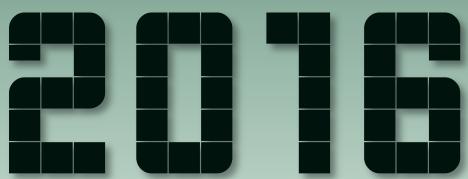


#### **DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

#### **ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT**



### A RESILIENT FOREIGN SERVICE FOR A STRONG PHILIPPINES





## DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# 2016 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

OFFICE OF POLICY PLANNING AND COORDINATION



# A RESILIENT FOREIGN SERVICE FOR A STRONG PHILIPPINES

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#### CHAPTER I: OVERVIEW



#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



2016 was a year of transitions in the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA). In March, Cabinet Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras succeeded Secretary Albert F. del Rosario as the Secretary of Foreign Affairs. After the 2016 presidential elections on 30 June, President Benigno S. Aquino III handed over the presidency to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, and along with it, the role of chief architect of Philippine foreign policy. Subsequently, Secretary Almendras was replaced by Secretary Perfecto R. Yasay, Jr. as the Secretary of Foreign Affairs. The DFA ensured that these transitions were seamless, while it continued to work towards protecting the national territory and sovereignty, enhancing economic relations with the global community, promoting Philippine culture and values, assisting Overseas Filipinos (OFs) and their families, providing quality consular services, and broadening engagement with the local and foreign publics.

On national security, the Philippines maintained the importance of the rule of law in its relations with other nations. In the case of the West Philippine Sea/South China Sea (WPS/SCS), the Philippines welcomed the issuance of the award by the Arbitral Tribunal constituted by the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) under Annex VII of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the arbitration proceedings initiated by the Philippines. The Arbitral Tribunal clarified the maritime entitlements of the Philippines and China in the WPS/SCS and rendered its decision that favored the submissions of the Philippines. The landmark decision upheld international law and was an important contribution to ongoing efforts in addressing disputes in the South China Sea.

The DFA intensified its pursuit of an independent foreign policy, in consonance with the pronouncements of President Duterte. The Philippines was to review and adjust where needed its relations with other countries to avoid excessive reliance on particular countries. Thus, President Duterte enhanced the country's ties with China and Russia, among other countries. In October, President Duterte undertook a State Visit to China, and in November, had a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the margins of the 24th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima.

The Philippines continued to strengthen its relations with traditional partners. During the visit to the Philippines of US Secretary of State John F. Kerry in July, the President underscored the strength of the Philippines-US alliance and its contribution to the preservation of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific. President Duterte also undertook his first Official Visit to Japan in October to highlight the importance of Japan as a Strategic Partner and to demonstrate the deep and strong friendship between the two countries. Secretary Yasay also met the European Union High Representative and Vice President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini on the sidelines of the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Ulaanbaatar in July.

At the multilateral level, the Philippines emphasized its commitment to an independent foreign policy; called for cooperation to fully realize a drug-free society; highlighted the importance of a rules-based approach in the peaceful resolution of disputes; supported efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism; advocated the promotion and protection of migrant workers; promoted Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises' (MSME) capacity to spur entrepreneurship and boost economic activities, and articulated the Philippines' position on human rights in the context of the country's priorities, experience and history. President Duterte visited several Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-member states, reaffirming the Philippines' commitment to maintain and strengthen close relations with ASEAN partners. President Duterte participated in the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits in Vientiane. In the United Nations, Secretary Yasay led the delegation to the 71st United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) held in New York in September.

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



On economic diplomacy, the DFA led government efforts in the promotion of the Philippines' economic interests through both bilateral and multilateral engagements. In bilateral relations, the Philippines explored partnerships with new and non-traditional trade partners as part of the new administration's policy thrust, while further strengthening existing ties with its traditional partners. In regional cooperation, President Duterte attended the 24th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima where he highlighted his administration's goal to achieve economic growth which benefits all Filipinos, and cited his 0+10-point socio-economic program.

On cultural diplomacy, the DFA in partnership with other government agencies undertook various cultural activities that included music and dance performances of renowned Filipino cultural groups, food festivals, cooking demonstrations, art exhibits, film showings, fashion shows, and Filipino language training.

On public diplomacy, the DFA continued its robust engagement with domestic and international audiences on diverse subjects relevant to the country's foreign policy, including the West Philippine Sea. It published the following resource materials: A Handbook on Philippine Public Diplomacy, Anti-Trafficking in Persons: Issues and Responsibilities, and Bring Them Home. It also expanded the use of online tools in communicating with the public.

On Assistance to Nationals (ATN), the DFA provided help to OFs and pursued advocacies that seek to ensure the protection of migrants, including the fight against human trafficking. The Philippines was upgraded from Tier 2 to Tier 1 in the United States Trafficking in Persons Report. The DFA constantly monitored developments particularly in the Middle East and Africa to ensure minimal impact on OFs. The DFA also exerted efforts to ensure that Filipinos could be spared from capital punishment.

On consular services, the DFA sought to provide efficient, prompt, and responsive consular services to the public. The DFA implemented a new ePassport and online appointment system; issued the new ePassport booklet containing additional security features; transferred the Regional Consular Office (RCO) La Union to La Union Sky Mall; opened the 6th satellite office in the National Capital Region (NCR); and automated the cashiering system for authentication services.

On organizational development and institution building, the DFA undertook a major review of its organizational structure and continued to work towards organizational effectiveness and efficiency. It initiated projects in the areas of accounting, property acquisition and development, physical infrastructure, and quality management. It conducted seminars and courses for DFA personnel and acquired properties in Europe, Asia, and the Americas. It pursued technological upgrade of its communications and financial systems. Third-party auditors recommended that the DFA's authentication services be given ISO 9001:2008 certification.

In the years ahead, during President Duterte's term, the DFA will be guided by the 2017-2022 DFA Strategic Plan, which was prepared and submitted to the President after extensive internal consultations and the conduct of stakeholders' meetings with other government agencies, the academe, and concerned members of the various non-government organizations.

#### MISSION, VISION AND CORE VALUES

#### DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

"The State shall pursue an independent foreign policy. In its relations with other states the paramount consideration shall be national sovereignty, territorial integrity, national interest, and the right to self-determination." (1987 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines)

"The Department shall be the lead agency that shall advise and assist the President in planning, organizing, directing, coordinating and evaluating the total national effort in the field of foreign relations." (Executive Order No. 292, Administrative Code of 1987)

#### **MISSION**

To promote and protect Philippine interests in the global community.

#### **VISION**

A resilient foreign service for a strong Philippines.

#### **CORE VALUES**

**P**atriotism

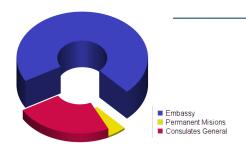
Integrity

Professionalism

Excellence

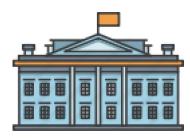
Service

#### The Department of Foreign Affairs at a Glance



#### Total Number of Foreign Service Posts

Embassy	60
Permanent Missions	4
Consulates General	21



#### Management of Government-Owned and Leased Properties Abroad

Properties Owned	64
Properties Leased	113



#### Foreign Service Personnel

Home Office Personnel	1,258
Staff in Regional Consular and Satellite Offices	289
Employees on Foreign Assignment	1,312
Service Attachés	317
Locally-Hired Staff	483
Honorary Consular Officers	181



#### Personnel Distribution by Region

	•	0
Americas		274
Asia-Pacific		423
Europe		380
Middle East and Africa		474

#### **Regional Consular Offices**

Angeles—Marquee Mall, Angeles City

Bacolod—Robinsons Place, Bacolod City

Baguio — SM City, Baguio City

Butuan—Robinsons Place, Butuan City

Cagayan de Oro - Centrio Mall, Cagayan de Oro City

Calasiao—Robinsons Place, Calasiao

Cebu —Pacific Mall, Mandaue City

Cotabato—People's Palace, Cotabato City

Davao — SM City Davao, Davao City

Dumaguete—Robinsons Place, Calidangan

General Santos—Robinsons Place, General Santos City

Iloilo—Robinsons Place, Iloilo City

La Union—Sky Mall, San Fernando

Legazpi — Pacific Mall, Legazpi City

Lipa— Robinsons Place, Lipa City

Lucena — Pacific Mall, Lucena City

Pampanga — Robinsons Starmills, San Fernando

Puerto Princesa—Robinsons Place Palawan, Puerto Princesa City

Tacloban—Leyte SMED Center Capitol, Tacloban City

Tuguegarao—Tuguegarao City

Zamboanga—Zamboanga City

#### **Satellite Offices**

NCR Central—Robinsons Galleria, Quezon City

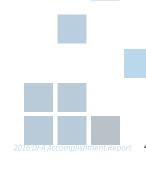
NCR North—Robinsons Mall Novaliches, Quezon City

NCR Northeast—Ali Mall, Quezon City

NCR East—SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City

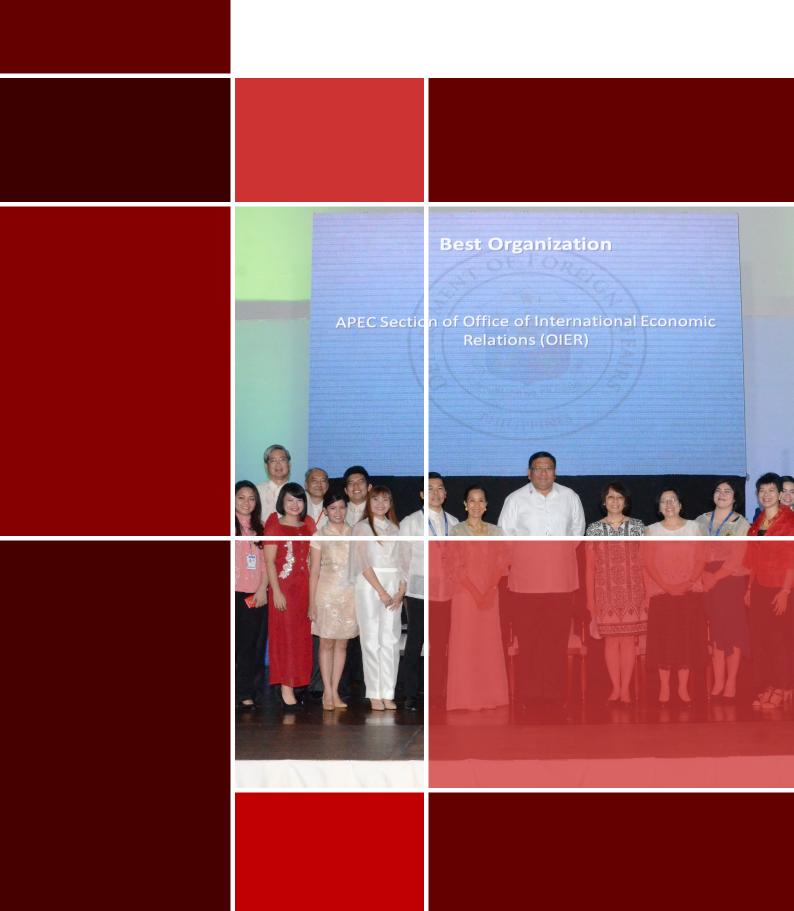
NCR West—SM City, Manila

NCR South—Alabang Town Center, Muntinlupa City





### CHAPTER II: OUTCOMES AND PERFORMANCE





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

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### A. Preservation and Enhancement OF NATIONAL SECURITY

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) coordinates, vets, and supervises the implementation of Philippine foreign policy in the areas of political and security affairs.

In 2016, the DFA continued to actively engage international partners in both bilateral and multilateral for ato promote and protect Philippine national interests. This included the implementation of a post-Arbitration strategy on the West Philippine Sea (WPS), as well as coordination of policy to address maritime issues in accordance with an independent foreign policy that promotes the national interest.

In ASEAN, the DFA actively pursued the Philippines' advocacy on the South China Sea by pushing for the full and effective implementation of the 2002 Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), a document that embodies the collective commitment ASEAN and China promote peace, stability and mutual trust and to ensure the peaceful resolution of disputes in the South China Sea.



President Duterte receives arrival honors after landing at Wattay International Airport, 06 September 2016, Vientiane (Photo Credit: Presidential Photographers Division)

The country's advocacy in ASEAN is complemented by a parallel track of engaging China and other regional stakeholders through various cooperative mechanisms particularly on the maritime front, in pursuit of a harmonious and productive relationship.

The DFA likewise played an important role in facilitating the peace process between the Government of the Philippines and rebel groups MILF, CPP-NPA-NDF, and MNLF through various overseas meetings. The success of the peace process is a vital aspect of the long-term security and development goals of the government.

