during the Conference organized for the High Level Trade and Investment Mission by the Philippine Embassy in Washington, D.C., together with the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the US-Philippines Society, 24 June 2015.*

*(Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Washington DC)*

### C. CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

In 2015, the DFA spearheaded a number of cultural projects to promote the rich, diverse, and multifaceted aspects of Philippine arts and culture through film festivals, food festivals, art exhibits, and performances of renowned Filipino culture groups, among other activities.



*From left to right: Mr. Jose Tence Ruiz, Senator Loren Legarda, NCCA Chairman Felipe F. de Leon, Mr. Patrick Flores and Mr. Manny Montelibano*

*(Photo credit: www.lorenlegarda.com)*

### VENICE BIENNALE

The DFA closely coordinated with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Office of Senator Loren Legarda on the country's triumphant return to the 56<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition after 51 years of absence.

The Philippine Pavilion presented the exhibit curated by Professor Patrick Flores of the University of the Philippines-Diliman entitled, *"Tie a String Around the World"*, featuring the works of Manuel Conde, Carlos Francisco, Jose Tence Ruiz, and Manny Montelibano. These works were intelligently woven to create a poetic and political reflection on the history of world making, the links between geography and politics, and the notions of nation, territory, and archipelago.

The Philippine Pavilion opened on 08 May 2015 at the Palazzo Mora in Venice and was closed on 22 November 2015. Four (04) international reviews chose the Philippine



*(Photo credit: DFA-OUIER)*

Pavilion as one of the ten (10) must-see national pavilions at the Biennale, namely:

- a) Art Radar, an editorially independent online news source on contemporary art across Asia;
- b) Christie's;
- c) London-based artist and curator Pippa Koszerek; and
- d) ArtHub.

## ASEAN DAY CELEBRATION 2015



*Secretary del Rosario hosts a Diplomatic Reception for the commemoration of the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Day, 19 August 2015, Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), Manila*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

Secretary del Rosario hosted a diplomatic reception commemorating the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Day for the Diplomatic Corps. As 2015 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the founding of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), a launch of the ASEAN Exhibit on Biodiversity entitled "A Sea Story" was held at the beginning of the program.

Other activities for the commemoration of the 48<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Day include the launch of the special issue of an ASEAN Community Commemorative Stamp and an exhibit on ASEAN stamps by the Philippine Postal Corporation on 18 August at SM Aura in Taguig City.

Government agencies across the country also commemorated the 48<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary of ASEAN through a simultaneous flag-raising ceremony on 10 August.



*Simultaneous flag-raising ceremony for the ASEAN flag, 10 August 2015, Manila*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

## BALLET PHILIPPINES' PERFORMANCE TOUR IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND CHINA

The DFA presented the artistry of Ballet Philippines to the cities of Abu Dhabi, Amman, Doha, Dubai, and Manama from 05 to 15 August 2015. Widely recognized as the country's flagship company in ballet and in contemporary dance, Ballet Philippines offered its collection of acclaimed works created and performed throughout its 46-year history, *Master Pieces: Celebrating a Tapestry of Filipino and Friendship*. Master Pieces offered to the people of Bahrain, Jordan, Qatar, and United Arab Emirates the hand of friendship from the Philippines and a memorable evening of cultural experience. These performances reflect Filipino creativity, introspection, and celebrations of life's phases and milestones.



*Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Laura Q. del Rosario with the members of the Ballet Philippines at the Chongqing Guo Tai Center, Chongqing, China*

*(Photo credit: DFA-OUIER)*

Following the successful Ballet Philippines' performance tour in the Middle East, the DFA also presented the artistry of Ballet Philippines to China from 26 October to 03 November 2015 in celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Philippines-China diplomatic relations. Ballet Philippines performed in the cities of Chongqing, Guangzhou, and Xiamen.

## CHINA ART INSPIRED IN OCTOBER

As part of its economic and cultural diplomacy projects, the DFA in coordination with the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP), the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Associations of the Philippines (FFCAP), and the ABAC hosted in October a painting exhibit entitled China – Inspired Art. Mr. Ben-Oliver Matias curated artworks of eight (8) artists, namely: Mr. Wong Shui Loong; Ms. Ja Cabato; Mr. Joseph Clavita; Mr. Rafael Concepcion; Mr. Joseph Gaboc; Dr. Ronnie Lim; Mr. Reynaldo Santiago; and Ms. Jen Louise D.L. Viola.



*Undersecretary for International Economic Relations del Rosario Ambassador Zhao Jinhua, and Development Academy of the Philippines' President Antonio Kalaw opened the exhibit: "China-Inspired Art in October"*

*(Photo credit: DFA-OUIER)*

## EXECUTIVE PROGRAM (EP) FOR 2015-2018 OF THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND CHINA

NCCA Chairman Felipe M. de Leon, Jr. and Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua signed the *Executive Program of the Cultural Agreement between the Philippines and China for 2015-2018* on 05 November 2015. The program is an implementation of the Cultural Agreement between the Philippines and China signed on 08 July 1979 and aims to further develop and strengthen cultural exchange between the two countries. It includes exchanges on culture and arts, books and publications, and film.

NCCA Chairman Felipe M. de Leon, Jr. and Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhua signs the *Executive Program of the Cultural Agreement between the Philippines and China for 2015-2018*.

(Photo credit: DFA-ASPAC)



## LAUNCH OF THE PHILIPPINE FIESTAS & FESTIVALS: PHOTOGRAPHY BY DONALD C. TAPAN EXHIBIT

*Fiestas and Festivals: Photography by Donald C. Tapan* is a part of a series of Philippine exhibits to be implemented in China that introduces Philippine society and culture to a Chinese audience to build greater mutual understanding and promote people-to-people exchanges between the two countries. The exhibit, which opened on 03 March 2015, showed the audience a glimpse of the unique and creative Filipino cultural identity through Mr. Tapan's photographs of fiestas and festivals which are celebrated all over the Philippines.



Madame Gretchen V. del Rosario (middle), NCCA Chairman Felipe de Leon, Jr. (3<sup>rd</sup> from right), Undersecretary for Policy Evan P. Garcia (3<sup>rd</sup> from left) and Chinese Ambassador Zhao Jianhu (4<sup>th</sup> from left) at the opening of the exhibit, 03 March 2015, DFA.

(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)

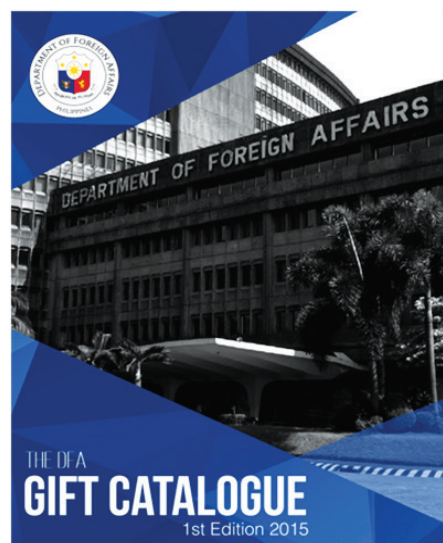
## DFA GIFT CATALOGUE FIRST EDITION 2015

The DFA prepared and published the first edition of the DFA Gift Catalogue, intended to be a reference book for the office gift choices of DFA employees. Products showcased in the DFA Catalogue share two common qualities: (1) distinctly Filipino in the design and materials used; and, (2) crafted with social enterprise goals in mind. This project is designed to promote the Philippine gifts sector.

### MABINING MANDIRIGMA: IN CELEBRATION OF THE 150<sup>TH</sup> BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF APOLINARIO MABINI

In recognition of Apolinario Mabini as the First Secretary of Foreign Affairs, and as a testament to his ideals of nationalism and patriotism, the DFA sponsored the Opening Night of *Tanghalang Pilipino's Mabining Mandirigma* on 03 July 2015 at the CCP Little Theater. It was the closing event of the year-long celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Apolinario Mabini.

*Mabining Mandirigma* is a *steampunk* musical in Filipino, foregrounding the intellectual heroism of Apolinario Mabini, who in the second phase of Philippine revolution, displayed an uncommon vision, a warrior's spirit, and a principled character, as he struggled against all odds to enjoin his countrymen to go beyond considerations of class, clan, economic gain, and personal ambition, so they can think and act as citizens of one nation.



### PUTTING THE PHILIPPINES ON THE MAP

Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Laura Q. del Rosario opened the Exhibit, "Putting the Philippines on the Map", on 04 August 2015 at the DFA Bulwagang Apolinario Mabini. The exhibit, which ran until 14 August, underlined the importance of maps in widening the world view of the Filipino youth and how maps show that the Philippines is a vital player in world history.

The exhibit was a collaboration of the DFA and the Philippine Map Collectors Society (PHIMCOS). Presenting the collections of PHIMCOS, the Exhibit helped to raise awareness and appreciation of the reading of maps, especially antique maps, and to trace the emergence of the representation of the Philippines in antique maps.



Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Laura Q. del Rosario and PHIMCOS founding member, Mr. Albert Montilla, opened the exhibit: "Putting the Philippines on the Map"

(Photo credit: DFA-OUIER)

In his lecture, Dr. Leovino Garcia of the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) and a member of PHIMCOS, identified the rare Ramusio-Gastaldi 1554/1563 TerzaOstroTavola map as the "birth certificate" of the Philippines when the name "Filipina" appeared for the first time on a European document.

## COMMEMORATION OF THE 125<sup>TH</sup> BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT ELPIDIO QUIRINO (EQ125)



*Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Jesus I. Yabes (third from left) leads the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the photo exhibit "Elpidio Quirino's Role in Framing the Philippine Foreign Policy" with members of Elpidio Quirino's family (from left) Ms. Ruby Quirino Gonzalez Meyer, Atty. Lilia Quirino, and Ms. Cory Quirino. (Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

On 28 October 2015, the DFA, in partnership with the President Elpidio Quirino Foundation, commemorated the 125<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of President Elpidio Quirino with a photo exhibit and lecture by University of the Philippines Professor Dr. Ricardo Jose entitled "Elpidio Quirino's Role in the Framing of Philippine Foreign Policy," on the life and times of the former president, at the Bulwagang Apolinario Mabini.

Elpidio Quirino was concurrently the Secretary of Foreign Affairs from September 1946 to April 1948, when he was Vice President during the presidency of Manuel Roxas, at a time when the Philippines was a fledgling nation in the aftermath of the Second World War.

## OUTDOOR PHOTO EXHIBITION AT CENTRAL WORLD MALL IN BANGKOK

The Philippine Embassy in Bangkok, in cooperation with Zen at Central World, launched the photo exhibit entitled, *"The Philippines: Pearl of the Orient Seas"*, at the Zen Department Store outdoor amphitheater, Central World Mall, Bangkok, on 08 April 2015. The exhibit was the product of a two-year collaboration between the Philippine Embassy and the Central Group of Companies aimed at promoting the Philippines through the exhibit of 50 photographs depicting various aspects of Philippine culture and tourism. The photos showcased beaches and water systems; UNESCO World Heritage sites, churches, monuments and other historical sites in Metro Manila; industries, sports and other activities; land and rock formations; wildlife; dances and festivals; and other cultural landmarks and symbols.



*(From left to right) Mr. Isareit Chirathivat (CentralWorld), Mrs. Natira Boonsri (Zen Department Store), Dr. Chaweerat Kasetsoontorn, Vice Minister of Culture, Ambassador Jocelyn Batoon-Garcia, Ms. Supatra Chirathivat (CentralWorld), and Mr. Sitthichai Thuansakon (Pathumwan District Office, representing the Governor of Bangkok, formally opened the photo exhibition entitled, "The Philippines: Pearl of the Orient Seas", during the ribbon-cutting ceremony, at the Zen Department Store outdoor amphitheater, Central World Mall, Bangkok, Thailand, 08 April 2015.*

*(Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Bangkok)*

## RIZAL AT THE BIBLIOTHECA ALEXANDRINA IN CAIRO

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Alexandria, Egypt, added a bust of Philippine National Hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, to its collection, courtesy of the Philippine Embassy in Cairo. The life-size bust, rendered in synthetic cold-cast bronze, is the work of Filipino sculptor Frederic I. Caedo, grandson of renowned sculptor Anastacio T. Caedo. It is displayed in the reading area of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina Main Library.

Philippine Ambassador to Egypt Claro S. Cristobal officially unveiled the bust on 25 June 2015 to Ambassador Aly Maher, Advisor to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, in a turnover ceremony. In addition to the bust, the donation also included prints of the original manuscripts of *Rizal's Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, produced by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), as well as the publications *Lumina Pandit: A Collection of Historical Treasures and Conquistas de las Islas Filipinas 1565-1615*.



Ambassador Cristobal unveils a bust of Rizal to Ambassador Maher of Egypt at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, 25 June 2015, Alexandria, Egypt  
(Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Cairo)

## FILIPINO LANGUAGE CLASS FOR FILIPINO CHILDREN AT SENTRO RIZAL IN PHNOM PENH

With the support of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) of the Philippines, the Sentro Rizal of Phnom Penh (SRPP) launched the pilot edition of the Filipino Language Class for Filipino Children on 15 August 2015. In celebration of Buwan ng Wika (National Language Month), the launch was attended by NCCA Deputy Executive Director Marlene Ruth Sanchez, NCCA-Sentro Rizal Cultural Affairs Officer Maria Shaina Santiago, and Dr. Rosario Alonzo, Dean of the UP College of Education, who developed the module for the class.

Philippine Ambassador to Cambodia Christopher B. Montero noted the importance of preserving the use of Filipino, including regional and local Philippine languages, lest they become forgotten by the young and future generations of Filipinos. Fifteen (15) volunteer teachers attended the two-day training held at the Sentro from 13 to 14 August, under the tutelage of Dr. Alonzo. More than 20 Filipino children living in Cambodia, aged 5 to 14, were enrolled in the Filipino language class.

Ambassador to Cambodia Christopher B. Montero speaks to Filipino children and their parents who attended the launch of the Filipino language class at the SRPP, 15 August 2015.

(Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Phnom Penh)



## HENERAL LUNA SCREENING IN DUBAI



*Consul General Paul Raymund P. Cortes assisted by his wife, Dr. Yasmin B. Cortes, cuts the ribbon to officially open the one-night exclusive screening of the film Heneral Luna. Also in the picture are Deputy Consul General Giovanni Palec and rest of the Consulate staff.*

*(Photo credit: Philippine Consulate General, Dubai)*

The Philippine Consulate General in Dubai hosted the screening of the critically acclaimed historical film, *Heneral Luna*, on 30 August 2015 at the Rizal Hall of the Consulate in commemoration of National Heroes' Day. The special screening was made possible in cooperation with Artikulo Uno Productions and the producers of the film. The event was also participated in by Mama Sita's, a Filipino food company, which provided selected Filipino heirloom dishes which date back to the 1898 Philippine Revolution.