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



#### KEY ADVOCACIES ON NATIONAL SECURITY

#### National Task Force

The DFA facilitated greater collaboration across the bureaucracy in bolstering the Philippines' maritime interests by providing important inputs to the inter-agency National Task Force on the West Philippine Sea (NTF-WPS), particularly in its capacity as chair of the Political, Security, and Diplomatic Working Group.

The DFA participated in a total of 33 NTF-WPS meetings in 2016. These discussions led to the formulation of policy directions, action plans, and public diplomacy strategies which were submitted to the President.

The Political, Security, and Diplomatic Working Group pursued key actions including the proposed publication of the Philippines' official map, which requires geologic surveys by relevant technical agencies;

## Preservation and Enhancement of National Security

## ADVOCACY FOR A RULES-BASED REGIME IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

the formulation of the preliminary information concerning the outer limits of the Philippine Continental Shelf in the West Palawan Region, which the government aims to submit to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS); further discussion on the development and exploration of Benham Rise; and the streamlining of domestic maritime-related statutes including the possible passage of bills on maritime zones and archipelagic sea lanes.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### Full and Effective Implementation of the DOC and Consultations on a COC



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 SCS. Towards this end, the DFA actively participated in the following:

- (a) ASEAN-China Joint Working Group/Senior Officials' Meeting on the DOC;
- (b) ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF);
- (c)ASEAN Maritime Forum (AMF);
- (d)East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting (EAS-FMM);
- (e) East Asia Summit (EAS);
- (f)United Nations General Assembly (UNGA);
- (g) Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM).

The 16th ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea was held from 09 to 11 March 2016 in Makati City. It reviewed the implementation of the DOC and continued the consultations on a Code of Conduct (COC).

Philippines The that expressed arbitration is peaceful, transparent

The ASEAN-China Joint Working Group on the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (JWG on DOC) doing the traditional ASEAN Way pose, 09 March 2016, Makati City (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

and rules-based process in accordance with international law, including the ASEAN Charter and the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC); (b) arbitration is not inconsistent with the DOC because prior to submitting the case to the Arbitral Tribunal, the Philippines had exhausted all means to settle the disputes with China through bilateral consultation and negotiations; and (c) called on all parties to uphold the legally binding ruling of the Arbitral Tribunal which would be instrumental in clarifying the maritime entitlements of features in the SCS.

On the COC, the Philippines proposed clustering all issues in the format of the COC outline/structure to facilitate systematic discussion.

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



#### **Arbitration Ruling**

On 12 July 2016, the Philippines welcomed the issuance of the award by the Arbitral Tribunal constituted by the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) under Annex VII of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on the arbitration proceedings initiated by the Philippines with regard to the WPS/SCS. The Arbitral Tribunal's decision which upholds international law, particularly the 1982 UNCLOS, clarified the maritime entitlements of the Philippines and China in the WPS/SCS and favored the submissions of the Philippines.

## PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY

#### PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION

Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ The Hague, The Netherlands

Telephone: +31 70 302 4165 Facsimile: +31 70 302 4167 E-mail: bureau@pca-cpa.org Website: www.pca-cpa.org

## ADVOCACY FOR A RULES-BASED REGIME IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

The Philippines called on all those concerned to exercise restraint and sobriety and strongly affirmed its respect for this milestone decision as an important contribution to ongoing efforts in addressing disputes in the SCS. The Philippines reiterated its abiding commitment to efforts to pursue the peaceful resolution and management of disputes with a view to promoting and enhancing peace and stability in the region.



#### **COUR PERMANENTE D'ARBITRAGE**

Palais de la Paix, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ La Haye, Pays-Bas

Téléphone: +31 70 302 4165 Télécopie: +31 70 302 4167 Courriel: bureau@pca-cpa.org Site Internet: www.pca-cpa.org

#### PRESS RELEASE

THE SOUTH CHINA SEA ARBITRATION
(THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES V. THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA)

The Hague, 12 July 2016

#### The Tribunal Renders Its Award

A unanimous <u>Award</u> has been issued today by the Tribunal constituted under <u>Annex VII</u> to the <u>United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea</u> (the "Convention") in the arbitration instituted by the Republic of the Philippines against the People's Republic of China.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### **STRENGTHENING MARITIME COOPERATION**



#### 8th ASEAN Regional Forum **Inter-Sessional Meeting** on Maritime Security

The 8th ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime Security, co-chaired by the Philippines, US, and Japan, was held from 06 to 07 April 2016 in Makati City. During the Forum, the Philippines underlined its commitment to pursue regional efforts to build a rules-based maritime security architecture in Asia.

The Philippines also reaffirmed its commitment to the full and effective implementation of the DOC and the early conclusion of a COC.

Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo delivers his speech during the 8th ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Maritime co-chaired by Security, Philippines, U.S., and Japan, 06 April 2016, Makati City (Photo DFA-OPD)

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote a Stable Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### **STRENGTHENING MARITIME COOPERATION**

9th Meeting of the Joint Permanent Working Group on Maritime and Ocean Concerns

The DFA organized the 9th Meeting of the Joint Permanent Working Group on Maritime and Ocean Concerns between the Philippines and Indonesia from 08 to 09 June 2016 in Makati City.

The Meeting discussed three major topics, namely: (a) the Post-Maritime Boundary Delimitation, (b) maritime cooperation, and (c) marine and fisheries cooperation. The benefits gained from this initiative are the strengthening of maritime capability of the Philippines and a united approach on maritime concerns.



The DFA, led by Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo, organized the 9th Meeting of the Joint Permanent Working Group on Maritime and Ocean Concerns between the Philippines and Indonesia, 09 June 2016, Makati City (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### 2<sup>nd</sup> East Asia Summit Conference on Maritime Security and Cooperation

The DFA participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> East Asia Summit (EAS) Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation held in Goa, India from 02 to 05 November 2016. The participants welcomed the holding of the conference as a timely initiative and an opportunity to generate further knowledge on challenges to maritime security and mitigating measures.

The participants shared national experiences and approaches on dealing with maritime safety, including piracy and maritime security and cooperation, and reaffirmed the need to promote and maintain peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.



Participants at the Workshop on Maritime Concerns, 09 December 2016, Tagaytay City (Photo Credit: DFA-MOAO)

#### Workshop on Maritime Concerns

The DFA organized the Workshop on Maritime Concerns from 08 to 09 December 2016 in Tagaytay City. The workshop included four (4) focus group discussions that facilitated the participants' understanding of the arbitral award on the WPS/SCS case and the consideration of possible policy and operational recommendations in line with the President's directives and Philippine interests.

#### East Asia Summit Seminar on Maritime Security and Cooperation

The DFA participated in the East Asia Summit Seminar on Maritime Security and Cooperation held in Sydney, Australia from 22 to 25 November 2016. The objective of the Seminar was to enhance understanding of the use of commercial vessel information to improve regional and domestic maritime security in all-hazards environment.

The seminar noted the existing efforts of countries within ASEAN and around the region to develop national coordinative mechanisms to enhance maritime security. It also noted the importance of sea-borne trade in the region and how regional maritime security is being threatened by piracy and armed robbery at sea, pollution, marine natural disasters, and illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

> Preservation and ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### MOU between the Philippines and China on the Establishment of a Joint Coast Guard Committee on Maritime Cooperation

The DFA led the drafting and coordination for the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Philippines and China on the Establishment of a Joint Coast Guard Committee on Maritime Cooperation, which eventually resulted in the signing of the agreement during President Duterte's State Visit to China from 18 to 21 October 2016.

The first organizational meeting between the Philippine Coastguard (PCG) and the China Coast Guard was held from 15 to 16 December 2016 in Manila, to discuss the establishment of the Joint Coastguard Committee (JCGC).

Salient points of discussions included: (a) exchanges of personnel at different levels of the respective coast guards; (b) trainings and exchange of visits; (c) increased information sharing; and (d) interim hotline communications mechanism. The JCGC was established to strengthen mutual trust, deepen confidence, intensify communication and exchange, and

enhance friendly cooperation based on equality, reciprocity and common agreement consensus, and consider possible arrangement between participants accordance with universally recognized principles of international law and international conventions to which the Philippines and China are State Parties.

#### **STRENGTHENING MARITIME COOPERATION**



The DFA, together with the Philippine Coast Guard, organized the First Organizational Meeting for the Establishment of the Joint Coast Guard Committee on Maritime Cooperation, 17 December 2016, Manila (Photo Credit: Philippine Coast Guard)

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### **GPH-MILF**

Secretary Yasay attended formal launch of the Implementing Panels of the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which took place in Kuala Lumpur on 13 August 2016.

The formal launch was spurred by President Duterte's approval of the six-point Peace and Development Agenda and the Bangsamoro Peace and Development Roadmap. The Peace and Development Agenda includes the continuity of the GPH -MILF Peace Process through the implementation of the Compre-Agreement hensive on the Bangsamoro (CAB).

Prior to the event, the DFA arranged briefings by OPAPP for the relevant diplomatic missions, international organizations, other partners on the peace process.

Preservation and ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY

#### **SUPPORT** FOR THE **PEACE PROCESS**



President Duterte together with Peace Panel Chair Mohagher Iqbal, Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza, MILF Chairman Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, and GPH Peace Implementing Panel Chair Irene Santiago after the signing of the Executive Order reconstituting the Bangsamoro Transition Commission in Malacañang, 07 November 2016. (Photo Credit: Karl Norman Alonzo/Presidential Photo)

The launch marked the transition from the negotiation phase to the implementation phase of the peace process between the GPH and the MILF. The parties recognized the importance of building on the gains of the peace process and committed to ensure the implementation of the signed agreements, including, the deliverables under Program the Normalization.

On 07 November 2016, President Duterte signed the Executive Order reconstituting the Bangsamaoro Transition Commission in Malacañang.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### **GPH-MNLF**

The Philippine Government and the MNLF concluded the 5th and final Tripartite Review Process (TRP) on 26 January 2016 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The TRP was a response to contentions between the parties on the implementation of Phase II of the Final Peace Agreement. With the achievement of this milestone, the conclusion of the TRP paved the way for the start of the operations of the Bangsamoro Development Assistance Fund (BDAF) as well as arrived at a consensus to organize the Tripartite Implementation Monitoring Committee.

Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Concerns Rafael E. Seguis and Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Quintos-Deles with the OPAPP team and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) conclude the 5th and final TRP, 26 January 2016, Jeddah (Photo Credit: opapp.gov.ph)

#### **SUPPORT** FOR THE **PEACE PROCESS**

The DFA hosted a series of briefings by OPAPP for international partners, stakeholders and partners in the peace process on the completion of the TRP. During these events, the GPH requested support from the international community which was positively received by the international stakeholders.



FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth





President Duterte presides over the meeting of the GPH and the NDF peace panels held in Malacañana State Dining Room, 26 September 2016, Manila (Photo Credit: Presidential Photographers Division)

#### **GPH-CNN**

#### Preservation and ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY

The Duterte Administration sought to forge a political settlement anchored on sweeping social, economic, and political reforms that were deemed crucial in ending Asia's longest running insurgency.

The DFA facilitated the interface between the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) and international partners and stakeholders, which led to the holding of formal talks between the GPH and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), New People's Army (NPA), National Democratic Front (NDF) or CNN on 22 August 2016 in Oslo. Upon the request of OPAPP, the DFA also extended assistance to members of the CNN in securing the required documents for travel to Oslo.

The talks reaffirmed all previously signed agreements between the GPH and the National Democratic Front (NDF), which were started by The Hague Joint Declaration in 1992 and succeeded by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees in 1996 and the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law in 1998.

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote a Stable Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### **ADDRESSING NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY THREATS**

#### Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

The DFA led the Philippine International Humanitarian Assistance Cluster in continuing the discussions and the drafting of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Memorandum Circular on the Enhanced Policy Guidelines on the Philippine International Humanitarian Assistance. The Memorandum Circular, which was undergoing final review by concerned agencies, was primarily aimed at providing coordination guidelines between various agencies involved in international humanitarian assistance.

Preservation and ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY

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



#### **DEEPENING OF BILATERAL PARTNERSHIPS**

#### POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS

		TOETTE COLUDE ELITATION
AMERICAS		
Political Consultations	Date and Venue	Highlights
6th Philippines-US Bilateral Strategic Dialogue  Head of Delegation: Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert F. del Rosario  Co-Head of Delegation: Secretary of National Defense Voltaire T. Gazmin	16-18 March Washington DC, USA	Both sides announced that five Armed Forces of the Philippines bases, which are the agreed locations for the implementation of the Philippines-US Agreement on Enhanced Defense Cooperation (EDCA), will be developed. The United States also informed the Philippines of its intention to propose to the US Congress that a significant amount under the FY 2016 Southeast Asia Maritime Security Initiative (MSI) be allocated to the Philippines for mutually-agreed projects that support the country's maritime security priorities. Of the USD 50 million MSI FY 2016, USD 42 million was allocated for maritime security initiatives for the Philippines.  The BSD also discussed economic cooperation particulary the conclusion of the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Philippine Compact, a 5-year USD 434 million poverty reduction program, progress of the Second Compact development, and ongoing programs under the US Agency for International Development (USAID).
2 <sup>nd</sup> Philippines-Colombia Bilateral Consultation Mechanism  Head of Delegation: Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo	09 November Manila, Philippines	The two sides discussed deepening collaboration in security and peace-building, trade and investment, education, culture, sports, climate change, and other mutually-beneficial areas. Undersecretary Manalo assured Colombia of the Philippines' strong and continuing support for the Colombian Peace Agreement with the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia. Colombia offered to share best practices with Philippine authorities on counter-terrorism, and in combating kidnapping and drug syndicates. Both sides assured each other of continuing support in the multilateral fora, specifically in candidatures in the UN, projects under the ambit of the Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC), and initiatives in the APEC-Pacific Alliance and ASEAN-Pacific Alliance dialogues.

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



#### **ASIA PACIFIC**

Political Consultations	Date and Venue	Highlights
3rd Philippines-Australia Strategic Dialogue  Head of Delegation: Undersecretary for Policy Evan P. Garcia	09 March Canberra, Australia	The Strategic Dialogue was the first high-level meeting between the two countries following the signing of the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership in November 2015.  The two sides discussed the recent developments in the SCS/WPS. The Philippine side also pointed out that middle powers like Australia should play an active role in shaping the region's architecture. The two sides reviewed bilateral relations and discussed defense priorities, regional strategic issues, regional security architecture, transnational and emerging crime, and United Nations priorities.  On the sidelines of the Strategic Dialogue, Undersecretary Garcia also had discussions on the overall bilateral relations and, in particular, the Philippines' position on the SCS/WPS with officials of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), and think tanks in Sydney.
6th Philippines-Republic of Korea Bilateral Policy Consultation Meeting  Head of Delegation: Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo	27-29 October Seoul, Republic of Korea	The two sides discussed ways to strengthen and develop Philippines-Korea bilateral relations in the areas of trade and investments, security and defense, agriculture, consular matters, and people-to-people exchanges. The Philippines advocated further cooperation in rural development and agriculture, and other possible areas of support for Korean Official Development Assistance.
1st Philippines-Sri Lanka Political Consultations  Head of Delegation: Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo	21 November Colombo, Sri Lanka	The consultations were held to discuss further cooperation on various fields, such as defense and security, education, culture, tourism, agriculture, and migrant workers' rights.

Preservation and ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### **EUROPE**

Political Consultations	Date and Venue	Highlights
3rd Philippines-Turkey Political Consultations  Head of Delegation: Assistant Secretary for European Affairs Maria Cleofe Natividad	29 February Ankara, Turkey	The two sides discussed bilateral trade, status of pending bilateral agreements in the fields of defense and military cooperation including visits by Turkish Navy vessels to the Philippines, transnational crime, agriculture, tourism, education, maritime cooperation, development cooperation, agreement on mutual administrative assistance in customs matters, energy, culture, and consular matters.  Both sides agreed to elevate bilateral relations and increase high-level exchanges
7th Round of Political Consultations between the Philippines and the Swiss Confederation  Head of Delegation: Undersecretary for Policy Evan P. Garcia	01-05 March Berne, Switzerland	The consultations covered bilateral aspects of the Philippines' development cooperation, expansion of trade relations with Switzerland, and other issues of mutual concern and interest. The two sides signed a Memorandum of Agreement on the Recognition of Certificates under the terms of the 1978 International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) on the sidelines of the consultations.
4th Philippines-Poland Political Consultations  Head of Delegation: Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo	10 October Manila, Philippines	The two sides discussed ways to strengthen and develop bilateral relations in the context of existing defense and educational cooperation, expanding trade and investments, and increasing socio-cultural exchanges.
6th Philippines-United Kingdom High-Level Meeting  Head of Delegation: Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo	08 November Manila, Philippines	Both sides discussed a wide range of issues affecting bilateral relations including political-security, economic, socio-cultural and consular cooperation. The two delegations also exchanged views on regional and global issues such as the South China Sea, Brexit, and ASEAN.
3rd Philippines-Norway Political Consultations  Assistant Secretary for European Affairs Maria Cleofe Natividad	24 November Manila, Philippines	Both sides discussed bilateral issues and current regional and multilateral issues of common concern.  The consultations coincided with the visit to the Philippines of Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Børge Brende.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### MIDDLE EAST **AND AFRICA**

Political Consultations	Date and Venue	Highlights
2 <sup>nd</sup> Philippines – Oman Joint	02-03 February	The two sides exchanged views on economic diversification of Oman as
Bilateral Consultation Meeting	Muscat, Oman	well as prospects for Philippine agricultural exports, and cooperation in
		the Philippines' business process outsourcing and medical tourism
Head of Delegation:		industries.
Undersecretary for Policy		
Evan P. Garcia		Regional issues covered developments in the Saudi-Iran row and the
		Philippine arbitration case against China. Multilateral issues focused on
		candidatures in various UN bodies and possible reciprocal arrangements.
		National Commission for culture and the Arts (NCCA) Chairman Felipe de Leon and Sheikh Hamad bin Hilal Al- Ma'amari of the Omani Ministry of Culture and Heritage signed the Philippines-Oman MOU on Cultural Cooperation on the sidelines of the meeting.  The meeting coincided with the celebration of the 35th diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Oman.

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote a Stable Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### HIGH LEVEL BILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS **AMERICAS**

#### Canada

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship of Canada John McCallum visited the Philippines from 10 to 13 August 2016. He called on Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo and Labor and Employment Secretary Silvestre Bello III to convey his assurances that Canada would continue to welcome visitors from the Philippines and work to streamline Canada's immigration policies and procedures accordingly.







From 26 to 28 May 2016, British Columbia Premier Christy Clark led a working visit to the Philippines to launch the British Columbia Trade and Investment Relations Office (BC-TIR), the first such office located in ASEAN. The office aims to promote stronger trade and investment relations between the Philippines and the Canadian province of British Columbia.

#### Preservation and ENHANCEMENT OF National Security

British Premier Christy Clark marches towards the Jose Rizal Monument at Rizal Park, 26 May 2016, Manila (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)



FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### **United States**



Secretary Yasay and US Secretary of State John Kerry hold a joint press conference at the DFA, 27 July 2016, Pasay City (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

President Duterte received US Secretary of State John F. Kerry on 27 July 2016 and the US congressional delegation led by US Senators Brian Schatz and Chris Murphy on 19 July 2016 in Manila. The President underscored the strength of the Philippines-US alliance and its contribution to the preservation of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific. In turn, Secretary Kerry assured the President of the US' commitment to the alliance and the security of the Philippines.

Other US officials who visited the Philippines include Counselor of the State Department Ambassador Kristie Kenney, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Joseph Dunford, Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James, and other senior officials.

From 10 to 12 August 2016, the DFA the Mutual Defense participated in Board-Security Engagement Board (MDB-SEB) Executive Committee Meeting held in Hawaii. The meeting identified bilateral activities to be implemented in 2017 and finalized several documents that would facilitate cooperation in areas such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, maritime security, civil-military and operations.

From 15 to 16 September 2016, Secretary Yasay attended the Our Ocean Conference in Washington, D.C. upon the invitation of US Secretary of State John Kerry. The Philippine delegation announced commitment to undertake activities to better combat illegal fishing in partnership with the US.

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote a Stable Security Environment and Economic Growth





During his visit, Secretary Yasay met Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chair Corker and Ranking Member Ben Cardin, Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken, National Security Council Senior Director for Asia Daniel Kritenbrink, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Russel, and Millennium Challenge Corporation Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Dana Hyde.

#### Preservation and Enhancement of NATIONAL SECURITY

policy speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, 15 September 2016, Washington, D.C. Credit: Philippine Embassy, Washington, D.C.)

The Secretary also delivered a policy speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, met members of the US-Philippines Society, and addressed the Filipino community in Washington, D.C. and New York.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



Before President Duterte assumed office, there had also been high-level engagements between the Philippines and the US in the first half of 2016. On 12 January 2016, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del F. Rosario and Secretary of National Defense Voltaire T. Gazmin met with US Secretary of State John Kerry and Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter for the 2nd 2+2 Ministerial Meeting. During the meeting, the Philippines and the United States reaffirmed the 2012 Common Strategic Objectives of the Alliance and also agreed to strengthen bilateral engagement in cooperative security assistance programs, capacity-building for defense, counter-terrorism, maritime law enforcement, and enhancing economic relations.

From 16 to 17 February 2016, President Aquino undertook a working visit to Los Angeles, California, in conjunction with his participation in the Special ASEAN-US Summit in Sunnylands, California. The President met with executives of Disney International, Western

Corporation, Enterprise Growth Solutions AECOM, and members of the Filipino community. The President was conferred with an honorary degree Doctor of Humane Letters by the Loyola Marymount University. He also spoke at the Los Angeles World Affairs Council.

From 13 to 16 April 2016, US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter visited the Philippines. Secretary Carter called on President Aquino and met with Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras and Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin. He attended the closing ceremony of Balikatan 2016 and visited Antonio Bautista Airbase in Palawan. Secretary Carter reiterated President Obama's statement that America's commitment to the Philippines is ironclad.

> Preservation and ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY



President Aquino receives US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter, 13 April 2016, Manila. (Photo Credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)

President Aquino delivers his message at the World Affairs Council, 16-17 February 2016, Los Angeles. (Photo Credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

#### Brunei Darussalam

President Duterte undertook a State Visit to Brunei Darussalam from 16 to 18 October 2016. President Duterte and Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan, discussed general bilateral relations and international issues, including enhancing political cooperation and bilateral mechanisms; cooperation in maritime security and defense, and sharing of information in combating piracy; cooperation on combating illegal drugs; the contribution of Overseas Filipinos (OFs) in Brunei's economic development and strengthening cooperation

within the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines East **ASEAN** Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). The President thanked Brunei for its continuing support for the peace process in Mindanao and its role in the International Monitoring Team (IMT) and the Independent Decommissioning Body (IDB). Sultan Bolkiah hosted a state banquet in honor of the President at Istana Nurul Iman.

> President Duterte shakes hands with Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, 16 October 2016, Bandar Seri Begawan (Photo Credit: Richard Madelo/Presidential Photo)



President Duterte with King Norodom Sihamoni during his State Visit to Cambodia, 13 December 2016, Phnom Penh (Photo Credit: PCOO)

#### Cambodia

President Duterte undertook a State Visit to Cambodia from 13 to 14 December 2016. He had a royal audience with King Norodom Sihamoni, who hosted a state banquet in the President's honor.

President Duterte and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen held a bilateral meeting where they discussed defense and security relations, bilateral trade, protection of Filipino and Cambodian migrant workers, and cultural and tourism cooperation. The leaders also talked about the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship in 2017, which coincides with the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of Philippines-Cambodia diplomatic relations.

The President and Prime Minister Hun Sen witnessed the signing of four (4) agreements on transnational crime, labor, sports, and tourism. President Duterte capped his State Visit with a meeting with Filipinos in Cambodia.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### China

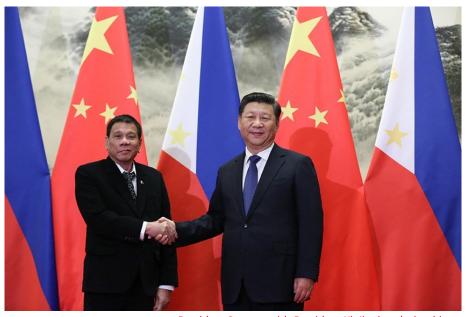
From 18 to 21 October 2016, President Duterte undertook a State Visit to China. The State Visit enhanced and moved political-security, economic, cultural, and people-to-people relations forward. The President met with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang, Chairman Zhang Dejiang of the National People's Congress, and Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli, who are all members of the Chinese Politburo Standing Committee.

Both sides discussed ways to enhance relations in the following areas: trade and investment,

tourism, agriculture, the campaign against drugs, science and technology, countering terrorism and violent extremism, coast guard cooperation, renewal of the Five-Year Development Program, Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), media cooperation, and party-to-party cooperation.

The Philippines-China Joint Statement outlined the possible future areas of cooperation reaffirming centuries-old friendship and the principles contained in the 1975 Joint Communiqué.