## LAUNCH OF PHILIPPINE CULINARY WEEK IN THE NETHERLANDS

The Philippine Embassy in the Hague launched the Philippine Culinary Week in the Netherlands on 03 September 2015 through a reception organized and hosted at the Official Residence, for media contacts, food bloggers and Dutch and Filipino entrepreneurs in the food business. The event featured Philippine cuisine prepared by Purple Yam Restaurant owners, Mrs. Amy Besa and Chef Romy Dorotan making use of home-grown, artisanal ingredients from various Philippine regions along with locally sourced ingredients. The Dutch distributors of Don Papa Rum, a unique rum that uses sugarcane from Negros, prepared cocktails to complement the dishes. The event also served as the launch of the guesting stint of Filipino chefs at De Karpendonkse Hoeve, a one-star Michelin restaurant in Eindhoven.



*(Top photo) Minister Dinno Oblena, Mrs. Gina Ledda, Philippine Ambassador to the Netherlands Jaime Victor Ledda, Chef Romy Dorotan and Mrs. Amy Besa. (Bottom photo) Purple Yam Chefs prepare dishes during the launch of the Philippine Culinary Week, 03 September 2015, The Hague, the Netherlands.*

*(Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, The Hague)*



## PHILIPPINE GOLD COLLECTION PRESENTED IN ASIA SOCIETY NEW YORK EXHIBIT



*(Left photo) Doris Magsaysay-Ho, Consul General Mario L. de Leon, Jr., Josette Sheeran, Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia Jr., Loida Nicolas Lewis, Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Henrietta Holsman Fore, and Governor Amando M. Tetangco, Jr. during the ribbon cutting of the Philippine Gold: Treasures of Forgotten Kingdoms exhibit. (Sylvain Gaboury/Patrick McMullan Company).  
(Right photo) Kinding Sindaw Melayu Heritage Group provides music for guests as they enter the museum.*

*(Photo credit: Lambert Parong)*

New York and the whole world saw the Philippines in a glimmering light, thanks to the exhibit, *Philippine Gold: Treasures of Forgotten Kingdoms*, at the Asia Society in Manhattan from 11 September 2015 to 03 January 2016. The collection, consisting of about 120 pieces of gold ornaments, ceremonial masks, weapons, worship icons and fashion accessories were from the 10th to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, unearthed only during the past 40 years on the Philippine islands of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The gold artifacts attest to the recently discovered evidence of prosperity and achievement of Philippine polities that flourished long before the Spanish discovered and colonized the region.

Majority of the gold pieces are on loan from the Ayala Museum, with the Central Bank of the Philippines and from the private collection of Architect Leandro Locsin lending more from their collections to complete the exhibit. Ayala Museum Consulting Curator Nina Capistrano Baker and Asia Society Senior Curator for Asian Art Adriana Proser shared their expertise to the exhibit.

More than 200 distinguished guests came to the opening gala of the Asia Society New York during formal launch of the cultural spotlight on the Philippines on 10 September 2015. The glamorous evening featured a ceremonial ribbon cutting, speeches from dignitaries, musical performances, a live auction, and a gourmet Filipino dinner to kick off the four-month season of programming at Asia Society.



*Secretary del Rosario talks to Ayala Museum Consulting Curator Nina Capistrano-Baker during the Asia Society New York Exhibit, 10 September 2015, New York.*

*(Photo credit: Cristina Pastor and Lambert Parong)*

## RIZAL-BLUMENTRITT WALKING TRAIL IN PRAGUE



Ambassador Victoriano Lecaros introducing the Rizal-Blumentritt heritage trail to highlight the historical links in Philippine-Czech Friendship  
(Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Prague)

The Philippine Embassy in Prague launched the Rizal-Blumentritt heritage trail in neighboring *Litoměřice*, hometown of Professor Ferdinand Blumentritt, on 11 October 2015 as its flagship project to promote general awareness of the historical links between the Philippines and the Czech Republic through the close friendship between Philippine National Hero Dr. Jose Rizal and Professor Blumentritt. The Embassy produced a brochure with a description and a map of 10 significant places that retrace the steps of Rizal at the heart of *Litoměřice* during his May 1887 visit with Maximo Viola.

## A GALA EVENING CELEBRATING PHILIPPINE DESIGN, TEXTILE, AND FASHION IN WASHINGTON D.C.

On the eve of the 117<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence, piña (pineapple fabric) took center stage with the Grande Dame of Philippine Fashion, Ms. Patis Tesoro, making her Washington debut with a fashion show at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center on 11 June 2015. The Gala Evening was a way for people in the United States to help contribute to the preservation and enrichment of the piña industry in the Philippines, as proceeds of the event benefitted the Aklan Piña MANTrA, a women-led fiber production microenterprise. Also on display at the Ronald Reagan Building were signature pieces by multi-awarded furniture designer and manufacturer Kenneth Cobonpue.



Grand Dame of Philippine Fashion, Patis Tesoro, talks about her piña collection and the piña production process during A Gala Evening Celebrating Philippine Design, Textile and Fashion at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, during the 117<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence, 11 June 2015, Washington DC, USA.

(Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Washington DC)

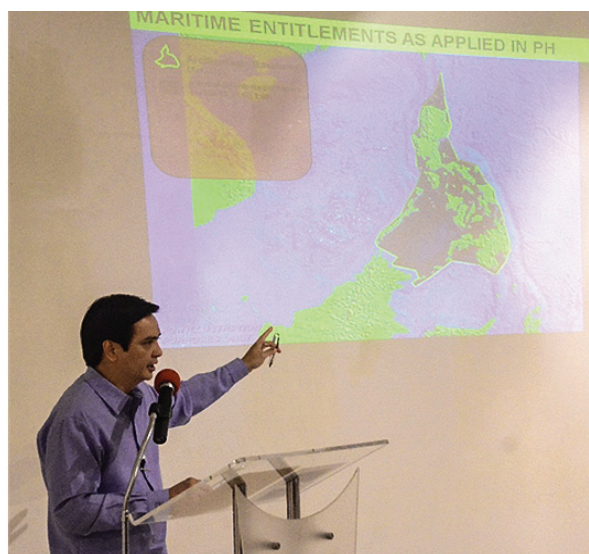
## D. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Public diplomacy is a key instrument in the DFA's efforts to develop effective policy responses to international issues and challenges, and secure international and domestic support for the Philippines' foreign policy priorities and objectives. In 2015, the DFA continued its robust engagement with domestic and international audiences on diverse subjects relevant to the country's foreign policy.

### INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNICATION (IEC) PUBLIC DIPLOMACY CAMPAIGN PLAN WITH THE PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY (PIA)

To increase the level of public awareness and understanding of the issues relating to the WPS, the DFA signed a one-year MOA with PIA to embark on a campaign plan composed of the following activities:

- WPS Multi-Sectoral Forum conducted by Assistant Secretary and DFA Spokesperson Charles C. Jose, across the country and attended by national and local government units (LGUs), regional police and military officials, business professionals, teachers, students, and fisher folks; 36 interviews and campus tours in universities nationwide.
- A three-episode documentary focusing on the economic, historical, and legal aspects of the WPS/SCS issue, produced by both the DFA and the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), which was first aired on PTV4 on 12 June 2015. The documentary is being shown in all DFA RCOs, SOs and FSPs, as well as in airport terminals, bus stations, and ports across the country.
- The DFA and PIA also produced 100,000 copies of the West Philippine Sea comic book in Filipino, English, Cebuano, and Ilokano for the Filipino Youth, particularly the upper grade school audience. 1,500 copies have been distributed to students in General Santos City, Legazpi City, Quezon City, Sorsogon City, and Zamboanga City.



*DFA Spokesperson Charles C. Jose at a WPS Multi-Sectoral Forum*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*



*DFA Spokesperson Charles C. Jose with documentary team members: Director RA Rivera and presenters Jun Sabayton & Lour de Veyra*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

## INTERNATIONAL SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS OF SENIOR ASSOCIATE JUSTICE ANTONIO T. CARPIO

The DFA, in collaboration with key FSPs, assisted Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio in his 47 days of speaking engagements in 26 cities including Berlin, Honolulu, Jakarta, London, Madrid, New Delhi, New York, San Francisco, Tokyo, Washington DC and Wellington.

Justice Carpio gave lectures and promoted the Philippine position on the WPS/SCS in over 80 speaking engagements in universities, think-tanks, Filipino community events, exclusive meetings, and in interviews with the international media.

*Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio discusses the WPS/SCS issue and the Philippines' arbitration case against China under UNCLOS.*

*(Photo credit: FSI)*



## PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ON THE PHILIPPINE POSITION ON THE WPS/SCS

### • Lectures of Mr. Bill Hayton on the South China Sea

Mr. Bill Hayton conducted lectures at the Ateneo de Manila University and at a Mangrove Forum organized by the FSI from 11 to 14 February 2015. Mr. Bill Hayton is a sought-after resource speaker on the WPS/SCS issue and a Philippine “champion” in social media for his assessment of China’s policy on the WPS/SCS. He is the author of *“The South China Sea: The Struggle for Power in Asia.”* Former National Security Adviser and Congressman Roilo Golez also delivered a talk on the importance of the South China Sea.

Mr. Hayton was interviewed by ANC and PTV4 and interacted at a dinner with columnists of Philippine Star, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Rappler, and InterAksyon. He likewise joined DFA officials in a meeting with senior Philippine defense and security officials.



*Mr. Bill Hayton (middle), author of “The South China Sea: Struggle for Power in Asia,” former National Security Adviser Roilo Golez (right), and Professor Rowena G. Layador of FSI (left), at the Mangrove Forum organized by the FSI, 13 February 2015*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

- **Year-round briefings and speaking engagements to provide updates on the WPS/SCS**

The DFA likewise provided briefings on the developments under the diplomatic and legal tracks of the Philippine advocacies in the WPS/SCS issue for deeper appreciation on the issue, to the following:

1. Several members of the Philippine Senate and the Philippine House of Representatives;
2. Participation as a resource speaker at the Bloggers Forum on WPS in Cebu, 25 April 2015;
3. EU and G7 Ambassadors, 20 May 2015;
4. Inter-agency meetings with relevant agencies in preparation for the arbitration case and the oral arguments, 30 January and 25 May 2015;
5. House Committee on Foreign Affairs' Hearing on WPS, 26 May 2015;
6. Cabinet Cluster on Security, Justice and Peace Roundtable Discussions on WPS, 03 June 2015;
7. Experts' Group Meeting on the ASEAN Maritime Forum-ASEAN Coast Guard Forum (ACGF) to strengthen ASEAN norms-building and norms-sharing in maritime security and safety, 19-20 August 2015;
8. Key Speaker during the 106th Maritime Breakfast Forum, 23 October 2015;
9. New Deputy Chief of Mission of Japan Mr Oweno and Mr. Seiichiro, 28 October 2015;
10. Closing Remarks at the OUCSCC maritime event entitled "*Lecture Forum with Professor Eulyses Granados Quiros*", a Mexican scholar on archival scholarship on maritime dispute, 30 October 2015;
11. National Seminar Workshop on Boat-Building Traditions of the Philippines, in partnership with the National Museum;

Publications on the WPS/SCS issue:

1. Printing of 20,000 copies of the pamphlet "*Isang Sipat: Ang West Philippine Sea*";
2. Printing of 150 pieces of the book "*Bajo de Masinloc: Maps and Documents*";
3. Collaboration with the Institute for Maritime and Ocean Affairs (IMOA) on the cartographic exhibit and with the Office of the President (OP) on the production of materials to be published in the OP Gazette;
4. Collaboration with the UNACOM Secretariat, through a DFA-UNACOM MOA, for the possible inscription of the Manila-Acapulco Galleon Trade Route and the Austronesian maritime heritage in the UNESCO heritage lists.



*The DFA briefs officials on the West Philippine Sea/ South China Sea (WPS/SCS) issue in one of the year-round briefings on the WPS/SCS*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

## CAPTAIN DFA AND KAPITANA DFA



*Several cosplayers posing alongside Captain DFA (second from left) and Kapitana DFA (third from right) in Cosplay Mania '15, 03 October 2015, Manila.*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

The DFA, in partnership with Cosplay.ph, a Philippine costume play website and online community, intensified its public diplomacy campaign through its participation in Cosplay Mania '15, held from 03 to 04 October at the SMX Convention Center. The DFA promoted

its major advocacies such as provision of timely and efficient services to the public. Captain DFA and Kapitana DFA, who were featured in the DFA booth, embody DFA employees serving the country in various parts of the world.

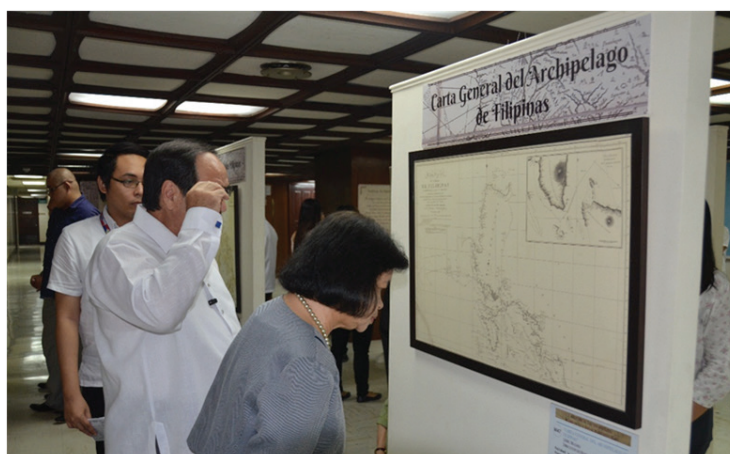
## HISTORIC TRUTHS AND LIES: SCARBOROUGH SHOAL IN ANCIENT MAPS

The DFA Archives celebrated its first anniversary with a cartographic exhibit entitled *“Historical Truths and Lies: Scarborough Shoal in Ancient Maps.”* The exhibit ran from 26 to 30 October 2015 at the DFA Lobby.

The material for the exhibit was loaned to the DFA Archives by the Institute for Maritime and Ocean Affairs (IMOA), which featured a selection of 14 maps from the collection of Supreme Court Senior Associate Justice Antonio T. Carpio. The maps document the territorial extent of the Philippines since the Spanish colonial era to the present, covering the Scarborough (Panatag) Shoal, and China’s historical territorial extent and present-day claims in the WPS/SCS.

*Assistant Secretary for Maritime and Ocean Affairs Benito B. Valeriano and Ambassador Blesila C. Cabrera examine the “Carta General del Archipelago vde Filipinas” published in 1808 in Madrid, one of the ancient maps displayed at the “Historical Truths and Lies: Scarborough Shoal in Ancient Maps”, 26 October 2015, Manila*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*



One of the highlights of the exhibit is a 1734 map, published in Manila by the Jesuit Pedro Murillo, considered as the “Mother of all Philippine Maps.”

To cap the celebration, the DFA Archives, in cooperation with the Foreign Service Institute, conducted a Forum entitled, “Mabini Dialogue on Archival Scholarship on Maritime Disputes in Southeast Asia” on 30 October at the Bulwagang Apolinario Mabini with featured guest lecturer Professor Ulises Granados Quiroz, PhD of Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM). Professor Granados discussed how archival scholarship and knowledge of historical narratives can be potential tools for policy stakeholders in documenting, managing and resolving maritime and territorial disputes. Discussants were Professor Renato C. de Castro, PhD of De La Salle University (DLSU) and Professor Ferdinand C. Llanes, PhD of the University of the Philippines (UP).



*Mabini Dialogue on Archival Scholarship on Maritime Disputes in Southeast Asia, 30 October 2015, Manila.*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

## ASEAN – INDIA EMINENT PERSONS’ LECTURE SERIES

Undersecretary for Policy Evan P. Garcia delivered lectures under the ASEAN–India Eminent Persons’ Lecture Series from 15 to 17 July 2015. The lecture, sponsored by the ASEAN–India Centre, was entitled “Philippines–India Relations: Ways and Means of Strengthening the Relationship.” The lecture served as an important opportunity to further deepen Philippine engagement with India on shared interests, particularly on the rule of law and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Undersecretary Garcia’s lecture marked the first time a senior official from the DFA participated in the event.

## 2<sup>ND</sup> RIZAL-NEHRU LECTURE SERIES

Secretary del Rosario delivered a lecture entitled “Challenges and Opportunities: The Way Forward for Philippines-India Relations” on 14 October 2015 in New Delhi in response to the invitation from the ASEAN-India Centre’s Research and Information System (RIS) for Developing Countries. The lecture served as a platform of the Philippine Government to discuss the possibilities of strengthening bilateral relations between the Philippines and India, as well as to provide more information on the WPS/SCS issue.



*Secretary del Rosario delivers his lecture at the 2nd Rizal-Nehru Memorial Lecture, 14 October 2015, New Delhi, India*

*(Photo credit: DFA-OSEC)*

## ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 2:

### OVERSEAS FILIPINOS PROTECTED AND ENGAGED

#### ASSISTANCE-TO-NATIONALS (ATN)

At the end of June 2015, the number of overseas Filipinos was placed at 7,979,716. As of November 2015, 27,145 were provided assistance using the DFA's Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN) Fund while an additional 810 were provided with lawyers and other legal services funded by the DFA's Legal Assistance Fund (LAF).

The DFA maintained and concluded retainer agreements with reputable law firms in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Syria to ensure that prompt legal services are made available to Filipinos requiring legal assistance. Lawyers were engaged on a per-case basis in other countries.

The empathy for and care of foreign service personnel were evident in the continued humanitarian and prison visits conducted by consular teams from the Home Office and the FSPs to ascertain the condition and welfare of detained Filipinos. Pioneer missions of the DFA medical teams were sent to Sabah, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates to provide primary care and advice to the Filipino communities in these areas. The DFA also sent a medical Rapid Response Team (RRT) to West Africa in order to assist in the mandatory repatriation of the Filipino communities in Ebola-stricken countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. This was the first pandemic-related mission undertaken by the DFA.

In addition to its services on the ground, active involvement in policy discussions in international fora including the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) was high on the DFA's agenda with interventions conveyed at regional and multilateral for a such as the Bali Process, the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), ASEAN, and in high-level events organized at both the UN Headquarters in Geneva and New York.



*Secretary Albert F. del Rosario and Undersecretary Rafael E. Seguis together with overseas Filipinos in Tunisia to supervise the implementation of the contingency plans for the Filipinos affected by civil unrest in Libya*

*(Photo credit: DFA-OSEC)*

## UTILIZATION OF THE ATN FUND AND LAF

The DFA continued to provide immediate ATN and legal assistance to Filipino nationals abroad through the utilization of the Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN) Fund and Legal Assistance Fund (LAF).

In 2015, PHP 299,067,558.58 out of the total 2015 ATN budget of PHP 301 million was utilized from the ATN Fund to provide temporary shelter, basic necessities, emergency medical treatment, repatriation, and other immediate ATN services to Filipino nationals. This represents a utilization rate of 99.32%.

Meanwhile, PHP 148,784,391.91 was utilized from the 2015 LAF budget of PHP 100,051,893.79 and PHP48,900,000.00 realigned from the ATN budget, for the hiring of lawyers, obtaining legal retainers and other legal services for Filipinos facing legal problems abroad, representing a utilization rate of 99.89%.

In the spirit of the Christmas season and as regular assistance provided by the DFA to Filipino detainees in foreign jails and Filipino wards sheltered in all Filipino Workers Resource Centers (FWRC), a token financial assistance was given to them from the ATN Funds to allow them to purchase basic necessities.



*Secretary del Rosario greets one of the 400 repatriated Overseas Filipinos from Libya, 22 August 2015, Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA)*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

## MARY JANE VELOSO CASE

As a reflection of continued government efforts to obtain relief for overseas Filipinos in distress, the situation of Mary Jane Veloso mirrored the positive dividends derived from diplomatic efforts – a combination of high level interaction and quiet diplomacy. Her last minute reprieve from the death sentence meted by the Indonesian courts allowed both the Philippine and Indonesian governments to uncover the syndicate behind her predicament. The DFA's coordination with DOJ made possible the prosecution of identified suspects which may prove that Mary Jane Veloso is a victim rather than a member of a drug smuggling syndicate.

*Secretary del Rosario holds consultation meeting with Philippine and Indonesian officials on the Mary Jane Veloso case, 24 March 2015, Yogyakarta, Indonesia*

*(Photo credit: DFA-OSEC)*



At the end of November 2015, a total of 27,145 Filipinos were assisted through ATN Funding, including walk-ins, referrals, and those who availed of the government's Mass Repatriation Program (MRP). More than 800 Filipinos were also provided with lawyers and other legal services through the LAF.

In 2015, a total of 10,145 walk-in clients and referrals sought legal assistance from the DFA Home Office on behalf of their family members or relatives who were in distress while working or travelling overseas.

## MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

### • Global Forum on Migration and Development

As focal person for the GFMD, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Jesus I. Yabes led the Philippine Delegation to the GFMD Conference held in Istanbul, Turkey from 12 to 16 October 2015. The Philippines co-chaired one of the three round-table discussions at the Istanbul Conference.

### • Joint Manual of Operations

On the provision of ATN to Overseas Filipinos in distress, the DFA took the lead in finalizing the Joint Manual of Operations adopted by DFA, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Health (DOH), Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA), and Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration (OWWA) to harmonize their individual operations manual to ensure prompt and efficient delivery of ATN services to Overseas Filipinos. The Manual was signed by the principals of the concerned agencies last August 2015.

## TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

The DFA assisted a total of 318 victims of trafficking in persons in 2015. Of this number, 170 were trafficked to the Middle East, most of whom end up as household service workers who experience maltreatment and other forms of labor exploitation; 107 were trafficked to the Asia and the Pacific Region, 12 to Europe and 29 to the Americas.

In an effort to build the capacity and raise the awareness of Foreign Service Personnel, the DFA conducted a series of Regional Workshops on Anti-Trafficking in Persons in 2014 and 2015: Middle East (Ankara, Turkey; 22-27 April 2014), Americas (Mexico City, Mexico ; 22-26

## EVACUATION OF FILIPINOS FROM YEMEN



*Secretary del Rosario welcomes repatriated Overseas Filipinos and their families, 11 April 2015, NAIA.*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

The Philippine Embassy in Riyadh, through the assistance of the Philippine Honorary Consulate in Sana'a, Yemen, evacuated 626 Filipinos out of a total of 1,078 registered Filipino the commencement of 'Operation Decisive Storm,' the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen in March 2015 aimed at restoring its central government from rebel Houthi forces. Embassy officials, led by Ambassador Ezzedin H. Tago, were on the ground in Sana'a to repatriate Filipinos.



*Anti-Trafficking in Persons Workshop for Home Office Based Personnel, Tagaytay City, 6-7 June 2015*

September 2014), Asia Pacific (Osaka, Japan; 11-15 December 2014), Europe (Vienna, Austria; 16-20 March 2015). The last leg of the workshop was held in Tagaytay City from 06 to 07 June 2015 for the Home-Based Personnel. The workshops were held in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Organization for Migration (IOM), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Justice (DOJ), and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). Representatives from the US Embassy, Australian Embassy, and the host governments also participated in the workshops as resource speakers.

## REPATRIATION EFFORTS IN LIBYA

Libya remained under Alert Level 4 (Evacuation/Mandatory Repatriation Phase). The Philippine Embassy in Tripoli continued to monitor the political and security situation in Libya to ensure the safety of the Filipinos still remaining in the country. A Rapid Response Team was deployed to assist Tripoli PE's Crisis Management Team in the evacuation and repatriation efforts of the Philippine government. The DFA continued to enjoin Filipinos in Libya to come home at the Philippine government's expense under the Mandatory Repatriation Program (MRP).

Since 2011, a total of 15,661 OFWs had been successfully repatriated through the Department's efforts. In 2015 alone, 5,524 OFWs were repatriated. As of 01 November 2015, an estimated 3,030 OFWs remain in Libya.

*Chargé d'Affaires en pied Adelio Cruz leads the singing of the Philippine National Anthem with a group of Filipinos in Tripoli, Libya about to be repatriated to Manila.*

*Photo credit: DFA-OUMWA)*



*Secretary del Rosario personally welcomes the Filipinos repatriated from Libya under the Mandatory Repatriation Program, 22 August 2015, NAIA.*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

## ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 3:

### CONSULAR SERVICES STRENGTHENED

#### FAST, ACCESSIBLE, CITIZEN-ORIENTED AND EFFICIENT DELIVERY OF CONSULAR SERVICES FOR FILIPINOS

The DFA exerted efforts to provide efficient, prompt and responsive frontline services to all Filipinos. The enhancements to the ePassport system, increase of overseas registered voters for the 2016 National Elections and, in general, the modernization of our consular services and systems, are all a part of its efforts to achieve said goal. The DFA aimed at sustaining these improvements for the provision of more efficient and people-friendly consular services and assistance for our nationals abroad and, wherever appropriate, here in the Philippines.

The year 2015 is particularly marked by critical steps taken by the DFA in pursuing its goal of delivering fast, accessible, citizen-oriented, and efficient consular services. Of significance is the forging of partnerships with government and private institutions to undertake projects that would enhance consular services, to wit:

- Upgrading of the new ePassport system with the APO Production Unit Inc.;
- Adoption of a database management and e-registry system for authentication services, that would lead to Philippine accession to the Apostille Convention; and
- Opening of additional mall-based Regional Consular Offices (RCOs) to bring services closer to the public.

The DFA conducted the Year-End Monitoring/Inspection Visit to 14 out of 21 RCOs in December 2015. The general objective of the Monitoring/Inspection Teams was to assess the performance of the RCOs according to the Quality Management System (QMS) Framework, which is comprehensive in scope and is a program in itself requiring follow-up activities. The teams discussed the ISO 9001:2008 QMS and Customer Service, in preparation for the ISO Certification of the DFA's Authentication Division.



*President Aquino tests the fingerprint scanner of the new ePassport system at the APO Production Unit, LIMA Technology Center, 20 July 2015, Malvar, Batangas.*

*(Photo credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)*

## A. Regional Consular Offices (RCOs)/Satellite Offices (SOs)

In 2015, the DFA opened RCOs in Calasiao, Pangasinan (16 November 2015) and Dumaguete City (22 November 2015).



*Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Concerns Rafael E. Seguis and Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Frank R. Cimafranca with the staff of RCO Dumaguete during its inauguration, 22 November 2015, Dumaguete City.*

*(Photo credit: DFA-OCA)*

Likewise, the DFA transferred RCO Butuan to a new location in Robinsons Place Butuan, Butuan City. It was formally inaugurated on 21 June 2015.



*Undersecretary Seguis, Assistant Secretary Cimafranca and Irwin Wu of Robinsons Land Corporation during the inauguration of RCO Butuan with its staff and CARAGA provincial and local officials, 21 June 2015, Butuan City.*

*(Photo credit: DFA-OCA)*

## B. Passport Services

In 2015, the DFA issued a total of 3,052,324 passports. A total of 70 Mobile Passport Services (MPS) missions were conducted in various cities, municipalities, and provinces in the country, benefitting more than 30,000 Filipinos.

APO Production Unit, Inc., one of the three recognized government printers under the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO), and the DFA signed a Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the Personalization, Maintenance, and Repair Services for the Existing Electronic Passport System.

Led by President Aquino, the Inaugural Marker of APO Production Unit's High Security Plant in LIMA Technology Center, Malvar, Batangas was unveiled on 20 July 2015 by several local and national government officials. The capacity of the new ePassport system was demonstrated through combined on-site and off-site, end-to-end processing of commemorative ePassports.



*Undersecretary Rafael E. Seguis signs a Service Legal Agreement (SLA) for the "Personalization, Maintenance and Repair Services for the Existing Electronic Passport System" with APO Production Inc., 21 January 2015, Malvar, Batangas.*

*(Photo credit: APO Production Unit Inc. Website)*



*President Aquino, PCOO Secretary Herminio Coloma, Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Commissioner Kim Henares, Undersecretary Seguis, Batangas Governor Vilma Santos-Recto and APO officials at the inauguration of the High Security Plant in LIMA Technology Center, 20 July 2015, Malvar, Batangas*

*(Photo credit: DFA-OCA)*

On 20 August 2015, the ePassport Personalization site was transferred from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to APO Production Unit’s secure facility in Batangas.

The DFA signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with APO Production Unit, Inc. on 05 October 2015 designating APO Production Unit as the new partner of the DFA in printing electronic passports from 2016 to 2026.



*Secretary del Rosario and PCOO Secretary Herminio Coloma sign the MOA designating APO Production Unit as the DFA’s partner in printing ePassports, 05 October 2015, Manila.  
(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

C. Other Services

### VISA SERVICES

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In 2015, the DFA issued a total of 337,648 visas.

The Visa Division is the Philippine Desk for APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) matters and manages the day-to-day operations of ABTC-Philippines. The DFA issued a total of 452 ABTCs, as of October.

In July 2015, the DFA launched the new Philippine Machine Readable Visa (MRV) Sticker. The new visa stickers comply with the specifications unique to Format-B machine readable visas (MRV-B).

### DUAL CITIZENSHIP

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In 2015, the DFA transmitted a total of 18,090 approved applications for dual citizenship to the Bureau of Immigration.

The DFA acted as Co-Chair of the Inter-Agency Working Group on the “Assessment/ Review of the IRR for RA 9225”, and in the process formulated 64 legal opinions and/or referrals to the DOJ on different aspects of RA 9225, to address various queries from FSPs.

## AUTHENTICATION SERVICES



*Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Wilfredo C. Santos signs a MOA with DOST-MIRDC, 27 April 2015, Manila.*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

In 2015, the DFA processed a total of 859,438 authentication certificates at DFA-OCA ASEANA, SOs, and RCO Pampanga.

On 20 February 2015, the Document Management System (DMS) and e-Registry was rolled out. The DMS, a software solution co-developed by the DFA and APO Production Unit, will standardize and streamline the current authentication back-end processes. On the other hand, the e-Registry System is a database of specimen signatures and issued Authentication Certificates. This database will ensure more efficient authentication of documents and verification of issued Authentication Certificates.

To develop and tap local expertise to produce eyelet riveters, the DFA signed a MOA for the Joint Research Project for the Prototyping and Pilot Production of Eyelet Riveters for the DFA's Authentication Certificates with the Metals Industry Research and Development Center of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-MIRDC) on 27 April 2015. Eyelet riveters bind Authentication Certificates and its underlying documents to ensure the integrity and security of a public document authenticated by the DFA.

The DFA and APO Production Unit signed a MOA for the Printing of Authentication Certificates on 13 October 2015. The security features of these authentication certificates will make official Philippine documents more acceptable in foreign countries, impacting employment, trade, justice, and private concerns.