The President witnessed the signing of 13 government-to-government MOUs to institutionalize cooperation between the Philippines and China.



President Duterte with President Xi Jinping during his State Visit to China, 18 October 2016, Beijing (Photo Credit: Presidential Photographers Division)

The President also met the business and Filipino communities.

On 19 November 2016, President Duterte had a bilateral meeting with President Xi Jinping at the sidelines of the 24th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima. President Duterte reiterated the commitment to work towards implementing the various MOUs signed during his State Visit in October. Both sides discussed functional cooperation following the visit, and exchanged ideas on regional and international issues.

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote a Stable Security Environment and Economic Growth

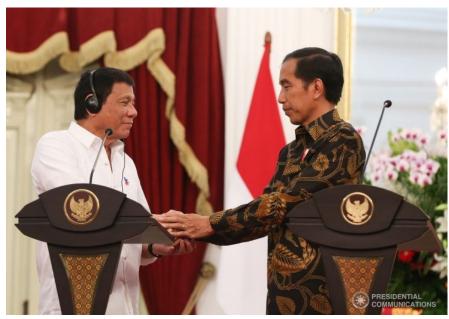




President Duterte's first State Visit was to Indonesia. During his visit from 08 to 09 September 2016, the President called on President Joko Widodo, and discussed pressing issues on Philippines-Indonesia bilateral relations, such as maritime cooperation, security issues on the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas, the Philippines' war on drugs, the case of Filipino national Mary Jane Veloso, and the Philippines' Chairship of ASEAN in 2017. The President also met some 10,000 members of the Filipino community, who are significant contributors to the economy of Indonesia.

President Duterte and President Widodo signed the Joint Declaration on Cooperation to Ensure Maritime Security in the Sulu Sea.

President Duterte with President Joko Widodo during his State Visit to Indonesia, 08 September 2016, Jakarta (Photo Credit: Presidential Photographers Division)



Preservation and Enhancement of National Security

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote a Stable Security Environment and Economic Growth

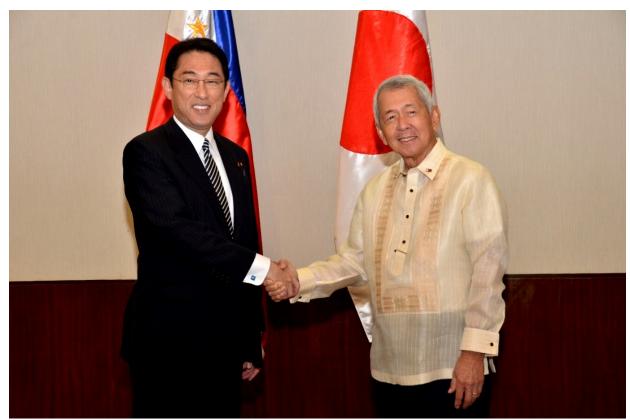




President Duterte and Secretary Yasay received Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida in Davao City on 11 August 2016.

During the call of Foreign Minister Kishida, President Duterte raised the possibility of expanding Japan's support for peacekeeping and law enforcement through the provision of additional units of patrol craft fast to the Philippine Coast Guard. Foreign Minister Kishida brought this message to Tokyo; and during the President's Official Visit to Japan in October 2016, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged to provide these patrol boats through grant aid.

Preservation and Enhancement of National Security



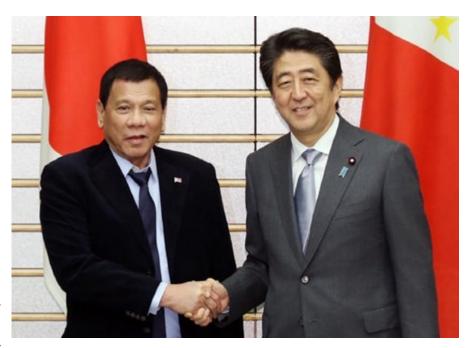
Secretary Yasay receives Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida. 11 August 2016, Davao City (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



President Duterte undertook his first Official Visit to Japan from 25 to 27 October 2016 to highlight importance of Japan as a Strategic Partner and demonstrate the deep and strong foundations of friendship between the two countries. The visit highlighted the celebration of 60 years of fruitful and cordial relations with Japan. Several agreements were signed during the Official Visit to Japan.

> President Duterte with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during his Official Visit to Japan, 25 October 2016, Tokyo (Photo Credit: Radio TV Malacañang (RTVM)/ Malacañang Photo Bureau (MPB))



From 26 to 30 January 2016, President Aquino welcomed the Emperor and Empress of Japan on a State Visit to the Philippines. The State Visit was a major highlight and a fitting start to the 60th Anniversary of the

> establishment of diplomatic relations of the Philippines and Japan.

> As of September 2016, Japan, through the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), had the largest share in the total Official Development Assistance (ODA) portfolio at USD 5.81 billion or 35.95%. Japan was also the

biggest source of ODA loans, accounting for USD Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of 5.67 billion or 43.81% of the total loans portfolio. JICA's grant assistance accounted for USD 140.86 million or 4.37% of the total grants portfolio in the form of experts, equipment supply, and studies.



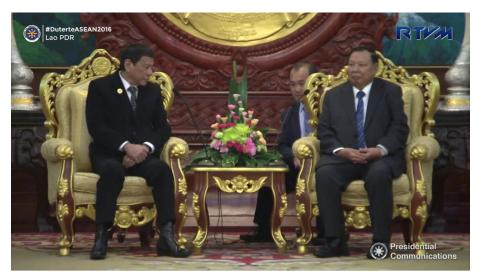
President Aquino exchanges views with Japan during the courtesy call, 27 January 2016, Manila (Photo Credit: Gil Nartea/ Malacañang Photo Bureau)

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





#### Lao PDR



President Duterte during his courtesy call on Lao President Bounnhang Vorachit, 06 September 2016, Vientiane (Photo Credit: PCOO) President Duterte paid courtesy calls on President Bounnhang Vorachit and Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith from 06 to 07 September 2016 on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit in Vientiane.

During the President's calls, Lao officials assured the Philippines of Laos' continued support for the Philippine Chairship of ASEAN; welcomed the President's intent to send a business delegation to Laos;

and noted the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of relations in 2015 and the positive presence of Filipinos in Laos. President Duterte looked forward to the enhancement of bilateral relations particularly on education and trade.

Around 600 members of the Filipino community met President Duterte.

Earlier in the year, Secretary Jose Rene Almendras undertook an introductory visit to Laos on 19 April 2016. Secretary Almendras called on Foreign Minister Thongloun Sisoulith.

Preservation and Enhancement of National Security

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### Malaysia

President Duterte conducted a visit to Malaysia from 09 to 10 November 2016. Some 2,000 members of the Filipino community welcomed President Duterte upon his arrival in Kuala Lumpur.



President Duterte with Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak during his visit to Malaysia, 10 November 2016, Kuala Lumpur (Photo Credit: Presidential Photographers Division)

During President Duterte's bilateral talks with Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak, the leaders discussed the promotion of two-way trade and investments, the peace process in Southern Philippines, piracy and other transnational crimes, and the Philippines' Chairship of ASEAN in 2017.

The National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) and the Research Department of the Prime Ministers' Office signed the Exchange of Notes on Establishing a Framework for Cooperation in the Exchange of Intelligence.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### New Zealand



President Duterte during a courtesy call by Foreign Minister Murray McCully, 22 November 2016, Auckland (Photo Credit: Presidential Photographers Division)

From 22 to 23 November 2016, President Duterte visited Auckland after the APEC Economic Leaders' Summit in Lima. During Foreign Minister Murray McCully's call on the President. President Duterte recalled his meeting with Prime Minister John Key in September 2016. President Duterte expressed sympathy for the victims of the earthquake that struck the South Island that same month. They discussed bilateral issues in the areas of agriculture, air services, countering terrorism, the Philippines' ASEAN Chairship, and ways to strengthen trade and investment in the dairy industry, e-services, and energy.

# Singapore

President Duterte made a State Visit to Singapore from 15 to 16 December 2016 at the invitation of President Tony Tan Keng Yam. President Duterte and President Tan exchanged Philippines-Singapore President Duterte also met Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

meetings with Singapore's business In community, President Duterte shared the many developments and reforms in the Philippines especially in the key growth sectors of energy and infrastructure, encouraged Singaporean business leaders to invest in the Philippines, and assured them that his campaign against drugs and criminality has made the country safer.

In a ceremony at the Singapore Botanic Gardens, the President was presented with an orchid that was named "Dendrobium Rodrigo Roa Duterte" in his honor.

President Duterte during his visit to Singapore at the invitation of President Tony Tan Keng Yam, 15-16 December 2016, Singapore (Photo Credit: Presidential Photographers Division)



Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote a Stable Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### South Korea

On 28 April 2016, Secretary Almendras and Ambassador Kim Jae-shin signed the Arrangement for a PHP 4.859 billion loan for the Panguil Bay Bridge Project of the Department of Public Works and Highways.



Secretary Almendras Ambassador Kim Jae-shin after signing the arrangement for the Panguil Bay Bridge Project, 28 April 2016, Manila (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

The Project involves the construction of a bridge across Panguil Bay connecting Tangub City, Misamis Occidental and Tubod, Lanao del Norte. The Project aims to accelerate and sustain economic growth in the Northern and Western Mindanao regions, and provide a more reliable and efficient transport infrastructure to aid in the flow of goods and services, reduce transportation costs, and spur growth of commerce and industry.

Preservation and Enhancement of NATIONAL SECURITY

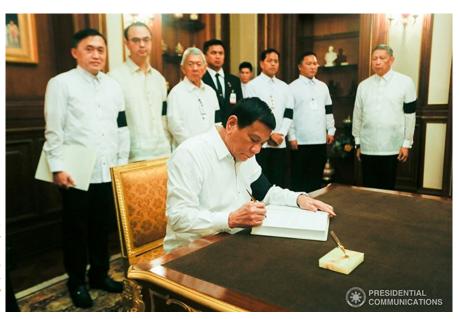
FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### **Thailand**

President Duterte went to Bangkok on 09 November 2016 to personally pay his respects to the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who passed away on 13 October 2016.

> President Duterte signs the book of condolences for the family of the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej, 09 November 2016, Bangkok (Photo Credit: Presidential Photographers Division)





President Duterte concluded an Official Visit to Viet Nam from 28 to 29 September 2016 where he met President Tran Dai Quang. The leaders discussed maritime cooperation, enhancement of law enforcement, and the strengthening of joint economic and cultural activities. They also set the direction and activities to be pursued in line with the vision of the Joint Statement on the Establishment of a Strategic Partnership.



President Duterte with President Tran Dai Quang during his Official Visit to Vietnam, 28 September 2016, Hanoi (Photo Credit: King Rodriguez)

President Duterte met Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and General Secretary of the Communist Party of Viet Nam Nguyen Phu Trong. The President also received representatives from the Philippine and Vietnamese business sectors and the Filipino community in Viet Nam.

The President's trip added significance to the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Viet Nam.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



## EUROPE

# Preservation and Enhancement of NATIONAL SECURITY

## Hungary

Secretary Yasay met Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó on the sidelines of the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to explore ways to advance bilateral cooperation. Secretary Yasay invited Minister Szijjártó to visit the Philippines and re-open the Hungarian Embassy in Manila.

The ministers also discussed strengthening bilateral trade relations through the early conclusion of an economic cooperation agreement and the signing of the Philippines-European Union Free Trade Agreement, and increasing people-to-people exchanges especially among the youth of the two countries.



Secretary Yasay with Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijiártó on the sidelines of the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly, 13 September 2016, New York (Photo Credit: Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York)

#### Ireland

Secretary Yasay met Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Charles Flanagan on the sidelines of the 71st Session of the UNGA in New York on 22 September 2016. They adopted the Joint Statement on a Framework for Bilateral Cooperation, a document which would serve as a guide for moving bilateral cooperation forward. The document covers possible areas for engagement in political, economic, consular, and cultural cooperation.

#### Italy

During their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 71st Session of the UNGA in New York on 20 September 2016, Secretary Yasay and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Paolo Gentiloni underlined the long-standing friendly relations between the Philippines and Italy, with 2017 ushering in the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. They also discussed the possibility of a visit by the Foreign Minister to the Philippines, with cooperation agreements in the fields of political, defense and labor to be signed.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth





#### President Aquino and Prince Albert II witness the signing of the Philippines-Monaco Framework Agreement on Cooperation by Secretary Almendras and Foreign Minister, Gilles Tonelli, 07 April 2016, Manila (Photo Credit: Malacañang Photo Bureau)

#### Monaco

President Aquino welcomed Prince Albert II during the latter's Official Visit from 06 to 07 April 2016. After their tête-a-tête and an expanded bilateral meeting, both leaders witnessed the signing of the Philippines-Monaco Framework Agreement on Cooperation by Secretary Almendras and Foreign Minister Gilles Tonelli. The agreement involves economic, scientific, environmental, humanitarian and, disaster risk reduction and management partnership.