*Undersecretary Seguis signs the MOA with APO Production Unit for the printing of authentication certificates, 13 October 2015, Manila.*

*(Photo credit: DFA-OCA)*





CONSULAR TEAMS  
SERVING FILIPINOS  
WORLDWIDE

## OVERSEAS VOTING



*Signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the DFA, UBE Media, Inc. and Airfreight 2100. In the photo (L-R) are Ms. Donna May Lina-Flavier, President UBE Media Inc. Undersecretary Seguis, Chairman, DFA-OVS, Mr. Jerry A. Agnes, Chairman, Airfreight 2100, Manila*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

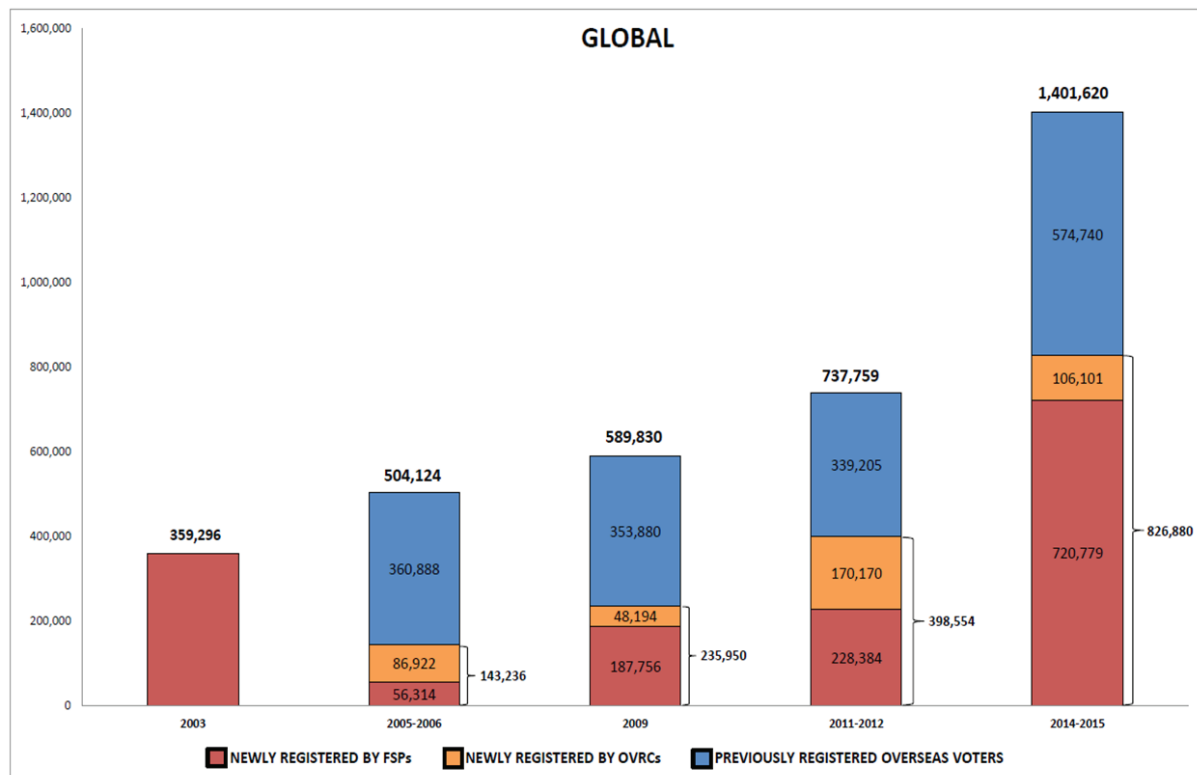
During the registration period for the 2016 National Elections, there was a total of 826,880 newly-registered Overseas Filipino voters. This was attained through partnerships with TV and media outlets, the implementation of iREHISTRO, an internet-based voter registration system developed by COMELEC, and by operationalizing the Overseas Voter Registration Centers (OVRC) in RCOs and SOs.

The figure is 105% of the FSPs total target of 788,887. It is also 107% over the previous registration period's total of 398,108 new overseas registered voters. After deactivating 163,019 overseas voters who have failed to vote in the last two (2) consecutive elections, and the filtering of double

registrants, the 2016 national elections will have 1,401,620 overseas registered voters who are qualified to vote. This is the first time that there are over one million overseas voters who can cast their votes in a national election.

### DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OVERSEAS VOTING SECRETARIAT

#### HISTORY OF OVERSEAS VOTER REGISTRATION



FSPs - Foreign Service Posts

OVRCs - OV Registration Centers in the Philippines

The DFA negotiated and signed four (4) partnership agreements with the following TV and media outlets: (1) ABS-CBN in support to their coverage/campaign and other related activities for the 2016 Presidential Elections “Halalan 2016: IPANALO ANG PAMILYANG PILIPINO”; (2) UBE Media and Air 21; (3) ABS-CBN’s The Filipino Channel (TFC); and (4) TV5 International. The said partnerships enhanced awareness for overseas voter registration procedures and systems as well as stressed the importance of empowering Filipinos. As a result, an effective omni-media overseas registration campaign was conducted at no cost to the DFA.

The iREHISTRO program was implemented in 77 FSPs. The DFA conducted regional onsite trainings in Abu Dhabi (22-23 April), Madrid (28-29 April), San Francisco (28-29 April), and Macau (28-30 May). The iREHISTRO was recognized by the Civil Service Commission with the 2015 CSC Pag-Asa Awards. In addition, 102 new Voter Registration Machines (VRMs), including peripherals, were distributed to various FSPs.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

In order to update the capabilities of Foreign Service personnel, the DFA conducted a Consular Retooling Seminar in Dubai, UAE from 07 to 11 January 2015. The latest regulations and guidelines on visas, ePassports, authentication, immigration regulations, and civil registry matters were discussed. The DFA also conducted an Orientation Workshop on Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) on 20 February 2015 at OCA for DFA personnel. PKI is one of the services being offered by the Integrated Government Philippines (iGovPhil) Project. It aims to improve processes in government to provide better services to both citizens and businesses, as well as promote public participation.



*Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Concerns Rafael E. Seguis together with Philippine Consul General in Dubai Frank R. Cimafranca, Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Wilfredo C. Santos, Middle East and North African Posts, 09-10 January 2015, Dubai, UAE*  
(Photo credit: Philippine Consulate General, Dubai)



*Secretary Albert F. del Rosario and DFA Personnel take part in the Metro Manila-wide Earthquake drill as part of the country's disaster-preparedness program, 30 July 2015, Manila*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

## CHAPTER III

# ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INSTITUTION BUILDING

**98** Human Resources

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ALBERT F. DEL ROSARIO:

Staunch Advocate of a Principled  
Philippine Foreign Policy

The DFA adopted a number of institutional reforms and organizational adjustments in its continuing efforts to improve the quality and efficiency of public service delivery and transform the DFA into an efficient and results-oriented organization. These reforms cover the areas of procurement, QMS, and the rationalization of the DFA’s organizational set-up and processes.

**A. HUMAN RESOURCES**

The DFA has 2,239 regular employees. 906 are based in the Philippines (Home Office, RCOs, SOs), and 1,333 are assigned abroad.

The DFA has 853 casuals, contractual, and COS personnel of which 667 are in the Home Office, and 186 in the RCOs and SOs.

In the FSPs, the DFA has 493 locally hired personnel.



DFA personnel during the flag-raising ceremony.  
(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)

Personnel in FSPs	
Regular personnel assigned abroad	1,333
Locally-hired personnel	493
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,826</b>

Personnel in the Philippines	
Personnel in the Home Office	1,499
Personnel in the RCOs, SOs	260
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,759</b>

Honorary Consular Officers	
Honorary Consular Officers	<b>183</b>

Service Attachés	
Service Attachés	<b>318</b>

- **Gender and Development**



*Regional Seminar on Gender Sensitivity and Human Resources Management for FSPs in the Americas; 14-18 September 2015, Philippine Consulate General, Chicago*

*(Photo credit: Philippine Consulate General, Chicago)*

In 2015, the DFA finalized and rolled out the Customized Gender Sensitivity Training (GST) Manual for DFA personnel. In line with the DFA's commitment to Gender and Development (GAD) initiatives and the continuous capacity-building for a gender-sensitive personnel, the series of customized GST were facilitated by GAD advocates and a core group of 24 gender focal persons (GFP) who underwent Trainer's Training for the roll-out of the GST Manual.

The DFA conducted 19 GSTs; three (3) for the Home Office, 12 for RCOs, and four (4) Regional Seminars in Berlin, Chicago, Jakarta, and Manama. There was a total of 355 participants.

- **Foreign Language Program**

The Foreign Service Institute (FSI) offered the Foreign Language program to personnel at the Home Office. 73 personnel completed the program. 17 FSPs implemented similar programs.

- **PRAISE 2015**

On 04 September 2015, the following Departmental Level Awards were conferred upon personnel recommended by the Program on Rewards, Awards and Incentive for Service Excellence (PRAISE) Committee:

- Felipe Agoncillo Distinguished Service Award to 6 retired Chiefs of Mission;
- Outstanding Employee Award to 56 personnel from various Offices and FSPs;
- Assistance-to-Nationals Award to 1 FSP and 16 individuals; and,
- Loyalty Award to 359 DFA personnel, 54 local hires, and 8 Honorary Consuls.

President Aquino conferred the Order of Sikatuna Award upon Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr., Ambassador Manuel M. Lopez, and Ambassador Carlos C. Salinas.



*Secretary del Rosario awards Ambassador Belen F. Anota with the Felipe Agoncillo Distinguished Service Award, 04 September 2015, DFA, Manila*

*(Photo credit: DFA-PISU)*

#### • Trainings/Seminars

The DFA conducted 22 trainings/courses related to Career Development and skills training of personnel with a total number of 538 participants from various offices.



*Assistant Secretary for Human Resource Management Noel M. Servigon and HRMO personnel at the Skills Training in Handling Difficult People, 24-26 July 2015, Tagaytay City*

*(Photo credit: DFA-HRMO)*

## B. FINANCE

### • Trainings/Seminars

To keep DFA personnel attuned to the provisions of the Government Procurement Act, it continued holding training courses on procurement. These courses were designed to help DFA personnel become better informed of the intricacies of government procurement regulations. A total of six (6) training courses and briefing sessions on procurement were held in 2015.

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) also had several briefings/dialogues with relevant DFA personnel and offices to address the issues and problems relevant to the government procurement. BAC is in the process of streamlining the procurement process of the DFA, especially for FSPs.

### • Budget

The DFA secured a 59% increase in its budget for FY 2016 to allow the DFA to undertake important projects such as the new ePassport System, retrofitting of the old DFA Building, preparatory activities for the 2017 ASEAN Summit in Manila, Building Fund, among others.

In 2015, the DFA disbursed PHP 1.28 billion, or 82%, from its Building Fund, a significant increase from the previous year's utilization. The DFA's Building Fund, which was equivalent to 20% of its consular income for 2013, was used in the acquisition of chanceries in Phnom Penh and Berlin and the renovation of chanceries and buildings in Agana, Islamabad, New York, Riyadh, Singapore, Washington D.C., and Wellington.



*Secretary del Rosario (far right) presents the 2015 DFA Budget Proposal before the Members of the House Committee on Appropriations supported by (from L to R) Assistant Secretary Joselito A. Jimeno (OPPC), Assistant Secretary Noel M. Servigon (HRMO), Assistant Secretary Crescente R. Relacion (OFMS), Undersecretary Linglingay F. Lacanlale (OUA), Undersecretary Jesus I. Yabes (OUMWA) and Undersecretary Evan P. Garcia (OUP), 07 September 2015, House of Representatives, Quezon City.*

*(Photo credit: Ma. Shiela E. Sotto)*

### • Foreign Service Allowances and Other Entitlements

In order to provide personnel assigned abroad with adequate means to enable them to represent the country with distinction and dignity, the DFA in 2015 undertook an extensive study and data gathering in setting the parameters and adjusting the rates of the allowances of Foreign Service personnel.

Department Orders and Foreign Service Circulars were either issued or amended resulting in increases in benefits and entitlements of DFA personnel such as:

1. Increase in excess baggage allowances entitlement from 40 lbs (18.14 kgs) to 110 lbs (50 kgs) per person;
2. Increase in the Home Adjustment Allowance;
3. Increase in the Hotel Allowance from 7 to 15 days for those to be assigned abroad; and,
4. 100% receipt of Performance Enhancement Initiative (PEI) bonus because the DFA was able to accomplish its target of 90% utilization of its budget for FY 2014.

- **Reforms in Financial Management Service**

1. Implementation of the enhanced electronic National Government Accounting System (e-NGAS);
2. Implementation of both manual and electronic tracking system of documents (i.e., Disbursement Vouchers (DVs), Obligation Requests (ObRs);
3. On-going reconciliation of GSIS contributions of DFA employees; and
4. Proposed Cashiering System in the Authentication Division, OCA

## **C. SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES**

- **Institutional Strengthening and Productivity Improvement**

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) approved Phase 1 of the DFA's Institutional Strengthening and Productivity Improvement (ISPI) initiative. Phase 1 of ISPI aims to strengthen the DFA's focus on its vital and core functions.

Under Phase 1, three (3) new offices were created, namely: the Office of Assets Management and Support Services (OAMSS), the Maritime and Ocean Affairs Office (MOAO), and the Office of Public Diplomacy (OPD). In addition, the Office of Personnel and Administrative Services (OPAS) was renamed the Human Resource Management Office (HRMO) and the Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Coordination (OSPPC) was renamed the Office of Policy Planning and Coordination (OPPC).

- **Signing of the Joint Circular on the Guidelines on the Foreign Assignment of Representatives of Partner Agencies**

The Joint Circular established Guidelines on the Assignment of Representatives of Partner Agencies to FSPs pursuant to the relevant provisions of RA 7157 or "The Philippine Foreign Service Act" and Executive Order No. 74, Series of 1993, or "The One Country Team Approach." It aims to:

1. Provide uniform rules and regulations on the assignment at FSPs of officers and employees of Partner Agencies;
2. Strengthen cordial and productive interaction among officers and employees of the Philippine Government assigned at FSPs; and,
3. Ensure compliance with applicable Philippine and host country laws, rules and regulations by all officers and employees of the Philippine Government assigned at FSPs.

- **Internal Control System**

The DFA conducted compliance and management audit in four (4) FSPs and seven (7) RCOs, as well as follow-up of audits of five (5) FSPs, and nine (9) RCOs.

The audits determined the degree of compliance with existing laws, rules, and regulations, and evaluated the existence and effectiveness of internal controls on Passport and Notarial Services, Collections and Deposits, Administrative Management, and Property and Inventory Management.

To better enhance and develop effective and efficient internal controls in the bureaucracy, the DFA organized two (2) seminars attended by 95 participants. Deputy Executive Secretary for Internal Audit Alberto A. Bernardo of the Internal Audit Office in the Office of the President conducted the seminars on Internal Control System for Top Management, Middle Management, and Accountable Officers.



*Deputy Executive Secretary Alberto A. Bernardo (center), Undersecretary for Policy Evan P. Garcia (4<sup>th</sup> from left) and Assistant Secretary for Internal Audit Services Jocelyn Batoon-Garcia with Heads of Post from the Middle East and Africa, Assistant Secretaries, and DFA officials at the Seminar on National Guidelines on the Internal Control Systems and Rules on Accountability, 05 December 2015, Manila*

*(Photo credit: DFA-IAS)*

- **Quality Management System (QMS)**

The DFA created awareness among its employees on the QMS and formed the DFA QMS Core Team. The goal is to establish an ISO 9001:2008 certifiable QMS in the DFA's Authentication Division by 2016.

To develop the capacities of the DFA Core Team, the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) conducted technical guidance workshops and sessions. These workshops resulted in the drafting of a DFA Quality Manual, Quality Policy, and the mandatory QMS procedures which are the building blocks for QMS implementation.

## **D. INFRASTRUCTURE**

- **Quality Management System (QMS)**

The DFA started the Architectural and Engineering Design Phase in July 2015 and completed the Schematic Design in October 2015. The second phase is expected to be completed in March 2016.

- **Inventory**

The DFA completed the Actual Physical Inventory-taking of all its owned properties in September 2015.



Building teams  
makes a strong  
**DFA**



In order to create deeper and stronger working relationships and foster camaraderie among the DFA Personnel, the DFA conducted various programs such as team building activities, Gender and Development (GAD) seminars, and outreach programs.

The aim of these activities is to develop individual capabilities and community building.



## **FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY ALBERT F. DEL ROSARIO:** **Staunch Advocate of a Principled Philippine Foreign Policy**

### **Personal**

The Honorable Albert F. del Rosario was born in Manila on November 14, 1939 and has worked for both the private sector and government. He attended Xavier High School in New York City and subsequently graduated from New York University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Economics. Secretary del Rosario is married to Gretchen de Venecia. They have five children and six grandchildren.

### **Impact on Public Welfare and National Development**

As Philippine Ambassador to the United States of America (2001-2006):

As Philippine Ambassador to the U.S.A., he was instrumental in securing US\$1.2 Billion U.S. funding assistance for the Philippines; achieved reciprocal State Visits within the period of six (6) months in 2003; obtaining bilateral cooperation in counter terrorism and peace and development in Mindanao; realizing investments in the country's Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry; and acquiring greater access for Philippine exports. His enduring legacy which continues to benefit the Philippines includes a first-time formation of the Philippines-US Friendship Caucus composed of over 80 legislators from the US House of Representatives; successfully launching an unprecedented challenge to the decision of the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS), to remove the Philippines from its list of approved investment locations; pro-actively supported the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Modernization Program (AFPMP) by negotiating major Excess Defense Articles (EDA); worked for the Philippines' designation as a Major Non-NATO Ally (MNNA); successfully lobbied before the U.S. Congress not to prejudice the Philippine canned tuna industry as a result of a preferential treatment for Andean countries; undertook efforts to realize major benefits for Filipino and Filipino-American veterans; and pioneered both the Ambassadors/ Consuls General Tour (ACGT) of the Philippines, and the *Bayan Ko-Bahay Ko* Program.

In end of August 2006, Ambassador del Rosario preferred to be removed from the Philippine Foreign Service rather than agree to support the incumbent administration's request for his support on their plans to lift the writ of *habeas corpus* and initiate an emergency rule.

As Secretary of Foreign Affairs (February 24, 2011 – present):

When the Secretary entered the Department, he had a clear vision in mind for the organization – to maximize its potentials and transform it into a strong, professional, and high performing organization with members who are not only the best and the brightest, but also with the highest degree of commitment to serve the country and the Filipino people.

The SFA has embarked on and continues to pursue a carefully thought-out DFA transformation program, namely:

Restoring morale by limiting the number of political appointees;

- Upgrading economic diplomacy skills through a partnership with AIM;
- Placing merit over seniority in the career advancement process;
- Rationalizing PH presence overseas resulting in the closure of ten (10) Foreign Service posts and reallocating resources where these are most needed;
- Bringing cost-effective consular services closer to the people by moving DFA offices to malls such as Ayala, Gaisano, Robinsons, SM, and Ali Mall;
- Developing effective strategies to negotiate and assert the rightful position of the Philippines in the community of nations;
- Submitted and awaiting the President's approval of a new scheme for the Non-Resident Ambassadors

(NRAs) to cover Africa and Central America; and

- Strongly encouraging all foreign service personnel to reach beyond their grasp, at all times, to promote the national interest.
- Emphasizing the management approach of leadership by example; and
- Embarking on 151 Official Missions over five (5) years to advance the three (3) Foreign Policy Pillars of the Philippines.

Under the Secretary's leadership, the DFA has consistently ranked as one of the top government agencies in terms of efficiency and effectiveness, in surveys conducted by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) and the Makati Business Club (MBC).

Under the Secretary's leadership, the DFA has consistently ranked as one of the top government agencies, in terms of efficiency and effectiveness, in surveys conducted by the Social Weather Stations (SWS) and the Makati Business Club (MBC).

In the SWS' December 2015 survey results on the Aquino administration's performance, four (4) out of 14 issues received the highest grade of "GOOD." These are: "Helping the poor;" "Foreign relations;" "Promoting the welfare of OFWs;" and "Protecting the country's territorial rights." The DFA was directly responsible for delivering three (3) of the top 4 (four) issues. On "Helping the poor", DFA's efforts have also directly and indirectly contributed by increasing to record-levels the Official Development Assistance or ODAs to the Philippines.

For the MBC survey for the Top 10 Government Agencies in the last three (3) years, DFA's ranking has improved from 11th spot in 2012 (no 2013 rankings), to #6 in 2014 and ranked #4 in 2015.

Participation in government, professional, socio-civic, religious organizations and non-government organizations.

- Trustee, Cultural Center of the Philippines Foundation, Inc. (2010)
- Trustee and Member, Makati Business Club (2008)
- Member, Asia Society's International Council (2008)
- President, Management Association of the Philippines (2007)
- Chairman, Fundraising Committee of Philippine National Red Cross (2007)
- Trustee, PinoyMe Foundation, Inc. (2007)
- Chairman, Free Rural Eye Clinic, Inc. (1998)
- Trustee, Philippine Cancer Society (1990)
- Chairman of the Makati Foundation for Education (1989)
- President, Manila Jaycees (1970)

### **Awards and Recognitions**

- Order of Lakandula with a Rank of Grand Cross (Bayani) as Co-Chair of the 2015 APEC, 22 December 2015;
- Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) for "principled commitment to democracy, integrity and the rule of law both at home and around the globe", conferred by the College of Mount Saint Vincent, New York City, 24 September 2015;
- One of People Asia's 2015 People of the Year Awardees, 19 January 2015;
- 2015 Management Man of the Year Award; Management Association of the Philippines, 24 November 2014;
- The 2014 Tanging Dagal ng Lipi (Provincial Government of Bulacan), 15 September 2014;
- The 2013 Professorial Chair for Public Service and Governance (Ateneo School of Government and the Metrobank Foundation), 03 December 2013;
- The Outstanding Manilan Award (City Government of Manila), June 2013;

- The Twenty Outstanding Filipinos Abroad Award (Filipino Image Magazine, Pinoy Global Online News and RAM Memorial Foundation), 1 September 2007;
- The Xavier Hall of Fame in New York City, 2006;
- The Order of Sikatuna, Rank of Datu (conferred by H.E. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for his outstanding efforts in promoting foreign relations), September 2004;
- The EDSA II Heroes Award (awarded by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in recognition of his efforts in promoting Philippine democracy), 2001;
- The Philippine Army Award (awarded by President Corazon Aquino for his initiatives as Chairman of the Makati Foundation for Education), 1991.

### **Impact on Professional Field**

In accordance with President Benigno S. Aquino III's directives, Secretary del Rosario has pursued a Philippine Foreign Policy that is independent, principled, and based on the rule of law; standing firmly in promoting and defending the Philippine national interest in the global arena.

Through his dynamic interactions with his counterparts, the Secretary was able to enhance the Philippines' bilateral relationships and partnerships with international institutions. He has done so by steadfastly articulating Philippine interests and initiatives ranging from maritime security to economic cooperation, from counter-terrorism to people-to-people exchanges.

The Secretary has staunchly defended the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, raised the standards of economic diplomacy as a tool of statecraft and proactively ensured the safety and security of overseas Filipinos everywhere.

With President Aquino's guidance, the Secretary has provided leadership in the following major Philippine advocacies and priorities: signing of Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Indonesia Concerning Delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone Boundary on 23 May 2014, successful hosting of the 2015 APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) in November 2015, the launch of the ASEAN Community in December 2015, the Supreme Court's favorable decision on the PH-US Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) and the Philippines' arbitration case before the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague.

Other milestones in international diplomacy actively led by Secretary Del Rosario include the broadening and deepening of Philippine bilateral relations with valued partners through the signing of cooperation agreements, namely, Philippines-Japan Joint Declaration on a Strengthened Strategic Partnership, Joint Declaration on Philippines-Australia Comprehensive Partnership, and Joint Statement on the Establishment of a Philippines-Viet Nam Strategic Partnership.

In 2015, the Philippines signed 58 economic agreements covering labor, trade, education, and air services.

Under the guidance of President Aquino, since 2011 the Philippines has repatriated 24,000 Filipinos from countries torn by civil strife and devastated by natural disasters. From February 2011 to 2015, DFA extended assistance to over 80,000 Overseas Filipinos and members of their families.

In other frontline services, the DFA established more efficient and streamlined electronic passport processing facilities in cooperation with partner agencies such as the APO Production Unit, Inc., while our 21 Regional Consular Offices and 5 Satellite Consular Offices make our services more accessible to the general public.

Since 2011, Secretary del Rosario has conducted 151 Official Missions in almost 50 countries for the purpose of negotiating and asserting the rightful place of the Philippines in the international community.

## FULL CIRCLE FOR THE DFA CHIEF: RECEIVES HONORARY LAW DEGREE FROM THE COLLEGE OF MOUNT SAINT VINCENT-NEW YORK



*Secretary del Rosario being conferred a Doctor of Laws degree (Honoris Causa) by the College of Mount Saint Vincent, New York, 24 September 2015*

*(Photo credit: OSEC)*

Mount Saint Vincent College, based in New York City, conferred a Doctor of Laws degree (Honoris Causa) on Secretary Albert F. del Rosario in recognition of his “principled commitment to democracy, integrity, and the rule of law both at home and around the globe.”

“Albert del Rosario, as Secretary of Foreign Affairs, you are celebrated for fulfilling President Aquino’s vision both within the Department of Foreign Affairs and in relations with other nations... And with your leadership, the Department now seeks the peaceful, legal resolution of territorial disputes in the South China Sea—one of the world’s most perilous and potentially consequential international conflicts,” read Charles L. Flynn, President of The Mount, who conferred the degree upon Secretary del Rosario.

The Secretary said that the Department of Foreign Affairs shares The Mount’s commitment to institutional integrity and commitment. “I consider the honor bestowed on me today as recognition also for the hardworking men and women of the Philippine Foreign Service,” he said.

After the conferment of the Honorary Degree, Secretary del Rosario discussed in his remarks key Philippine Foreign Policy advocacies such as migration governance, the Philippines-US alliance, the South China Sea, and the future of Philippine Foreign Policy.

Founded in 1847 by the Sisters of Charity as the first institution to offer higher learning for women in New York, the Academy of Mount Saint Vincent’s Charter was amended in 1911 to become the College of Mount Saint Vincent, which, in 1974, became a co-ed institution.

“The Honorary Doctor of Laws that the Mount Saint Vincent has conferred upon me will always be my treasure as well as my inspiration,” the Secretary stated at the conclusion of his acceptance speech.

## ANNEXES

## BILATERAL/ MULTILATERAL MEETINGS

**2015 FOREIGN TRIPS OF PRESIDENT AQUINO**  
**AND INCOMING HIGH-LEVEL VISITS**

## INCOMING VISITS

DATE	EVENT	HIGHLIGHTS
15-19 January	Apostolic Visit of His Holiness Pope Francis	Pope Francis met with President Aquino in Malacañang Palace and had a General Audience with Senior Government Officials and Members of the Diplomatic Corps.
08-10 February	State Visit of Indonesian President Joko Widodo	The two Leaders discussed critical matters of mutual concern in the Southeast Asian Region and witnessed the signing of a Joint Declaration on the Protection of Migrants and Migrant Workers.
26-27 February	State Visit of the French President François Hollande	The two Leaders launched the Manila Call to Action in Climate Change following bilateral talks. President Hollande also visited Guiuan, Samar, one of the areas hardest hit by Typhoon Haiyan. (Yolanda)
03-04 March	Visit of His Most Eminent Highness Prince and Grand Master Frá Matthew Festing, Prince and Grand Master of Sovereign Military Order of Malta	The two leaders met to discuss bilateral relations and hand-over the symbolic key to 700 houses donated by SMOM to families who have lost their homes to Super Typhoon Haiyan.
16-20 March	Visit of Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal, Princess Anne of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	The Princess visited the Philippines in her capacity as the President of the Save the Children Foundation. In Manila, she called on the President and met with Philippine government officials, businesspeople and other stakeholders. She also visited Ormoc City to visit the project sites of Save the Children and to meet the local beneficiaries of these projects.

**PRESIDENT AQUINO'S INCOMING VISITS** (Continuation)

DATE	EVENT	HIGHLIGHTS
29 June - 01 July	Visit of H.M. Queen Máxima of the Netherlands, UN Secretary General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development (UNSGSA)	The Queen praised the Philippines for doing extremely well as a leader in financial inclusion. The President in turn, reiterated the country's commitment towards more widespread financial inclusion initiatives.
27-28 August	Official Visit of Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha	The two Leaders discussed the 6 <sup>th</sup> Philippines-Thailand Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation.
16 November	State Visit of Chilean President Michelle Bachelet	The two Leaders signed MOU on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management and a Letter of Intent (LOI) on the Enhancement of Trade Relations.
17 November	State Visit of Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto	The two Leaders signed an Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation, a MOU on Cultural Cooperation, and a MOU on Combating the Trafficking of Illicit Drugs
20-21 November	Visit of His Majesty Carl XVI Gustaf, King of Sweden	His Majesty visited Tacloban in his capacity as the Chairperson of the World Scout Federation (WSF). The Visit included an inspection of the Scout House as well as a meeting with beneficiaries of boats, carabaos (water buffaloes), assistance for the set-up of sari-sari (convenience) stores which the His Majesty donated during his previous Visit to the Philippines in the wake of the devastation of Super Typhoon Haiyan.
<b>TOTAL FOR 2015 = 10</b>		

## BILATERAL/ MULTILATERAL MEETINGS

2015 FOREIGN TRIPS OF PRESIDENT AQUINO  
AND INCOMING HIGH-LEVEL VISITS

## OUTGOING VISITS

26-27 April	<b>26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit</b> Langkawi, Malaysia	The Philippines pursued the following advocacies during the Summit: (1) Conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), (2) Greater participation of stakeholders in peace and reconciliation initiatives, (3) Empowering people through increased support in various social programs, (4) ASEAN centrality, (5) Addressing current issues such as Extremism and Humanitarian Emergencies, (6) Welcoming new members and Dialogue Partners, and (7) Continuing advocacy for a rules-based approach to resolving conflicting claims in the South China Sea.
28 April	<b>11<sup>th</sup> BIMP-EAGA Summit</b> Langkawi, Malaysia	The 11 <sup>th</sup> BIMP-EAGA Summit highlighted the new and 5 <sup>th</sup> strategic pillar of BIMP-EAGA, the socio-cultural and education pillar, which is in addition to the pillars of tourism, agribusiness, connectivity, and the environment (which deals with efforts to develop the capacity of local government to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change). The socio-cultural and education pillar is a Philippine initiative in BIMP-EAGA.
06-09 May	<b>State Visit to Canada</b>	During his meetings with Governor General David Johnston and Prime Minister Stephen Harper, President Aquino took the opportunity to discuss China's unilateral actions in the WPS/SCS, and the Philippines' concerns regarding the impact of these developments on regional peace and stability.
02-05 June	<b>State Visit to Japan</b>	The two Leaders signed the Joint Declaration on a Strengthened Strategic Partnership for Advancing the Shared Principles and Goals of Peace, Security, and Growth in the Region and Beyond.