## Norway

Secretary Yasay met Foreign Minister Børge Brende on the sidelines of the 49th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) in Vientiane on 25 July 2016. During the bilateral meeting, Secretary Yasay expressed his appreciation to Norway for assisting in the peace process with the MILF, and CPP/NPA/NDF. Foreign Minister Brende reaffirmed Norway's continued support for the Philippine government's efforts towards the attainment of a just and lasting peace in the

country. Since 2001, Norway has played a significant role as third party facilitator in the peace talks between the Philippine government and the CPP/ NPA/ NDF.

Secretary Yasay and Foreign Minister Brende also discussed the long tradition of bilateral cooperation in the maritime sector where the Philippines and Norway have complementary competencies and resources.

Secretary Yasay again met Foreign Minister Brende on the sidelines of the 71st Session of the UNGA in

New York on 23 September 2016. During the meeting, Foreign Minister Brende conveyed his appreciation for the efforts exerted by the Philippine government, most notably President Duterte and Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza, in securing the safe release of Mr. Kjartan Sekkingstad, a Norwegian national held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf Group.



Børge Brende on the sidelines of the 49th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 25 July 2016, Vientiane (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### Russia

On 08 September 2016, President Duterte and Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit in Vientiane. The Leaders discussed ways to enhance bilateral relations in the fields of trade and investment, cooperation in combating illegal drugs, and cultural and educational cooperation.

On 19 November 2016, President Duterte held a bilateral meeting with

President Vladimir Putin on the margins of the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting in Lima. Noting that 2016 marks the 40th Anniversary of the establishment of Philippines-Russia diplomatic relations, the leaders agreed to reinvigorate bilateral relations, based on mutual respect and equal partnership. In



President Duterte with Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on the margins of the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting, 19 November 2016, *Lima (Photo Credit: PCOO)* 



President Duterte with Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit, 08 September 2016, Vientiane (Photo Credit: Radio TV Malacañang)

particular, the leaders agreed to enhance cooperation in energy, culture and education, ICT, tourism,

infrastructure development, transportation, agriculture, defense and security, and inter-parliamentary relations. President Putin also invited President Duterte to visit Russia.

On 05 December 2016, Secretary Yasay met Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in Moscow to initiate arrangements for the President's visit to Russia. The foreign ministers discussed the current state of bilateral relations and prospects to enhance political, security, economic, cultural and people-to-people cooperation.

Secretary Yasay and Foreign Minister Lavrov agreed to redouble efforts to conclude a number of agreements that would form part of the legal framework on which to build relations.

Secretary Yasay with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, 05 December 2016, Moscow (Photo Credit: Philippine Embassy, Moscow)

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





Secretary Yasay with Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Ignacio Ybañez Rubio, 25 November 2016, Davao City (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

# Spain

On 25 November 2016, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Ignacio Ybañez Rubio paid a courtesy call on Secretary Yasay in Davao City.

Secretary Ybañez expressed Spain's readiness to host the next political consultations on topics including economy and finance, air services and social security. He also reaffirmed Spain's support for the government's peace

efforts and highlighted Spain's ongoing projects in the country that contribute to the socio-economic growth of poverty-stricken areas affected by armed conflicts.

Secretary Yasay noted that 2017 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Spain, and the Philippines' long-standing and deep ties with Spain.

The officials also discussed the agenda of the 8th Philippines-Spain Tribuna. The Tribuna, established in 2005, is a multi-sectoral dialogue between Philippine and Spanish officials to strengthen bilateral partnerships. Finance Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez led the delegation to the 8th Philippines-Spain Tribuna while Secretary Ybañez led the Spanish delegation.

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



#### **United Kingdom**

On 07 January 2016, Secretary del Rosario welcomed the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs Philip Hammond. The visit kicked off the celebrations of the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and the United Kingdom. In their bilateral meeting, the Foreign Secretaries

discussed the WPS/SCS, the Mindanao Peace Process, and ways to promote economic relations, including in the context of the ASEAN Community and the European Union (EU).

The Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Malaysia and the Philippines, Richard Graham, MP, paid a courtesy call on President Duterte on 23 August 2016.

Preservation and Enhancement of National Security



President Duterte with the Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Malaysia and the Philippines, Mr. Richard Graham during a courtesy call, 23 August 2016, Manila (Photo Credit: Radio TV Malacañang (RTVM))

President Duterte and Mr. Graham discussed ways of enhancing bilateral economic relations. Mr. Graham noted that the President's socio-economic agenda provides opportunities for cooperation. The President also discussed his administration's policies on peace and order, the anti-drug campaign, counter-terrorism, and the WPS.

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



#### **European Union**

Secretary Yasay met with High Representative and Vice President (HR/VP) of the European Commission Federica Mogherini on the sidelines of the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit Ulaanbaatar on 16 July 2016. They exchanged views on issues such as regional peace and security, Mindanao peace and development, and bilateral agreements.

HR/VP Mogherini reiterated the official statement conveying the EU position issued on 15 July 2016 which expresses the need for the parties "to resolve the dispute through peaceful means, to clarify their claims and pursue them in respect and in accordance with international law." They agreed on the need for the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for international law, and the upholding of freedom of navigation and overflight. HR/VP Mogherini also remarked that the Philippines' immediate call for calm was the right and wise approach.



Preservation and Enhancement of National Security

Secretary Yasay with the EU High Representative and Vice President of the European Commission Federica Mogherini, 16 July 2016, Ulaanbaatar (Photo Credit: DFA-OSEC)

Secretary Yasay expressed appreciation for the EU's continued support for peace and development in Mindanao. They also remarked that bilateral relations are strengthening as evidenced by the expected entry into force of the Philippines-EU Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and the ongoing negotiations on the Philippines-EU Free Trade Agreement.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### **Regional Consultation Meeting**



The heads of the Philippine diplomatic and consular missions in Europe held their Regional Consultation Meeting (RCM) in Manila from 11 to 13 January 2016 to review Philippine foreign policy thrusts in Europe. Nineteen ambassadors and one (1) consul general participated in the program.

The RCM was structured along the three(3) pillars of Philippine foreign policy: the preservation and enhancement of national security, the promotion of economic security, and the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of OFs. Cultural diplomacy and cooperation in education were also incorporated into the program to highlight their importance to Philippine foreign policy in Europe.

Heads of the Philippine diplomatic and consular missions in Europe at the Regional Consultation Meeting, 11 January 2016, Manila (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

The RCM participants went on an appreciation tour of Iloilo from 14 to 15 January 2016 to learn how to better promote Iloilo, and the Western Visayas Region as a whole, as a tourism and investment destination.

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



# MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

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Secretary Yasay and Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus sign the MOU on the Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism, 11 October 2016, Manila (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

## Ethiopia

Secretary Yasay and Foreign Minister Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus signed the MOU on the Establishment of Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Philippines and Ethiopia in Manila on 11 October 2016.

The MOU provides for an institutional platform for the two countries to further develop their relations through regular consultations. It will also allow the two countries to exchange views on regional and international developments, and explore other possible areas of cooperation.

#### Iran

The Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and the Institution for Political and International Studies (IPIS) signed an MOU on the sidelines of the visit of Deputy Foreign Minister Ibrahim Rahimpour to the Philippines from 04 to 05 November 2016.

The MOU aims to strengthen cooperation and establish a linkage between FSI and IPIS to enhance development programs in international law, diplomatic practice, and international, political, economic and cultural relations.



FSI Director General Claro S. Cristobal and Deputy Foreign Minister Ibrahim Rahimpour shake hands after signing the MOU between FSI and IPIS, 04 November 2016, Pasay City (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### ENHANCING REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

# **ASEAN**



President Duterte and the ASEAN Leaders in the traditional ASEAN Way pose, 07 September 2016, Vientiane (Photo Credit: asean.org)

#### 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits

President Duterte participated in the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits and Related Summits held from 06 to 08 September 2016 in Vientiane.

During the meetings of ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, ASEAN Plus Three, and EAS, the President engaged the leaders in discussions on ASEAN community building, regional and international issues that have an impact on peace, security, stability and economic prosperity, including enhancing cooperation to address traditional non-traditional security challenges. The President espoused an independent foreign policy for the Philippines. He called for cooperation to fully realize a Drug-Free ASEAN and affirmed the commitment to combat illegal drugs, in line with constitutional requirements in the observance of due process and respect for human rights.

Preservation and ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY

The President also highlighted a rules-based approach in the peaceful resolution of disputes; supported efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism; advocated the promotion and protection of migrant workers through an ASEAN instrument; promoted MSMEs' capacity to spur entrepreneurship and boost economic activities; and articulated the Philippines' position on human rights in the context of the country's urgent priorities and national experience and history.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



He delivered a speech during the 13th ASEAN Business and Investment Summit.

The President and ASEAN Leaders signed the ASEAN Declaration One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters and witnessed the launch of the Visit ASEAN@50, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025 and the Initiative for ASEAN Integration Work Plan III.

During the closing ceremony of the ASEAN Summits, the Philippines accepted the chairship of ASEAN from Lao PDR, unveiled the logo, and introduced the theme Partnering for Change, Engaging the World.

#### 3rd ASEAN-United States Summit

# President Aquino participated in the ASEAN-US Special Leaders' Summit held from 15 to 16 February 2016 in Sunnylands, California. The Special Summit, the first to be held in the United States, marked a milestone year for ASEAN-US relations after it was elevated into a strategic partnership in 2015. The leaders adopted the Joint Statement of the ASEAN-US Special Leaders' Summit, the Sunnylands Declaration, which reaffirmed the key principles that would guide the relations forward.

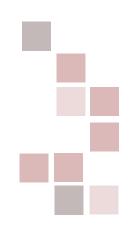
Secretary John Kerry hosted a Claimant States' Meeting on the sidelines of the Summit which highlighted the importance of maintaining peace and stability in the region, and acknowledged the outcome of the arbitration and the legal processes.

#### **ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat**

Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Laura Q. Del Rosario represented the Philippines at the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat (AMM Retreat) held in Vientiane from 26 to 27 February 2016. During the Retreat, the Philippines called for the full and effective implementation of the DOC and early conclusion of the COC.

Preservation and

ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY



# Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Secretary Almendras participated in the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Kunming, China on 14 June 2016. The Philippines underscored that arbitration is among the legal and diplomatic processes promoting the rule of law in the region, and is fully consistent with the DOC and the region's efforts to peacefully resolve the disputes in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS and the UN Charter.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### **ASEAN-Canada Relations**

As Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations from 2015 to 2018, the Philippines hosted the 13th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue in Manila from 15 to 16 June 2016. Undersecretary for Policy and Philippine Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) Leader to ASEAN Enrique A. Manalo, and Assistant Deputy Minister for Asia-Pacific of Global Affairs Canada and Canadian SOM Leader to ASEAN Susan Gregson, co-chaired the meeting.

Both sides agreed to build on existing work on rights, counter-terrorism human transnational crime, small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) development, connectivity and disaster management, in light of the upcoming 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-Canada relations, ASEAN's 50th Anniversary, and the Philippines' Chairship of ASEAN in 2017.

Ongoing Canadian support for regional programs in ASEAN amounted approximately USD 58.3 million.

ASEAN and Canada looked forward to pursuing new phases for cooperation on women and migrant workers' rights, alongside Canada's global pledge of CAD 2.65 billion (USD 1.95 billion) to support clean-energy and environment programs. New initiatives will be explored in the areas of environment and biodiversity as well as economic integration, including the following: (a) World Economic Forum's (WEF) Grow Asia Program supporting private sector development in the agricultural sector, (b) the CAD 2 million (USD 1.47 million) Toronto Center Program on Financial Supervision and Regulation, and (c) Sector Canada's CAD 4.5 million (USD 3.32 million) contribution to Supporting Regional Project Development for ASEAN Connectivity Program.

Consistent with the Philippines' advocacy, both sides underlined the importance of maintaining peace, security and stability, and freedom of navigation and overflight in the SCS. They also agreed that disputes should be resolved peacefully, in accordance with universallyrecognized principles of international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS.



Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo poses with fellow ASEAN-Canada Senior Officials, 15 June 2016, Manila (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth





# 49th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting

Secretary Yasay attended the 49th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting from 24 to 26 July 2016 in Vientiane. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers exchanged views on various regional and international issues, including the SCS issue, protection of migrant workers, the evolving security architecture, terrorism, bio-diversity and climate change, trafficking in persons, and the Korean Peninsula.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers doing the traditional ASEAN Way pose, 24 July 2016, (Photo Vientiane Credit: ASEAN Secretariat)

The 49th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Joint Communiqué reflected the Philippines' proposed phrase "full respect for legal and diplomatic processes" thus enshrining this principle, which encompasses arbitration and other dispute settlement mechanisms provided for in the UNCLOS and the UN Charter, as a core value of ASEAN.

The Philippines also called for the early conclusion of an ASEAN Instrument for the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers. The Philippines also joined ASEAN in calling for the full ratification of the Host Country Agreement between the Government of the Philippines and the ASEAN Center for Biodiversity, realization of a Drug-Free ASEAN, full denuclearization of the Korean peninsula, and strengthening regional cooperation to address terrorism and violent extremism. The Philippines supported the ASEAN Ministers' endorsement of the Accession of Iran, Morocco, Egypt and Chile to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.

The Philippines advocated for the strengthening of existing ASEAN and ASEAN-led mechanisms as building blocks of a regional architecture.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### **ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference**

Secretary Yasay and Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo participated in the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC) + 1 Sessions with ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, namely Australia, Canada, China, EU, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia, and the United States on 25 July 2016 in Vientiane.

Secretary Yasay co-chaired the PMC session with Canada as the Philippines is the country coordinator Global Affairs Canada, 25 July for the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue.



Secretary Yasay co-chairs the Post Ministerial Conference Session with Stéphane Dion of 2016, Vientiane (Photo Credit: ASEAN Secretariat)

In all PMC Sessions, the Philippines called on all parties to respect the arbitral award and urged parties concerned to exercise self-restraint, avoid the threat or use of force, and non-militarization in the SCS. The Philippines likewise championed a rules-based international order and respect for international law as well as the early conclusion and full and effective implementation of the DOC in its entirety.



ASEAN Ministers attend the 23rd ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), 26 July 2016, Vientiane (Photo Credit: ASEAN Secretariat)

# Preservation and ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY

#### 23rd ASEAN Regional Forum

Secretary Yasay attended the 23rd ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) on 26 July 2016 in Vientiane. The Philippines called on the members of the ARF to fully respect legal and diplomatic processes in addressing the SCS/WPS disputes.

The Philippines emphasized that the landmark 12 July Arbitral award is binding and upholds the primacy of international law as the cornerstone of a rules-based regional and international Philippines order. The underscored that the rule of law provides a rules-based approach for resolving the SCS/WPS disputes.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### 21st ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting



Preservation and ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY

The Philippines joined nine other ASEAN Member States in engaging the EU on issues and concerns of mutual importance at the 21st ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting (AEMM) in Bangkok on 14 October 2016.

Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Manuel Antonio J. Teehankee represents the Philippines at the 21st ASEAN-EU Ministerial Meeting, 14 October 2016, Bangkok (Photo Credit: ASEAN Secretariat)

With an eye on elevating ASEAN-EU relations to a strategic partnership, ASEAN and the EU's 28 Member States reviewed the progress made in the Bandar Seri Begawan Plan of Action to Strengthen the ASEAN-EU Enhanced Partnership for 2013-2017 and took stock of ongoing programs spanning a broad range of areas of cooperation in capacity building for ASEAN integration and sustainable development.

ASEAN and the EU adopted the Bangkok Declaration on Promoting an ASEAN-EU Global Partnership for Shared Strategic Goals where both sides resolved to accelerate efforts towards a strategic partnership in the traditional areas of dialogue and cooperation as well as strengthen regional capabilities in non-traditional security areas.

Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Manuel A.J. Teehankee articulated the Philippines' priorities for its chairship of ASEAN in 2017, including a Drug-Free ASEAN; and met the representatives of the EU, Germany, The Netherlands, and Spain on a bilateral level.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Strategic Planning Workshop for the Philippines' Chairship of ASEAN

The Heads of the Philippine Embassies and Missions in ASEAN Member States and in ASEAN's Dialogue Partners, along with officials from the geographic offices of the DFA, participated in the 3rd Strategic Planning Workshop for the Philippines' Chairship of ASEAN 2017 in Manila from 26 to 28 October 2016.



The Workshop briefed the participants on the Philippines' thrusts and advocacies for its ASEAN Chairship, with the theme Partnering for Change, Engaging the World that was unveiled by President Duterte during the symbolic turnover of ASEAN Chairship in Vientiane on 08 September 2016.

Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo and Undersecretary for Administration Linglingay Lacanlale, together with the Heads of the Foreign Service Posts (FSPs) in ASEAN Member States and Dialogue Partners as well as heads of the DFA Geographic Offices. (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

Officials from relevant government agencies spoke on particular Philippine advocacies under the three community pillars of ASEAN - the Political-Security Community, Economic Community, and Socio-Cultural Community. The issues discussed in these pillars included migrant workers; women, children and social protection; maritime security and cooperation; peaceful resolution of disputes; transnational crimes; connectivity; BIMP-EAGA matters; human rights, peace and reconciliation; and climate change, disaster risk resiliency and biodiversity.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### ASEM

Secretary Yasay participated in the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) held Ulaanbaatar from 15 to 16 July 2016.

The Secretary cited ASEM's role in promoting understanding and cooperation in addressing regional and international political-security concerns. He also emphasized the importance of a balanced treatment of the three pillars of the ASEM: the political; the economic; and the social, cultural, and educational pillars. He

also stated that the Philippines welcomes the issuance of the arbitral award on the SCS, and reiterated the Philippines' respect for this milestone decision as an

important contribution to on going efforts in addressing disputes in the SCS.

Secretary Yasay underlined the Philippines' firm commitment to engage an interconnected and interdependent world. He conveyed that the current administration is advancing a socio -economic agenda that will enhance the country's capacity to promote and support institutional, digital, financial, infrastructure, and people-to-people connectivity.

Preservation and **ENHANCEMENT OF** NATIONAL SECURITY

support

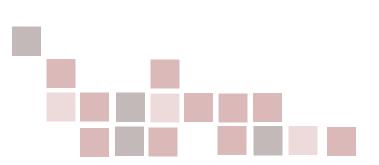
enterprises

ASEM to include drug trafficking as a tangible area of cooperation, as this is a global menace. Other Philippine priorities such as climate change, micro-small and medium facilitating (MSMEs), and

The Secretary also called on

international trade were also put forward by the Philippine delegation.

for



FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### **MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS**



# UNITED NATIONS

Secretary Yasay delivers his remarks before the UNGA, 24 September 2016, New York (Photo Credit: UN Photo/Manuel Elias)

#### **UN General Assembly**

The 71st Session of the UNGA opened on 13 September 2016. The General Debate for the 71st Session was held from 20 to 24 September and 26 to 29 September 2016.

Many of the meetings covered on the sidelines of the UNGA focused on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Secretary Yasay led the delegation in these meetings to ensure the promotion and protection of Philippine priorities, such as climate change, migration, disarmament, mediation, and democracy building.

Participation in the UNGA enabled the Philippines to present to the international community the key priorities of the Duterte administration, particularly the fight against corruption and criminality, and the campaign against illegal drugs.

The Philippines emphasized that these priorities are pursued within the democratic framework of the rule of law and the protection of human rights. The Philippines called on the UN member states to allow the country to deal with its own domestic challenges and to maintain faith in its strong democratic institutions. By affirming the key priority areas in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Philippines likewise renewed its commitment to the cause of peace, security, and sustainable development.

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



#### ADVOCACIES AT THE UNITED NATIONS

#### Agriculture

Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Laura Q. Del Rosario welcomed Dr. Matthew K. Morell as the new Director-General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) on 14 March 2016.

Undersecretary Del Rosario noted IRRI's crucial role in 10 out of the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development which was adopted at the last UN Summit, particularly Goal 2 to "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture."

Dr. Morell expressed IRRI's commitment to intensify the Institute's support for Philippine programs and priorities. He affirmed the long-standing and robust relations between the country and the Institute.

# Preservation and Enhancement of National Security

#### Candidatures

The Philippines secured a seat in the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) for the term 2017 to 2020 with the election of Ambassador Rosario G. Manalo during the voting held at the 19th Meeting of States Parties to the CEDAW on 21 June 2016 in New York.



#### Climate Change

The DFA consolidated the Philippine position on climate change. Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Ramon J.P. Paje signed the Paris Agreement on behalf of President Aquino on 07 April 2016 in New York.

The Philippines was one of the 196 Parties that adopted the Paris Agreement where the signatories agreed to limit temperature rise to below two degrees Celsius and, given the grave risks, strive for 1.5 degrees Celsius.

#### Campaign Against Illegal Drugs

Ambassador Ma. Zenaida A. Collinson and Dangerous Drugs Board Undersecretary Jose Marlowe Pedregosa led the delegation to the 58th Session of the Comission on Narcotic Drugs held from 14 to 22 March 2016 in Vienna.

The Philippines emphasized its opposition to the imposition of capital punishment for drug offenses and all other crimes, and the legalization of narcotic drugs.

It also conveyed the country's approach in addressing the drug menace through drug supply reduction, drug demand reduction, alternative development, civic awareness and international cooperation.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### Humanitarian Affairs

The Philippines and Switzerland hosted the 2nd International Meeting of the Global Action against Mass Atrocity Crimes (GAAMAC II) from 02 to 04 February 2016 in Pasig City with the theme "Preventing Atrocities: How to strengthen national atrocity prevention architectures." Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Concerns Rafael E. Seguis opened the event that gathered more than 200 delegates from the field of human rights, international humanitarian law, justice, peace and reconciliation, conflict and genocide prevention and Right to Protect (R2P).



Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Concerns Rafael E. Seguis delivers his opening remarks in GAAMAC II, 02 February 2016, Pasia City (Photo Credit: www.gaamac.org)

The meeting came up with regional approaches and recommendations to deter mass atrocity crimes. GAAMAC considered the proposals and initiatives from meeting participants such as data gathering and verification systems; regionally-based, cross-cutting partnerships on information sharing and capacity building; community-level access to information and technology tools on atrocity prevention; compiling good practices to counter hate speech, promoting inclusivity, and the use of social media; developing tolerance/atrocity prevention education curricula; and advocacy and dissemination of gender-relevant issues in atrocity prevention.

The DFA celebrated International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Day with the theme IHL: Mga Aral ng Nakaraan, Hamon sa Kasalukuyan through a photo exhibit depicting how IHL is applied in the Philippines. Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo opened the month-long exhibit on 15 August 2016 at the DFA Office of Consular Affairs, Parañaque City.



Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo, Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Frank R. Cimafranca, and Assistant Secretary for UN and other International Organizations Bayani S. Mercado at the IHL Day exhibit, 15 August 2016, Parañaque City (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### ADVOCACIES AT THE UNITED NATIONS

#### Persons with Disabilities

Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York Lourdes O. Yparraguirre led the delegation to the 9th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which was held from 14 to 16 June 2016 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

The Philippines acknowledged the influence of the **CRPD** in reinforcing a rights-based perspective disability and in further mainstreaming the disability agenda all government policies programs. The Philippines renewed the country's commitments toward the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and outlined the measures taken by the Philippine Government to improve the lives of persons with disabilities (PWD), such as the adoption of a PWD-inclusive disaster risk and management program and the signing of a new law amending the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons.

#### Sustainable Development



Vice President Maria Leonor G. Robredo and Permanent Representative to United Nations Lourdes O. Yparraguirre led the Delegation to the bi-decennial Habitat Conference held from 17 to 20 October 2016 in Quito. The outcome

Vice President Maria Leonor G. Robredo and Permanent Representative to United Nations Lourdes O. Yparraguirre with the Philippine delegation, 17 October 2016, Quito (Photo Credit: Philippine Embassy, Santiago)

document of the Conference, the New Urban Agenda, sets out the political commitments of member states and stakeholders on readdressing the way cities and human settlements are planned. It affirms and promotes the shared vision of cities for all, which refers to the right of present and future generations, to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements, in order to foster prosperity and quality of life for all.

Vice President Robredo delivered the National Statement during the Opening Plenary, co-chaired the High-Level Round Table on Ecological, Climate Change Resilient, and Disaster-Responsive Cities, and served as panelist in the Special Session on Urban Resilience. The Philippine delegation offered the country's National Report on Better, Greener, and Smarter Cities in an Inclusive Philippines, as the country's contribution to the discussions under the New Urban Agenda. Vice President Robredo also highlighted the vulnerability to disasters of Philippine towns and cities, as well as the country's need for support in making its settlements more resilient.