20-22 November	<b>27<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit and Related Summits</b> Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	The ASEAN Leaders signed three (3) documents: (1) 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the Establishment of the ASEAN Community; (2) Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025 (with 3 blueprints - ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025; ASEAN Economic Blueprint 2025; and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025); and (3) ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons (ACTIP), Especially Women and Children.
30 November - 01 December	<b>21<sup>st</sup> Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the UNFCCC</b> Paris-Le Bourget, France	President Aquino delivered the National Statement outlining the Philippines' achievements and plans for cutting carbon emissions as part of its contribution to addressing the adverse effects of climate change.
02-03 December	<b>Working Visit to Italy</b>	President Aquino held meetings with President Sergio Mattarella and Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. Among the issues discussed included the condition of OFs in Italy, trade relations, developments in the WPS/SCS, the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Modernization Program, peace and order, negotiations for a Philippines-EU Trade Agreement, the Mindanao Peace Process, and the migrant crisis.
03-04 December	<b>Official Visit to Vatican</b>	President Aquino had a private audience with His Holiness Pope Francis and discussed the following topics: (1) the Pope's request for prayers, (2) the Mindanao Peace Process, and (3) an invitation extended by the President for the Pope to visit the Philippines again in the future. The President likewise unveiled a mosaic image of Our Lady of Peñafrancia designed by Italian artist Roberto Cassio at the Vatican Gardens.
<b>TOTAL FOR 2015 = 8</b>		

## 2015 OFFICIAL TRAVELS OF SECRETARY ALBERT F. DEL ROSARIO

### OUTGOING VISITS

ASIA PACIFIC		
27-28 January	Kota Kinabalu, Sabah	<p>ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat</p> <p>The Meeting reaffirmed the importance of maintaining peace and regional stability and the need to establish trust and confidence among parties. The ASEAN Senior Officials were likewise tasked to conduct more meetings towards the full implementation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China (DOC) and the conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).</p>
23-25 March	Yogyakarta, Indonesia	<p>The SFA conducted Assistance to Nationals (ATNs) and frontline services consultations with the Post and with relevant Indonesian Government agencies, the legal sector, and Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Pending ATN cases including that of Ms. Mary Jane Veloso were also tackled during the visit.</p>
28 March	Singapore	<p>Official Travel to Singapore to attend the Lying-in-State of former Singaporean PM Lee Kuan Yew, Founding Father of Singapore</p>
19-20 April	Jakarta, Indonesia	<p>Asian-African Conference Summit</p> <p>The Conference adopted three (3) Outcome Documents, namely: (1) Bandung Message 2015; (2) Declaration on Reinvigorating the New Asia-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP); and (3) Declaration on Palestine.</p>
25-28 April	Kuala Lumpur & Langkawi Malaysia	<p>26<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit</p> <p>The Philippines pursued the following advocacies during the Summit: (1) Conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership; (2) Greater participation of stakeholders in peace and reconciliation initiatives; (3) Empowering the people through increased support in various social programs; (4) ASEAN Centrality; (5) The Philippines as a responsible partner of the regional and international community in addressing current issues such as Extremism and Humanitarian Emergencies; and (6) Welcoming new members and Dialogue Partners.</p>

ASIA PACIFIC		
03-06 August	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	48 <sup>th</sup> ASEAN FM Meetings & Related Summits
07-08 August	Tokyo, Japan	The SFA, along with other senior Philippine Government officials, representatives of the Philippine Senate, and members of the private sector, presented the Philippine Bid to host the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) 2019 World Basketball Cup.
09-10 August	Singapore	The SFA represented the Philippines as President Aquino's Special Envoy to the commemoration of the 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Singapore.
13-15 October	New Delhi, India	<p>3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the PH-India JCBC / Rizal-Nehru Lecture Series</p> <p>Both sides agreed to further intensify cooperation across wide areas of cooperation through the holding of relevant Joint Working and Technical Working Groups, including on Trade and Investments, Pharmaceuticals and ICT.</p>

## 2015 OFFICIAL TRAVELS OF SECRETARY ALBERT F. DEL ROSARIO

### OUTGOING VISITS (Continuation)

20-22 October	Hanoi, Viet Nam	8 <sup>th</sup> PH-Viet Nam JCBC  Signing of the Joint Statement on the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership between the Republic of the Philippines and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
<b>MIDDLE EAST</b>		
25-26 January	Riyadh, KSA	Official Visit to convey Condolence of President Aquino on the demise of King Abdullah of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques
11-14 March	Tunis, Tunisia	The SFA supervised the implementation of the contingency plans for the Filipinos affected by civil unrest in Libya
<b>AMERICAS</b>		
03-09 March	Washington, DC & New York, USA	Secretary del Rosario led the DFA legal team in consultations with the Philippines' Legal Counsel in Washington DC to prepare for the supplemental submission to the Arbitral Tribunal. The Secretary also met with Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS), the Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee.
07-14 May	Washington, DC & New York, USA	Official Trip to New York and Launch of US-Philippines Strategic Initiative, CSIS
22 September-04 October	New York, USA	70 <sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly (UNGA) and Bilateral Meetings  The 193 Member States adopted <i>"Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"</i> during the UN Summit.
<b>EUROPE</b>		
11-12 February	Oslo, Norway	The two countries discussed the Philippine peace processes, updates on the WPS/SCS issue, Social Security Agreement, Norway's application for ASEAN Dialogue Partner, investments in renewable energy, compliance with the STCW Convention and the Philippine business climate.

13-14 February	Geneva, Switzerland	Secretary del Rosario conducted consultations with the Philippine Mission to the UN in Geneva and the World Trade Organization.
04-13 July	The Hague, the Netherlands	Secretary del Rosario headed the Philippine delegation to the oral hearing at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) on the jurisdiction and the merits regarding the WPS/SCS issue. The Secretary delivered the opening and concluding remarks on 07 July 2015 and 30 November 2015, respectively.
20 November 02 December		
TOTAL FOR 2015 = 19		

## AGREEMENTS SIGNED

	POLITICAL/ DEFENSE AGREEMENTS				
		Signed	President's Ratification	Senate's Concurrence	Effectivity
1	Protocol Relating to an Amendment Convention on International Civil Aviation (Article 3 bis)	10 May 1984	10 May 1984	10 August 2015	19 October 2015
2	Agreement on Social Security Between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Denmark	11 September 2012	05 May 2014	18 May 2015	
3	Agreement on Social Security between Portuguese Republic and the Republic of the Philippines	14 September 2012	16 January 2014	18 May 2015	Date of PH Notification: 07 September 2015
4	Agreement between Philippines and Indonesia concerning Delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone Boundary	23 May 2014	08 June 2015		
5	Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs and the Greek Foreign Ministry on the Establishment of a Mechanism for Political Consultations	23 January 2015			
6	Memorandum on Defense Cooperation and Exchanges between the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Defense of Japan	29 January 2015			
7	Technical Agreement between the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic and the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines on the Realization of a Barrel Weapons Course for the Personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of the Philippines	04 March 2015			

8	Memorandum of Understanding Establishing Foreign Policy Consultations between the Philippines and Bangladesh	25 March 2015			
9	Memorandum of Agreement on Protection of Classified Military Information between Philippines and ROK	14 September 2015			
10	Philippines-Germany Social Security Agreement	19 September 2015			
11	Agreement between Philippines and US on Cooperation in Countering the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Strengthening Maritime Security (Comprehensive Threat Reduction Agreement/CTRA)	15-16 October 2015			
12	Memorandum of Cooperation between the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency and Russian Federal Service on Narcotics Trafficking on Combating New Psychoactive Substances.	18 November 2015			
13	Philippines-Chile Memorandum of Understanding on Disaster Risk Reduction	18 November 2015			
14	Agreement between Japan and the Republic of the Philippines on Social Security	19 November 2015			
15	Memorandum of Agreement on the Establishment of a Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Philippines and Tunisia	23 November 2015			
16	Memorandum of Understanding between Philippines and the World Intellectual Property to Develop National Strategy for Intellectual Property	25 November 2015			
17	Philippines-France Memorandum of Understanding between the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) and Vivapolis	01 December 2015			
18	Philippines – Spain Memorandum of Agreement on Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crime	18 December 2015			

ECONOMIC/ CULTURAL AGREEMENTS					
		Signed	President's Ratification	Senate's Concurrence	Effectivity
19	Protocol between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Finland Amending the Convention of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to Taxes on Income	21 December 1993		02 December 2015	
20	Montreal Convention on the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air	28 May 1999	26 May 2014	10 August 2015	
21	Philippines-Qatar Agreement on Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income	14 December 2008	03 May 2011	22 January 2013	Date of PH Notification: 19 May 2015
22	Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Turkey for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Taxes on Income and its Annexed Protocol	13 March 2009		14 December 2015	
23	Agreement in the Accession to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity	29 October 2010	05 May 2014	25 May 2015	
24	Memorandum of Understanding on Bilateral Tourism Cooperation between Philippines and Paraguay	25 August 2011			Date of PH Notification: 07 September 2015
25	Agreement between the Government of Philippines and PEMSEA Establishing the PEMSEA Resource Facility Center	31 July 2012	22 November 2013	25 May 2015	Date of PH Notification: 01 September 2015
26	Third Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation between the ASEAN and China	19 November 2012	25 February 2015		Date of PH Notification: 08 May 2015
27	Philippines-Germany Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation Renegotiated:	09 September 2013		14 December 2015	

28	Protocol Amending the Convention between the Republic of the Philippines and the Italian Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with respect to Taxes on Income and Capital	09 December 2013		14 December 2015	
29	Record of Discussions between the Philippines and ROK on the Establishment of Communication, Ocean and Meteorological Satellite Analysis System in the Philippines	11 December 2013			Date of PH Notification: 19 June 2015
30	Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Singapore	06 February 2014	11 March 2015		
31	Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission on Higher Education of the Republic of the Philippines and Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia	23 May 2014			Date of PH Notification: 19 June 2015
32	Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of the Government of Japan on the Cooperation in the Field of Information and Communications Technology	23 June 2014	12 February 2015		
33	Protocol to Amend the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement	26 August 2014	06 August 2015		
34	Protocol 7 of the ASEAN-Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Goods in Transit (AFAFGIT)	24 February 2015	20 November 2015		
35	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of France Agreement on Tourism Cooperation	26 February 2015			
36	Agreement on Tourism Cooperation between the Philippines and France	26 February 2015			
37	Declaration of Intent of the Philippines and France on the Protection of the Environment and the Sustainable Development of Marine Resources	26 February 2015			

38	Memorandum of Understanding on Philippines-France cooperation in the area of Higher Education and Research	26 February 2015			
39	Philippines-France Agreement for the Management, Operation and Maintenance of the Subic Clark Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX)	26 February 2015			
40	Philippines-France Credit Facility Agreement for Cebu Bus Rapid Transit Project	26 February 2015			
41	Protocol to Implement the 6 <sup>th</sup> Package of Commitments on Financial Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Financial Services	20 March 2015	13 November 2015		
42	Philippines-Japan Grant Aid Project for Community Development in Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao	26 March 2015			
43	Philippines-Japan Grant Aid Project on Mini-Hydropower Development Project in the Province of Ifugao	26 March 2015			
44	Philippines-Japan Non-Project Grant Aid for Provision of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) Products	26 March 2015			
45	Philippines-Japan Non-Project Grant Aid on the Provision of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Equipment	26 March 2015			
46	Philippines-Japan Yen Loan Projects: (1) Metro Manila Interchange Construction Project, Phase VI and (2) Flood Risk Management Facilities 2014	26 March 2015			
47	Memorandum of Understanding of the Filipino, Korean, and Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Hawaii	08 April 2015			
48	Protocol Amending the Agreement between Philippines-Netherlands on Export of Social Insurance Benefits	21 April 2015			

49	Memorandum of Understanding between the Philippines and Czech Republic on Cultural Relations	05 May 2015			
50	Memorandum of Understanding on Occupational Safety and Health between DOLE Philippines and the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety	08 May 2015	06 August 2015		Date of PH Notification: 07 September 2015
51	Mutual Accountability Framework for Development Cooperation between the Philippines and Canada, 2015-2020	08 May 2015			
52	Philippines-Qatar Memorandum of Understanding on Increased Flights between the Two Countries	28 May 2015			
53	Memorandum of Cooperation between the DOH Philippines and Japan Ministry of Health Labor and Welfare in the Field of Healthcare	04 June 2015			
54	Cultural Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia	19 June 2015			
55	Philippines-Japan Exchange of Notes on the Japanese Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) Project 2015	03 July 2015			
56	Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines to Improve International Tax Compliance and to Implement the Foreign Account Tax Compliance	13 July 2015			
57	Philippines-Japan Exchange of Notes and Loan Agreements of Two Japanese Yen Loan Projects: (1) Metro Manila Priority Bridges Seismic Improvement Project and (2) Davao City Bypass Construction Project (South and Center Sections)	25 August 2015			
58	Philippines-Japan Exchange of Notes for the Grant Assistance for the Project for Reconstruction of Municipal Halls in Lawaan and Marabut Municipalities	23 October 2015			

59	Philippines-US Agreement to Support Filipino Game-Changers in the Digital Economy	06 November 2015			
60	Agreement on the Establishment of a Philippines-Russia Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation	18 November 2015			
61	Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the Philippines and Tunisia	23 November 2015			
62	Memorandum of Intent between the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) of the Philippines and the Diplomatic Institute for Training and Studies (IDFE) of Tunisia	23 November 2015			
63	Memorandum of Understanding between Intramuros Administration and Instituto Cervantes	29 November 2015			

CONSULAR AND LABOR AGREEMENTS					
		Signed	President's Ratification	Senate's Concurrence	Effectivity
64	Agreement on Domestic Worker Recruitment between DOLE and Ministry of Labor of KSA				Date of PH Notification: 07 May 2015
65	Agreement between Philippines and Paraguay on the Waiver of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports	25 August 2011			Date of PH Notification: 14 January 2015
66	Philippines-ROK Record of Discussion on Establishment of a Radio Frequency Monitoring and Direction Finding System in Metro Manila	20 December 2013			Date of PH Notification: 06 January 2015
67	Philippines-ROK Record of Discussion on Master Plan Study on the Development of Aids to Navigation in Luzon and Visayas	05 December 2014			Date of PH Notification: 09 March 2015
68	Philippines-Canada Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Cooperation in Human Resources Deployment and Development	09 May 2015			