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote a Stable Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### ADVOCACIES AT THE UNITED NATIONS

# Preservation and Enhancement of National Security

#### Trade

The DFA participated in the 14th Session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD 14) held in Nairobi from 15 to 22 July 2016. The Nairobi Maafikiano recognized the importance of an enabling environment at all levels for development, the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, the importance of ODA and investment to development, the particular needs of the

#### Combating Trafficking in Persons

The DFA participated in the Special Meeting held by the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking on the occasion of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons on 29 July 2016 in New York. The Philippines provided updates on its policies and programs to prevent human trafficking, prosecute perpetrators, protect victims, and build partnerships with other stakeholders.

The Philippines highlighted the establishment of a comprehensive support mechanism for Filipino migrants secured by a framework of laws, regulations, policies, programs, institutions and diplomacy, and the implementation of a migrant-centered approach to the migration cycle – from pre-employment, transit, on-site employment, return migration and eventual reintegration.

different groups of developing countries, the concept of policy space, the inclusion of MSMEs, the dangers of debt in relation to development, UNCTAD's work on taxation, technology and trade issues, the revitalization of UNCTAD's intergovernmental machinery, the creation of intergovernmental expert groups, and the importance of commodities.

On 17 July 2016, the Group of 77 and China held its 14th Ministerial Meeting on the occasion of UNCTAD 14. In the Ministerial declaration, the Philippines called for the inclusion of MSMEs, women and youth issues, as well as increased interaction among businesses in the developing South.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



## ADVOCACIES AT THE UNITED NATIONS



#### Women

Labor and Employment Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis Baldoz led the Phillipine delegation to the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) which was held from14 to 24 March 2016 in New York. The Philippine delegation requested the inclusion of a statement on the rights of migrant workers, and led the discussions on climate change in the outcome document of the 60th Session of the CSW.

> Preservation and ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY

Labor and Employment Secretary Rosalinda D. Baldoz delivers her remarks during the 60th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, 15 March 2016, New York (Photo Credit: Philippine Commission on Women)

The Philippine delegation also organized three (3) side events: (a) Show Me the Money: How Governments Allocate and Audit Funds to Achieve Gender Equality as a 2030 Sustainable Development Goal, (b) Women on Fire: Shaping the Agenda for Gender Mainstreaming in the Energy Sector towards Building Sustainable Communities, and (c) Break the Silence: A Multi-Disciplinary Response to Violence against Women and Girls.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



## FIRST MULTILATERAL POSTS' CONSULTATION MEETING



Heads of Posts of the Philippine Permanent Missions attend the first multilateral posts' consultation meeting, 18 January 2016, Pasay City (Photo Credit: DFA-UNIO)

Ambassadors from multilateral posts and high-level representatives from the DFA participated in the 1st Multilateral Posts' Consultation Meeting (MPCM) which was held from 18 to 19 January 2016.

The DFA invited key government agencies to elaborate on Philippine positions vis-à-vis the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Indicator Framework and Associated Monitoring Systems for Sustainable Development and Financing for Development and Key Issues in Development Cooperation. The United Nations Resident Coordinator also presented his views on how the Philippines' partnership with the UN

could be strengthened. The MPCM was also an opportunity for multilateral posts to update concerned offices of the priorities in their areas of jurisdiction.

The MPCM produced a roadmap for multilateral work.

Foreign Relations Strengthened to Promote a Stable Security Environment and Economic Growth



# B. Promotion and Attainment of Economic Security

The DFA continued to lead the government's efforts in the promotion of the Philippines' economic interests through bilateral and multilateral engagements. Priority was given to intensifying economic promotion activities for trade, investment, tourism, and services, as well as capacity-building and strengthening collaboration with relevant government agencies for a reinforced One Country Team Approach.

In bilateral relations, the Philippines explored partnerships with new and non-traditional trade partners as part of the new administration's policy thrust, while further strengthening existing ties with its traditional partners.



FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENTS

# EUROPEAN UNION

The 1st round of the Philippines-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations was held in Brussels in May 2016. The Agreement aims to (a) enhance market access for goods, services and investment from the Philippines and the EU; (b) further facilitate and promote trade and investment flows, ensuring benefits for SMEs; (c) enhance competitiveness; (d) contribute to sustainable development including employment promotion, inclusive growth and green growth; and (e) forge cooperation and a capacity building program.



#### Signing of the Philippines-EFTA Free Trade Agreement

Ambassador Joselito A. Jimeno, Trade and Industry Secretary Adrian S. Cristobal, Jr., and Undersecretary for international Economic Relations Laura Q. Del Rosario lead the Philippine delegation during the signing of the Philippines-EFTA FTA, 28 April 2016, Berne (Photo Credit: Philippine Embassy, Berne)

The 5th and final round of the Philippines-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Free Trade Agreement negotiations was held in Manila in February 2016. Trade and Industry Secretary Adrian Cristobal signed the FTA on 28 April 2016 in Berne. The Philippines-EFTA FTA boosts the flow of trade and commercial exchanges between the Philippines and EFTA countries, encourages investments in the services and non-services sector, and brings in high value-added products, technological know-how, and capital from their highly developed economies to the Philippine local economy.

#### RCEP and ASEAN+ Free Trade Agreements

The Philippines continued to participate in the ASEAN+ FTA negotiations. The 11th to 16th rounds of negotiations for the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), otherwise known as the ASEAN + 6 (namely Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, and Republic of Korea), were held. RCEP would deliver tangible benefits through potential improvements in market access and more coherent trade facilitation and regulatory rules and cooperation, which provides more choices and opportunities for ASEAN economies to participate in global value chains.

The Philippines also participated in three rounds of negotiations for the proposed ASEAN-Hong Kong FTA.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



## ASIA COOPERATION DIALOGUE

Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Manuel Antonio J. Teehankee represented the DFA at the Ministerial Meeting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Summit. Energy Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi, headed the Delegation to the Summit. Philippine Ambassador to Thailand Mary Jo A. Bernardo-Aragon was the Philippine representative to the SOM.

The Philippines underscored its commitment to be co-prime mover in three (3) of the six (6) pillars of the ACD: (a) Food, Water, and Energy Security; (b) Science, Technology, and Innovation; and (c) Education and Human Resource Development. The Philippines expressed support for the United Arab Emirates' chairmanship of the ACD in 2017 with a vision to advance the Philippines' advocacy in using a diverse and innovative energy mix of sustainable and renewable energy to promote economic development.

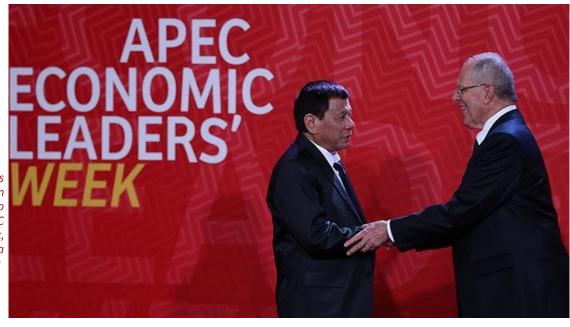


Ambassador to Thailand Mary Jo A. Bernardo-Aragon and Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Manuel Antonio J. Teehankee listen as Energy Secretary Alfonso G. Cusi delivers the Philippine statement during the 2nd ACD Summit, 10 October 2016, Bangkok. (Photo credit: DFA-OUIER)

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



# ASIA PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION



President Duterte is welcomed by Peruvian President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski at the APEC Economic Leaders' Week, 19 November 2016, Lima (Photo credit: APEC Peru)

Following the successful hosting of APEC in 2015, the DFA, through the APEC National Secretariat, continued to shepherd the Philippines' agenda for inclusive development. The Philippines actively sought support for Philippineled initiatives aimed at expanding economic opportunities for sectors which have yet to benefit from free and open trade and investment.

The 24th APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Lima from 19 to 20 November 2016 was President Duterte's maiden APEC Meeting. Under the theme "Quality Growth and Human Capital Development: Foundations for Sustainable Growth in the Asia-Pacific," President the highlighted administration's goal to achieve economic growth that benefits and is felt by all Filipinos. The President cited his 10-point socio-economic program and his priority to ensure an ideal business environment that attracts investments, sustains economic growth, and generates jobs to allow broader economic participation. The President likewise shared the initiatives of his administration

to improve food security, connectivity, and human capital.

The President encouraged leaders to share best policies, practices and resources for mutually-beneficial

capacity-building initiatives to equalize access to opportunities and gain prosperity from a freer and more open trade regime. He also enjoined leaders to provide support and assistance to the most vulnerable. He challenged leaders to look beyond free trade and to focus regional resources that would benefit MSMEs and improve doing business.

At the APEC Business Advisory Council Dialogue with Leaders, the President shared his vision for a progressive and prosperous Philippines by 2040 and his administration's commitment in eradicating red tape and fighting corruption to promote a robust investment climate.

The Philippines participated in over 200 meetings at the Technical Working Group, Senior Official, Ministerial and Leader levels, and sought support

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



for the next steps in implementing Philippine-led initiatives including the APEC Strategy for Strengthening Quality Growth, the APEC Services Cooperation Framework, the Boracay Action Agenda to Globalize MSMEs, and the Cebu Action Plan.

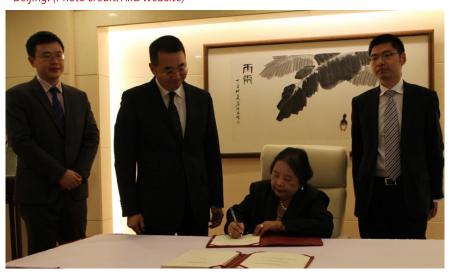
The Philippines also launched the APEC Virtual Knowledge Center on Services, an interactive hub for service stakeholders that aims to facilitate trade in services by promoting cross-border exchange of knowledge, best practices and information. It provides stakeholders with resources and tools for capacity building, research, and develops opportunities for networking within the services sector.

#### WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

President Duterte signed the ratification instrument of the Philippines to the World Trade Organization (WTO) - Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) on 19 October 2016. The TFA contains provisions for expediting the movement, release, and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. It sets out measures for effective cooperation between customs and other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation customs compliance issues. provisions for technical assistance and capacity building in this area.

On 16 December 2016, based on the Philippines' request, the WTO Director-General determined the composition of the compliance panel on the Philippines' WTO case against Thailand: Thailand - Customs and Fiscal Measures on Cigarettes from the Philippines (DS371).

Ambassador to China Erlinda F. Basilio signs the Articles of Agreement of the Asian Infrastructure Bank (AIIB), 21 January 2016, Beijing. (Photo credit: AIIB Website)



# ASIAN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT BANK (AIIB)

Ambassador to China Erlinda F. Articles Basilio signed the Agreement of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) on January 2016. The Philippine Senate ratified the agreement December 2016, and the original Instrument of Ratification submitted to the Chinese Foreign Ministry and the AIIB Secretariat on 28 December 2016.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



### BILATERAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENTS



### Canada

The Embassy and Consulates General registered over 300 participants for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Winter Escapade held from 02 to 12 February 2016. The tourism program promotes Philippine tourism to Filipino-Canadians. The program, which took participants to Bicol, Palawan, and Manila, generated approximately USD 1.18 million in tourism receipts.

#### Chile

The Philippines and Chile committed to expand further their bilateral relationship through an FTA, which will serve as the Philippines' gateway to Latin American countries and Chile's springboard to the Asian market. The DFA spearheaded the Joint Study for the proposed Philippines-Chile FTA, which was concluded in May 2016. The study looked into trade liberalization and potential.

Ambassador to France Ma. Theresa Lazaro, Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Laura Q. Del Rosario, Trade and Industry Undersecretary Nora Terrado, and Filipino and French businessmen during the French Business Mission to the Philippines, 18 March 2016, Manila (Photo credit: DFA-OPD)

#### France

Ambassador to France Ma. Theresa Lazaro accompanied a 10-member high-level French business delegation composed of representatives from top French companies such as Air Liquide, AXA, Engie, LafargeHolcim, Sanofi, and Sodexo, which conducted a three-day business mission to the Philippines in March 2016.

The delegation met with officials from the DFA, DTI, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, and various IT-business organizations, and visited French companies such as Atos, Teleperformance and Schneider Electric.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### Iran

Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Laura Q. del Rosario led an economic visit to Tehran from 30 to 31 January 2016. The visit re-engaged Iran in the aftermath of the lifting of economic sanctions on the country, and laid the groundwork for full economic engagement. The Philippines and Iran discussed the following issues: (a) Philippine interest to invest in Iranian ports, (b) Philippines-Iran banking relationship and Islamic banking, (c) review of Philippine tariff lines, and (d) in information cooperation communication technology (ICT), energy and construction. The Philippines expressed support for Iran's bid for WTO membership.