69	Memorandum of Understanding between DOLE and the Province of British Columbia as represented by the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism, and Skills Training concerning cooperation in Human Resource Deployment and Development	09 May 2015			
70	Memorandum of Intent between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the United States of America for the Personnel Information Secure Comparison and Evaluation System Project (PISCES)	09 September 2015			Date of PH Notification:  25 November 2015
71	Philippines-NZ Arrangement on the Principles and Controls on the Recruitment and Protection of Filipino Workers in New Zealand	17 September 2015			
72	Exchange of Notes on the North-South Commuter Railway (NSCR) Project, Phase 1 (Malolos-Tutuban)	19 November 2015			

	<b>JOINT STATEMENTS</b>				
73	Joint Declaration on the Enhanced Partnership between the Republic of the Philippines and the French Republic				26 February 2015
74	Letter of Award between the Manila Light Rail Transit Corporation and a consortium composed of the global contractor, Bouygues Publics Travaux, and the leading transportation supplier Alstom Transport, for the design and construction of Manila Light rail Transit Line 1 Extension				26 February 2015
75	Joint Declaration of Cooperation between PH and EFTA States				19 May 2015
76	Japan-Philippines Joint Declaration: A Strengthened Strategic Partnership for Advancing the Shared Principles and Goals of Peace, Security, and Growth in the Region and Beyond				04 June 2015
77	Joint Statement on the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership with the Philippines and Viet Nam				17 November 2015

**ASSISTANCE-TO-NATIONALS (ATN) DATA AND STATISTICS**

BREAKDOWN OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ASSISTED USING  
ASSISTANCE TO NATIONALS FUNDS AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS  
(BY FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS)  
JANUARY TO JUNE 2015

FOREIGN SERVICE POST	No. of OFs assisted using ATN Funds	No. of OFs assisted using LAF	TOTAL
ABU DHABI PE	12	26	38
ABUJA PE	0	0	0
AGANA PCG	6	0	6
AMMAN PE	50	82	132
ANKARA PE	10	0	10
ATHENS PE	1	0	1
BAGHDAD PE	8	1	9
BANGKOK PE	3	2	
BEIJING PE	6	NSDA	
BEIRUT PE	52	26	78
BERLIN PE	NSDA	NSDA	
BERNE PE	0	0	
BUDAPEST PE	0	0	
BRASILIA PE	0	0	
BRUNEI PE	6	1	
BRUSSELS PE	0	0	
BUENOS AIRES PE	3	1	4
CAIRO PE	NSDA	NSDA	
CANBERRA PE	NSDA	NSDA	
CHICAGO PCG	1	NSDA	2
CHONGQING PCG	NSDA	NSDA	
DAMASCUS PE	134	7	141
DHAKA PE	NSDA	NSDA	
DILI PE	1	NSDA	
DOHA PE	NSDA	NSDA	
DUBAI PCG	4	6	10
GUANGZHOU PCG	16	NSDA	
GENEVA PCG	NSDA	NSDA	
HANOI PE	15	1	
HONOLULU PCG	1	NSDA	1

HONG KONG SAR PCG	2	NSDA	
ISLAMABAD PE	NSDA	NSDA	
JAKARTA PE	2	NSDA	
JEDDAH PCG	136	1	137
KUALA LUMPUR PE	NSDA	NSDA	
KUWAIT PE	11	NSDA	11
LISBON PE	0	0	
LONDON PE	1	0	1
LOS ANGELES PCG	NSDA	NSDA	
MACAU SAR PCG	1	1	
MADRID PE	3	0	3
MANADO PCG	166	NSDA	
MANAMA PE	23	5	28
MEXICO PE	2	0	2
MILAN PCG	2	0	2
MOSCOW PE	NSDA	NSDA	
MUSCAT PE	5	17	22
NAIROBI PE	0	0	0
NEW DELHI PE	21	NSDA	21
NEW YORK PCG	1	2	3
OSAKA PCG	1	NSDA	1
OSLO PE	0	0	
OTTAWA PE	1	0	1
PARIS PE	1	0	1
PHNOM PENH PE	11	NSDA	11
PORT MORESBY PE	NSDA	NSDA	
PRAGUE PE	0	0	
PRETORIA PE	1	0	1
RIYADH PE	NSDA	NSDA	
ROME PE	0	0	
SAN FRANCISCO PCG	1	1	2
SANTIAGO PE	NSDA	NSDA	
SEOUL PE	5	NSDA	5
SHANGHAI PCG	1	NSDA	1
SINGAPORE PE	1	2	3
TEHRAN PE	11	0	11
TEL-AVIV PE	0	0	0
TOKYO PE	NSDA	NSDA	
TORONTO PCG	1	0	1

TRIPOLI PE	NSDA	NSDA	
THE HAGUE PE	0	0	
VATICAN PE	0	0	
VANCOUVER PCG	0	0	0
VIENNA PE	NSDA	NSDA	
VIENTIANE PE	1	NSDA	1
WARSAW PE	0	0	
WASHINGTON DC PE	1	2	3
WELLINGTON PE	NSDA	NSDA	
XIAMEN PCG	1	NSDA	1
YANGON PE	NSDA	NSDA	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>927</b>

NSDA – No Statistical Data Available

**NUMBER OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS (OFs) ASSISTED  
(JANUARY-NOVEMBER 2015)**

TABLE 1: NUMBER OF ASSISTANCE-TO-NATIONALS (ATN) CASES

DATE	NUMBER OF OFs ASSISTED WITH ATN FUND	NUMBER OF WALK-IN CLIENTS AND REFERRALS	MASS REPATRIATION *	TOTAL NUMBER OF OFs ASSISTED
January to July	3,459	5,523	2,057	11,039
August to November	1,585	3,067	250	4,902
December	9,999	605	42	10,646
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,043</b>	<b>9,195</b>	<b>2,349</b>	<b>26,587</b>

\* From Yemen, Syria, Libya and Iraq

TABLE 2: NUMBER OF OFs ASSISTED USING  
LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND (LAF)

Month	LAF
January to July	750
August to November	60
December	29
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>810</b>

**TABLE 3: ESTIMATED NUMBER OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS  
(AS OF JUNE 2015)**

Region	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Americas	3,896,853	4,111,095	3,908,601	4,107,543	4,146,066	3,750,388
Asia and Pacific	1,675,507	1,973,224	2,028,396	2,046,145	1,974,831	1,497,859
Europe	715,627	746,701	782,878	768,999	743,826	433,918
Middle East and Africa	2,868,272	2,681,130	2,050,475	2,169,992	2,205,706	2,297,551
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,156,259</b>	<b>9,512,150</b>	<b>8,770,350</b>	<b>9,092,679</b>	<b>9,070,429</b>	<b>7,979,716</b>

**TABLE 4: TOP 20 COUNTRIES/TERRITORIES WITH THE HIGHEST  
NUMBER OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS  
(BASED ON JAN TO JUNE 2015 REPORT TO CONGRESS)**

	COUNTRY/TERRITORY	NUMBER OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS (OFs)
1	United States of America	3,046,467
2	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	892,503
3	Canada	662,600
4	Malaysia	620,043
5	United Arab Emirates	567,681
6	China	236,513
7	Australia	210,787
8	Kuwait	207,655
9	Qatar	198,900
10	Singapore	177,500
11	United Kingdom	162,325
12	Bahrain	101,796
13	Italy	90,094
14	Japan	65,843
15	Republic of Korea	52,993
16	France	42,176
17	New Zealand	41,240
18	Spain	37,886
19	Oman	33,678
20	Lebanon	28,559

CONSULAR DATA/ STATISTICS

TABLE 5: BREAKDOWN OF PASSPORT ISSUANCE

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2015		
Passport Issuing Site	Passport Issuing Site	No. of Passport Issuance
DFA Manila (ASEANA)	MRRP	4
	MRP	0
	<i>ePassport</i>	649,959
DFA NCR- East (SM Megamall)	<i>ePassport</i>	140,213
DFA NCR-West (SM Manila)	<i>ePassport</i>	82,761
DFA NCR- Central (Robinsons Galleria)	<i>ePassport</i>	145,556
DFA NCR- South (Metro Gaisano)	<i>ePassport</i>	131,517
DFA NCR- Northeast (Ali Mall)	<i>MRRP</i>	0
	<i>MRP</i>	0
	<i>ePassport</i>	1,169,449
Foreign Service Posts (FSPs)	<i>MRRP</i>	0
	<i>MRP</i>	0
	<i>ePassport</i>	732,865
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><i>MRRP</i></b>	4
	<b><i>MRP</i></b>	0
	<b><i>ePassport</i></b>	3,052,320
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,052,324</b>	

TABLE 6: BREAKDOWN OF VISA ISSUANCE – LOCAL

Non - Immigrant	Temporary Visitor - Restricted	9(a)	1,914
	Foreign Government Officials	9(e)	1,212
	Student Visa	9(f)	104
	Pre-arranged employment	9(g)	36
Special Non-Immigrant		47(a)(2)	97
Total			3,363

**TABLE 7: BREAKDOWN OF VISA ISSUANCE – FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS (FSPs)****Visa issued at Home Office for Foreign Government Officials 9(e)**

<b>Total Visa issued</b>	<b>4,485</b>
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**VISA ISSUANCE BREAKDOWN – FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS**

<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>A. Non-Immigrant Visa</b>	
1. Temporary Visitor's Visa 9(a)	288,343
2. Transit Visa 9(b)	89
3. Group Tours	
3.A Group Tour	7,752
3.B Group Tour Member	33,355
4. Seaman / Airline Crew 9 (c )	1,268
4.A Crewlist	0
4.B Crewlist Member	0
5. Treaty/ Trader Investor 9(d)	28
6. FGO 9(e)	2,545
7. Student 9(f)	85
8. Pre-Arranged Employee 9(g)	32
<b>B. Special Category</b>	
1. SIRV	0
2. SRRV	183
<b>C. Special Non- Immigrant 47(a)(2)</b>	<b>429</b>
Special Non-Immigrant 47(b)	0
<b>TOTAL NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS ISSUED</b>	<b>334,109</b>
<b>IMMIGRANT VISA</b>	
13(a)	167
13(b)	0
13(c )	0
13(d)	0
13(e)	0
13(f)	0
13(g)	10
<b>TOTAL IMMIGRANT VISAS ISSUED</b>	<b>177</b>
<b>TOTAL VISAS ISSUED</b>	<b>338,771</b>

**VISA ISSUANCE BREAKDOWN – FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS**

<b>APEC Business Travel Cards (ABTC)</b>	<b>611</b>
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**TABLE 8: AUTHENTICATED DOCUMENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Authenticated Documents JANUARY – DECEMBER 2015						
Period	OCA- ASEANA	DFA-NCR East	DFA-NCR West	DFA NCR South	DFA NCR Northeast	RCO Pampanga
JANUARY	44,466	3,354	6,383	1,435	6,206	2,878
FEBRUARY	49,962	3,588	7,310	1,548	6,615	2,659
MARCH	50,283	4,064	8,879	1,845	8,291	2,915
APRIL	48,570	3,720	7,509	1,805	7,549	2,756
MAY	49,279	3,653	8,397	1,823	7,858	2,604
JUNE	51,620	3,797	8,416	1,743	7,939	2,858
JULY	52,131	3,465	7,736	1,796	7,565	2,730
AUGUST	45,569	3,249	7,502	1,624	7,349	2,757
SEPTEMBER	50,806	3,651	8,754	1,873	7,700	3,179
OCTOBER	45,906	3,162	7,834	1,706	7,385	2,742
NOVEMBER	56,961	3,048	6,310	1,402	6,330	2,710
DECEMBER	41,206	2,533	6,411	1,389	5,968	2,422
<b>TOTAL (as of Dec 2015)</b>	<b>586,759</b>	<b>41,284</b>	<b>91,441</b>	<b>19,989</b>	<b>86,755</b>	<b>33,210</b>
<b>Total Authenticated Documents: 859,438</b>						

**TABLE 9: CIVIL REGISTRY REPORTS**

Civil Registry Reports	Total Total
Birth	1,322
Marriage	762
Death	357
RA 9048	598
Divorce	0
<b>Total No. of Reports Processed</b>	<b>3,049</b>
<b>Received from Posts: Transmitted to PSA</b>	
Birth	25,950
Marriage	17,344
Death	2,866
RA 9048	771
Divorce	0
Renunciation	262
Converts to Islam	0
<b>Total no. of Reports received from FSPs</b>	<b>47,193</b>

**TABLE 10: CONSULAR OUTREACH SERVICES OF FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS**

Post	Total No. Consular Outreach	Number of Applicants served	Number of Passport Issuances	Number of Legalized Documents	Number of Civil Registration
<b>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>					
Bangkok PE	8	592	305	128	15
Beijing PE	-	-	-	-	-
Brunei PE	1	7	-	-	-
Canberra PE	6	4,672	4,023	-	45
Chongqing PCG	2	47	36	3	-
Dhaka PE	4	166	166	0	0
Dili PE	-	-	-	-	-
Guangzhou PCG	2	272	108	-	-
Hanoi PE	4	540	522	24	31
Hong Kong SAR PCG	1	48	-	-	-
Islamabad PE	4	315	78	100	25
Jakarta PE	10	5,786	2,120	3,141	125
Kuala Lumpur PE	12	9,590	9,590	-	2,028
Macau SAR PCG	-	-	-	-	-
Manado PCG	-	-	-	-	-
New Delhi PE	7	89	89	-	-
Osaka PCG	9	2206	1615	445	47
Phnom Penh PE	8	429	51	68	2
Port Moresby PE	-	-	-	-	-
Seoul PE	4	743	743	134	74
Shanghai PCG	1	82	3	4	11
Singapore PE	-	-	-	-	-
Sydney PCG	3	218	89	7	3
Tokyo PE	9	1,374	1,374	162	55
Vientiane PE	1	43	23	5	5
Wellington PE	13	7,155	3,866	172	145
Xiamen	-	-	-	-	-
Yangon PE	-	-	-	-	-

Post	Total No. Consular Outreach	Number of Applicants served	Number of Passport Issuances	Number of Legalized Documents	Number of Civil Registration
AMERICAS					
Agana PCG	15	4,394	3,531	474	134
Brasilia PE	5	166	152	5	9
Buenos Aires PE	2	39	9	-	-
Chicago PCG	14	2,847	1923	243	266
Honolulu PCG	8	1,959	1,169	13	-
Los Angeles PCG	9	4,202	2,944	395	239
Mexico PE	8	221	208	-	13
New York PCG	12	-	-	-	-
Ottawa PE	5	637	296	74	9
San Francisco PCG	37	17352	6771	2192	642
Santiago PE	2	32	30	2	-
Toronto PCG	6	8,187	7,351	271	15
Vancouver PCG	20	27,132	15,142	2348	212
Washington DC PE	22	5,418	4502	456	58
EUROPE					
Athens PE	9	1,712	1,668	19	25
Ankara PE	15	876	337	110	33
Berlin PE	10	1,614	975	260	37
Berne PE	-	-	-	-	-
Brussels PE/PM	2	93	13	5	5
Budapest PE	2	133	44	7	9
Geneva PCG/PM	6	310	71	60	4
Lisbon PE	-	-	-	-	-
London PE	16	1,973	1,290	370	53
Madrid PE	5	677	577	71	18
Milan PCG	19	3,204	2,108	973	123
Moscow PE	1	15	15	-	-
Oslo PE	9	1,421	1,286	5	179
Paris PE	3	427	427	77	38
Prague PE	-	-	-	-	-
Rome PE	17	3,887	3,887	583	295
The Hague PE	2	-	-	-	-
Vienna PE/PM	2	65	15	4	15
Warsaw PE	-	-	-	-	-

Post	Total No. Consular Outreach	Number of Applicants served	Number of Passport Issuances	Number of Legalized Documents	Number of Civil Registration
<b>MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA</b>					
Abu Dhabi PE	-	-	-	-	-
Abuja PE	1	89	-	-	-
Amman PE	2	6,116	2,452	3,494	137
Baghdad PE	4	96	31	8	1
Beirut PE	-	-	-	-	-
Cairo PE	4	182	154	13	15
Damascus PE	-	-	-	-	-
Doha PE	-	-	-	-	-
Dubai PCG	10	1,823	1,633	177	13
Jeddah PCG	9	4,121	3,524	557	121
Kuwait PE	-	-	-	-	-
Manama PE	-	-	-	-	-
Muscat PE	4	251	251	53	12
Nairobi PE	10	371	332	24	15
Pretoria PE	19	691	617	22	33
Riyadh PE	13	10,138	5,104	1,249	114
Tehran PE	5	9	9	-	-
Tel Aviv PE	6	590	43	63	-
Tripoli PE	6	161	154	1	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>766</b>	<b>283,315</b>	<b>18,1252</b>	<b>3,1491</b>	<b>88,396</b>

**TABLE 11: LOCAL MOBILE PASSPORT SERVICES**

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
January 10	Muñoz, Nueva Ecija	500	423
January 17- 19	Virac, Catanduanes	500	405
January 24	Malolos, Bulacan	600	507
January 24	Marikina 1st District	500	405
January 31	UNILAB	600	527
February 5	Valenzuela City	500	370
February 12	House of Representatives	700	620
February 14	San Nicolas, Pangasinan	550	469
February 28	Caloocan City	500	378
February 28	Pateros MM	500	375
March 7	Hagonoy, Bulacan	550	487
March 7	ABS-CBN, Quezon City	500	339
March 14	Coron, Palawan	550	229
March 21	Odiongan, Romblon	550	336
March 28	Marikina City	550	266
March 28	Angono Rizal	550	496
April 11	Mabini, Batangas	700	547
April 11	Dagupan City	650	549
April 18	Navotas City	500	362
April 25	Los Baños Laguna	550	499
May 2	San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	600	372
May 2	Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro	500	230
May 4-8	Balabac, Palawan	500	450
May 9	Victoria Oriental Mindoro	500	321
May 16	Baler, Aurora	600	396
May 16	DLSU Dasmariñas, Cavite	500	366
May 20-24	Marawi Lanao, Del Sur	Walk-in	1,289
May 23	Tarlac City	600	392
May 30	Baliwag, Bulacan	600	426
May 30	Marikina City 1st District	500	359

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
June 6	Marikina City	500	355
June 6	Cainta Rizal	500	349
June 13	Pandi, Bulacan	600	369
June 12-13	Laoag, Ilocos Norte	800	688
June 20	Pagadian City	700	612
June 27	Quezon City	500	417
June 27	Naic Cavite	500	338
July 4	Makati City	550	460
July 11	Gen. Tinio, Nueva Ecija (Papaya)	695	605
July 18	Mandaluyong City	600	322
July 25	Calamba Laguna	550	437
August 1	Valenzuela City	600	556
August 1	Balanga Bataan	600	554
August 8	Guimba, Nueva Ecija	600	379
August 15	Parañaque City	600	383
August 15	Silang Cavite	600	419
August 22	Santa Maria, Bulacan	600	506
August 22	San Ildefonso, Bulacan	600	441
August 29	Vigan Ilocos Sur	700	663
September 5	Biñan, Laguna	600	469
September 5	San Pablo, Laguna	600	469
September 12	Sta. Cruz, Laguna	550	440
September 12	Malolos, Bulacan	550	502
September 13	Jaen, Nueva Ecija	400	287
September 19	Meycauayan, Bulacan	600	492
September 19	Cabanatuan City	700	602
September 26	Carmona, Cavite	600	484
September 26	Bocaue, Bulacan	600	555
September 29	Department of Justice	100	52
October 3	Sta. Rosa, Laguna	550	487
October 10	Marilao, Bulacan	550	464

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
October 10	Antipolo City	550	492
October 17	Limay, Bataan	550	409
October 17	Imus, Cavite	550	507
October 24	Taguig City	550	420
November 7	Marikina 2nd District	550	360
November 7	Calapan, Oriental Mindoro	600	538
November 14	Rodriguez, Rizal	550	342
November 14	Baclayon, Bohol	400	327
November 14	Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro	550	256
November 28	Camarines Sur	1000	727
December 5	Bustos, Bulacan	500	399
December 5	General Trias, Cavite	500	381
December 19	Tabuk City	500	288
December 19	Guiguinto, Bulacan	800	643
December 21	Dasmariñas, Cavite	550	178
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>43,784</b>	<b>33,613</b>

**TABLE 12: REPORT ON REACQUISITION/RETENTION OF PHILIPPINE  
CITIZENSHIP**

**REGION: AMERICAS**

POST	2015												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Agana PCG	49	43		19	40	35	33	26	30	33	21	16	345
Brasilia PE									1	1	1		3
Buenos Aires PE				1		1							2
Chicago PCG	2	54	72	72	85	135	177		223	213	77		1110
Honolulu PCG	65	37	38	89	47	47			70	69		39	501
Los Angeles PCG		340	500	440	1,013		505		550	497	442	270	4,557
Mexico PE													0
New York PCG	129	104		85	185	229				285	193	156	1,366
Ottawa PE	3	348	43	9	9	9	9				70		500
San Francisco PCG			524		891			400	398	460			2,673
Santiago PE													0
Toronto PCG	252	95	110	73	61				97	170			858
Vancouver PCG	45	70	102	66	98	99			79	114	64	1	738
Washington DC PE	57	26	86	191			104	128	79	296	179		1146
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>1,117</b>	<b>1,475</b>	<b>1,045</b>	<b>2,429</b>	<b>555</b>	<b>828</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>2,138</b>	<b>1,047</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>13,799</b>

**REGION: ASIA AND THE PACIFIC**

POST	2015												
	POST	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Bangkok PE		2		2	4				1				9
Beijing PE										1			1
Brunei PE													0
Canberra PE	68	128	88	88	104	73	107		51	104	31		842
Chongqing PCG													0
Dhaka PE													0
Dili PE													0
Guangzhou PCG													0
Hanoi PE		1											1
Hong Kong SAR PCG													0
Islamabad PE													0
Jakarta PE													0
Kuala Lumpur PE						2							2
Macau PCG	1												1
Manado PCG													0
New Delhi PE													0
Osaka PCG													0
Phnom Penh PE													0
Port Moresby PE													0
Seoul PE	9	6	15	14	17		9		18	11	10		109
Singapore PE		8	6	5	4	3	4			5		7	42
Shanghai PCG													0
Sydney PCG													0
Tokyo PE	2			1	1				1	2	1		8
Wellington PE	10	14	77	3	29	42	21		26		20		242
Vientiane PE													0
Xiamen PCG													0
Yangon PE													0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,257</b>

**REGION: EUROPE**

POST	2015												
	POST	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Ankara PE			1										1
Athens PE	4	5		2	1								12
Berlin PE										1			1
Berne PE	36	31	13	28	1	34			47	29	31		250
Brussels PE	21								28				49
Budapest PE													0
Geneva PM	6	22			4			3	16	9	6	2	68
Holy See PE													0
Lisbon PE	1						1		1				3
London PE	82	300	299	222	157	117	330						1,507
Madrid PE	29	30	31	28	33		92		125	88			456
Milan PCG	16		34	27	21	24	22		63		32	23	262
Moscow PE													0
Oslo PE				21								3	24
Paris PE			34						22			32	88
Prague PE	1												1
Rome PE				24	33	53			49		27		186
The Hague PE	5	7	5	5	4	3			5	4	4	5	47
Vienna PE	1					1							2
Warsaw PE		1			3								4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>417</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>2,961</b>

REGION: MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

POST	2015												
	POST	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
Abuja PE													0
Abu Dhabi PE													0
Amman PE	5	1			2	1			5	3	1	1	19
Baghdad PE													0
Beirut PE	3	2		4	2			2		2			15
Cairo PE													0
Damascus PE													0
Doha PE													0
Dubai PCG					3								3
Jeddah PCG													0
Kuwait PE													0
Manama PE					1		2						3
Muscat PE													0
Nairobi PE													0
Pretoria PE								2		2	4		8
POLO Al Kho-bar													0
Riyadh PE				1		1							2
Tehran PE													0
Tel Aviv PE	2	8							6	4		3	23
Tripoli PE													0
TOTAL	10	11	0	5	8	2	2	4	11	11	5	4	73
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>1,687</b>	<b>2,082</b>	<b>1,536</b>	<b>2,870</b>	<b>915</b>	<b>1,434</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>2,004</b>	<b>2,408</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>18,192</b>

TABLE 13: OVERSEAS VOTING SECRETARIAT

**2014-2015 OVERSEAS VOTING REGISTRANTS MATRIX**  
**(06 MAY 2014 - 31 OCTOBER 2015)**

AMERICAS		TARGET	NEW OV REGISTRANTS	% FROM TARGET
POST				
Agana PCG	✓	2,000	3,903	195.15%
Brasilia PE	✓	250	699	279.60%
Buenos Aires PE	✓	25	529	2116.00%
Chicago PCG	✓	3,760	6,870	182.71%
Honolulu PCG	✓	3,062	4,941	161.37%
Los Angeles PCG	✓	16,000	28,729	179.56%
Mexico PE	✓	460	517	112.39%
New York PCG	✓	9,500	17,502	184.23%
Ottawa PE	✓	4,000	4,670	116.75%
San Francisco PCG	✓	17,000	31,355	184.44%
Santiago PE	✓	80	412	515.00%
Toronto PCG	✓	8,300	15,521	187.00%
Vancouver PCG	✓	8,000	22,677	283.46%
Washington DC PE	✓	6,300	13,849	219.83%
SUBTOTAL	✓	78,737	152,174	193.27%

ASIA PACIFIC		TARGET	NEW OV REGISTRANTS	% FROM TARGET
POST				
Bangkok PE	✓	2,000	3,593	179.65%
Beijing PE		2,000	109	5.45%
Brunei PE	✓	3,000	4,302	143.40%
Canberra PE		39,000	587	1.51%
Chongqing PCG		200	53	26.50%
Dhaka PE	○	500	420	84.00%
Dili PE		400	254	63.50%
Guangzhou PCG	✓	200	235	117.50%
Hanoi PE		750	591	78.80%
Hong Kong PCG	✓	20,000	25,856	129.28%
Islamabad PE		1,000	262	26.20%
Jakarta PE	○	1,500	1,273	84.87%
Kuala Lumpur PE		50,000	5,529	11.06%
Macau PCG	✓	2,000	3,545	177.25%
Manado PCG		400	100	25.00%
MECO Kaohsiung	✓	9,500	7,388	186.85%
MECO Taichung	✓		4,481	
MECO Taipei	✓		5,882	
New Delhi PE		200	84	42.00%
Osaka PCG	✓	7,000	14,288	204.11%
Phnom Penh PE	✓	500	843	168.60%
Port Moresby PE		2,500	1,211	48.44%
Seoul PE	✓	7,000	7,380	105.43%
Singapore PE	✓	25,000	33,447	133.79%
Shanghai PCG		1,000	336	33.60%
Sydney PCG	✓	500	2,352	470.40%
Tokyo PE		18,000	12,921	71.78%
Wellington PE	✓	4,000	5,591	139.78%
Vientiane PE	✓	500	577	115.40%
Xiamen PCG	✓	100	223	223.00%
Yangon PE	✓	50	166	332.00%
SUBTOTAL		198,800	143,879	72.37%

EUROPE		TARGET	NEW OV REGISTRANTS	% FROM TARGET
POST				
Ankara PE		2,000	1,184	59.20%
Athens PE		20,000	3,486	17.43%
Berlin PE		15,000	3,161	21.07%
Berne PE		3,000	1,353	45.10%
Brussels PE		3,500	1,239	35.40%
Budapest PE	Δ	350	347	99.14%
Geneva PM		2,000	1,534	76.70%
Holy See PE	Δ	500	453	90.60%
Lisbon PE		8,000	4,893	61.16%
London PE		60,000	15,867	26.45%
Madrid PE	✓	10,000	11,773	117.73%
Milan PCG	○	20,000	16,770	83.85%
Moscow PE		1,000	750	75.00%
Oslo PE		14,000	2,287	16.34%
Paris PE		14,000	2,138	15.27%
Prague PE	✓	200	205	102.50%
Rome PE		26,000	18,640	71.69%
The Hague PE		1,500	1,128	75.20%
Vienna PE		3,000	1,077	35.90%
Warsaw PE		300	239	79.67%
SUBTOTAL		204,350	88,524	43.32%

MIDDLE EAST		TARGET	NEW OV REGISTRANTS	% FROM TARGET
POST				
Abuja PE	Δ	1,000	952	95.20%
Abu Dhabi PE	✓	40,500	55,586	137.25%
Amman PE	✓	3,000	3,378	112.60%
Baghdad PE	X	500	159	31.80%
Beirut PE	✓	5,000	7,298	145.96%
Cairo PE		2,000	1,081	54.05%
Damascus PE	X	1,000	149	14.90%
Doha PE	✓	16,000	17,509	109.43%
Dubai PCG	✓	46,000	77,882	169.31%
Jeddah PCG		51,500	40,365	78.38%
Kuwait PE	○	26,000	23,067	88.72%
Manama PE	Δ	10,300	9,712	94.29%
Muscat PE	✓	5,500	6,776	123.20%
Nairobi PE		2,000	407	20.35%
Pretoria PE		2,000	667	33.35%
POLO Al Khobar		10,200	3,345	32.79%
Riyadh PE	✓	72,000	78,778	109.41%
Tehran PE	✓	500	699	139.80%
Tel Aviv PE	✓	7,000	8,101	115.73%
Tripoli PE	X	5,000	291	5.82%
SUBTOTAL	✓	307,000	336,202	109.51%

FSPs TARGET	Δ	788,887	720,779	91.37%
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LOCAL REGISTRATION CENTER		106,101
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GRAND TOTAL	✓	826,880	104.82%
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✓ Achieved 100% of their Target

Δ Achieved more than 90% but less than 100%

○ Achieved more than 80% of their Target but less than 100%

X OV Registration suspended due to Level 4 Alert

# OFFICE OF POLICY PLANNING AND COORDINATION

The Office of Policy Planning and Coordination (OPPC) serves as the advisory unit on the status, scope, and direction of foreign policy and foreign relations. OPPC coordinates the corporate planning process, implements performance management systems, undertakes studies on emerging cross-cutting global issues, and provides relevant policy advices.

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