### Sri Lanka, India, And Bangladesh

Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Laura Q. Del Rosario led the delegation composed of officials from the DFA and Philippine medical universities on a roadshow to Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka

#### **Poland**

Assistant Secretary for International Economic Relations Celia Anna M. Feria welcomed a 20-member Polish delegation, which participated in the Philippines-Poland Business Seminar on 10 October 2016. The delegation also held business meetings with their Philippine counterparts, attended the Annual Business Summit of the Philippine Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), and visited the Philippine Economic Zone in Bataan for the inauguration of the Pietrucha Manufacturing Philippines, Inc. production plant.



Ambassador to Bangladesh Vicente Vivencio T. Bandillo, Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Laura Q. Del Rosario, and Bangladeshi Foreign Affairs Secretary for Bilateral and Consular Affairs Mizanur Rahman at the nConference on Education and Tourism in the Philippines, 18 February 2016, Dhaka (Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Dhaka)

from 15 to 19 February 2016. The roadshow intensified the DFA's economic diplomacy program through the promotion of Philippine higher education programs for foreign students, as well as encourage partnerships in tourism-related hospitality services within South Asia.

Representatives from various schools and universities in Colombo, Dhaka, and New Delhi, attended the roadshow's education fora, which was followed by a number of meetings with businesses interested in training programs for tourism-related hospitality services, and with universities for possible collaboration on joint degree programs.

The roadshow opened opportunities for cooperation in training exchange for graduate and postgraduate medical degree programs, as well as the possibility of institutionalizing the process of sourcing medical specialists and nurses from the Philippines.

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



#### Sri Lanka

On 12 October 2016, Secretary Yasay received members of the Sri Lanka-Philippines Business Council that participated in the 42<sup>nd</sup> PCCI Conference and Exposition. Ambassador to Bangladesh Vicente Vivencio Bandillo and Honorary Consul to Sri Lanka Hugh Sriyal Dissanayake accompanied the members of the Council.

### **United States**

The Philippine Economic Team in the United States, composed of the representatives of all US Posts, Philippine Trade and Investment Center, Office of the Agriculture Attaché, and Philippine Overseas Labor Office/ Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, conducted a video conference with DFA and DTI officials on 14 December 2016 to outline the priorities and work plans for US-wide economic diplomacy centering on the following proposed strategic sub-themes: promotion of MSMEs; agriculture emphasizing promotion of rural and value-chain development; championing dynamic government units to diffuse economic activity from Manila and elevate the role of tertiary cities in economic development; focusing on Mindanao to harness the full potential of the region and help achieve inclusive growth in the area; and developing Philippine science and technology with capacity building, investments and commercialization.

The Philippine Embassy in Washington D.C. coordinated the Philippine Business Investment Forum (PBIF) held in New York on 03 March 2016. Organized by InvivaLink, the PBIF brought together influential leaders from the Philippine government and private sector, with their US and international counterparts for an in-depth analysis of the Philippine economic and political situation and the opportunities it holds for investors, both in capital markets and in industry. The discussions also focused on the outlook for continued growth in the Philippines, the sustainability of reforms because of their institutionalization through legislation, and US investor sentiment.

PROMOTION AND ATTAINMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY



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



# C. CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

The DFA capitalized on its cultural diplomacy program to promote greater understanding and awareness of the richness and diversity of Philippine culture, heritage and arts and to strengthen people-to-people linkages with bilateral and multilateral partners. In partnership and cooperation with concerned Philippine government agencies, Embassies and Consulates General undertook various cultural activities in 2016, which included music and dance performances of renowned Filipino culture groups, food festivals and cooking demonstrations, art exhibits, film showings, fashion shows, and Filipino language training.



Secretary Yasay delivers his remarks during the Eid al-Fitr celebration for the diplomatic community, 13 July 2016, Taguig City. (Photo credit: DFA – OPD)

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



# DANCE

June 2016 was an especially busy month for Embassies and Consulates General, as it was highlighted by the celebration of the 118th Anniversary of the Philippines' independence. During this period the Cultural Diplomacy Unit (CDU) collaborated with selected Embassies and Consulates General and organized dance performance tours as part of the DFA's cultural diplomacy initiatives overseas.



# Leyte Dance Theater in Central Europe

To build greater awareness of the Philippine culture and identity, the Leyte Dance Theater (LDT) toured Warsaw, Prague, Vienna, Berne and Geneva from 03 to 22 June 2016. LDT, based in Tacloban, Leyte, one of the cities most seriously affected by Typhoon Haiyan, expressed appreciation to European nations that helped Philippines following the devastation brought about by Haiyan.

LDT performs the Singkil at the Fête De La Musique, 19 June 2016, Geneva. (Photo credit: Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva)

# AlunAlun Dance Circle in South and Southeast Asia

The AlunAlun Dance Circle (ADC) performed in India, Laos, Myanmar, and Cambodia from 20 to 30 June 2016. The ADC's performance of the Pangalay served as a link to the traditional dance cultures of Asia with closest affinity to the Indian, Javanese, Thai, Myanmar, and Cambodian styles of classical dancing.



The AlunAlun Dance Circle showcases wrist and finger movements in their dance, 29 June 2016, Phnom Penh. (Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Phnom Penh)

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BP performs a number from its repertoire, Master Pieces: Celebrating the Tapestry of Filipino Culture and Friendship, 09 June 2016, Seoul (Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Seoul)

### Ballet Philippines in Seoul and Jakarta

Ballet Philippines (BP) toured Seoul and Jakarta in June 2016. Aside from enhancing awareness of the Philippine culture and identity through their performances, BP offered advanced ballet workshops to students of the Step Dance Academy in Jakarta.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



#### Bayanihan in Sydney

On the occasion of the 118th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence and the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of Philippines-Australia diplomatic relations, the Philippine Consulate General in Sydney hosted a reception featuring Bayanihan, the National Folk Dance Company of the Philippines, on 14 June 2016 at the University of New South Wales, Sydney.



Consul General Anne Jalandoon-Louis and Consul Marford M. Angeles join the Bayanihan in thanking the audience for their appreciation of the performance, 14 June 2016, Sydney. (Photo credit: Bob Reyes)

### Tarlac State University Performing Dance Troupe in Moscow

The Tarlac State University (TSU) Performing Dance Troupe represented the Philippines in the World Artistic Dance Federation European Championship from 19 to 20 March 2016 in Moscow. The Philippine Embassy in Russia presented a Certificate of Recognition to TSU, which won several awards in the Ethno Dance Show Championship category for their performances.



TSU Performing Dance Troupe showcases the Tinikling, 20 March 2016, Moscow (Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Moscow)

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



# ARTS AND EXHIBITIONS

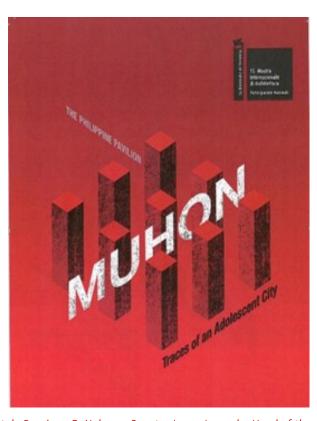
# 15th International Architecture Exhibition La Biennale di Venezia

The Philippine Pavilion of the 15th International Architecture Exhibition of the La Biennale di Venezia, called Muhon: Traces of an Adolescent City, opened on 27 May 2016. Leandro V. Locsin Partners curated the exhibit, which ran for six (6) months, and featured the works of Poklong Anading, Eduardo Calma, Tad Ermitano, LIMA Architecture, Manosa & Company Inc., 8x8 Design Studio Co., Mark Salvatus, C/S Architecture and Jorge Yulo.

# Philippine Art Trek in Singapore

The Philippine Embassy in Singapore, with the support of the Leppel Corporation, Lee Foundation, Philippine Bayanihan Society Singapore,

and the Singapore Management University, co-organized the 10th edition of the Philippine Art Trek in Singapore with select art galleries from 02 to16 September 2016. NCCA Chairman Felipe de Leon, Jr. graced the event and delivered a talk after the launch of the program.



Ambassador to Italy Domingo P. Nolasco, Senator Loren Legarda, Head of the Cultural Diplomacy Unit, Maria Elena P. Algabre, and participating artists at the opening of the Philippine Pavilion, Muhon: Traces of an Adolescent City, 27 May 2016, Venice. (Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Rome)



FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



# FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS



Ambassador to Vietnam Noel Servigon and NCCA Chairman Felipe de Leon grace Philippine Cultural Days in Vietnam, 17 August 2016, Hanoi (Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Hanoi)

# CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

# Philippine Cultural Days in Viet Nam

The Philippine Embassy in Hanoi commemorated the 40th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Philippines and Viet Nam with Philippine Cultural Days in Viet Nam held at the Viet Nam Exhibition Center for Culture and Arts from 17 to 19 August 2016. Organized by the NCCA and the Viet Nam Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, the event featured displays of traditional wear of Philippine indigenous groups and musical performances of winners and alumni of the National Music Competitions for Young Artists.

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



# **MUSIC**



The Loboc Children's Choir performs before a crowd of Filipinos and Cambodians, 11 June 2016, Phnom Penh. (Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Phnom Penh)

## Loboc Children's Choir in Cambodia

The Philippine Embassy in Phnom Penh organized a series of performances by the Loboc Children's Choir called Music from the Islands: A Friendship Concert in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh from 10 to 13 June 2016. The concerts were part of the Embassy's cultural diplomacy activities in commemoration of the 118th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence. More than 400 people graced the choir's concert in Siem Reap. In Phnom Penh, the Choir, together with Phnom Penh-based Koro Filipino and Sinaglahi Filipinas Dance Troupe, performed at the Chaktomuk Theater. The Choir also performed at the Embassy's diplomatic reception, which was attended by guests from the Royal Family, the diplomatic corps, and the public and private sectors.



FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



## Pianist Josue Greg Zuniega in Concert in Beirut

The Philippine Embassy in Lebanon collaborated with NCCA and the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra (LPO) for a special tribute concert at St. Joseph Tabaris Church to mark the 70th anniversary of the Establishment of the Diplomatic Relations between the Philippines and Lebanon in October 2016. The NCCA arranged the participation of Filipino pianist Josue Greg Zuniega in the concert. Members of the diplomatic and consular corps, the Filipino community and the Lebanese general public attended the concert, which was featured in mainstream Lebanese media.

The music of Filipino pianist Josue Grea Zuniega and the Lebanese Philharmonic Orchestra fill the halls of St. Joseph Tabaris Church, 26 October 2016, Beirut. (Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Beirut)



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



# **CUISINE**

### Pagkain Exhibit in Toronto

In cooperation with the University of Toronto-Scarborough Campus' (UTSC) Department of History and Cultural Studies, the Philippine Consulate General in Toronto hosted the PAGKAIN exhibit at UTSC from 20 to 24 June 2016. The exhibit, based on the book entitled Kulinarya: A Guide to Philippine Cuisine, was part of the NCCA's traveling exhibits.



Chef Myrna Seguismundo conducts a cooking demonstration 25 June 2016, Toronto. (Photo credit: Philippine Consulate General, Toronto)



# Piña Masterpieces in Madrid

The Philippine Embassy in Madrid collaborated with Spain's Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports, through the National Museum of Anthropology (MNA), to host the launching of the month-long exhibit Ang Pagbabalik: tejidos de piña filipinos entre tradición y vanguardía on 05 May 2016 at the MNA. Guests from the public and private sectors attended the event. The exhibit showcased piña masterpieces by Filipino designer Patis Tesoro, known as the Grand Dame of Philippine Fashion.

Filipino designer Patis Tesoro thanks attendees at the launch of the exhibit "Ang Pagbabalik: tejidos de piña filipinos entre tradición y vanguardía;" Spanish models showcase Tesoro's fashion creations, 05 May 2016, Madrid. (Photo credit: Jenny Peñas Macaraig)

FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



# LANGUAGE AND FILM

### Film screening of Bamboo Flowers in Doha

# **CULTURAL** DIPLOMACY

Bamboo Flowers, a film by multi-awarded director Maryo J. delos Reyes, was shown at the Katara Drama Theater in Doha, on 30 August 2016 in celebration of Buwan ng Wika (Philippine National Language Month). The Philippine Embassy in Doha and the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP), which co-produced the film, organized the screening to raise awareness and appreciation of Filipino culture.



The officers and staff of the Philippine Embassy Qatar, led by Ambassador Wilfredo C. Santos, after the screening of "Bamboo Flowers;" 30 August 2016, (Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Doha)



Ambassador to Israel Natahniel G. Imperial with the volunteer teachers from the Filipino community and the Philippine Embassy in Israel display their certificates after the teachers training on the Filipino language and culture, 14 November 2016, Tel Aviv (Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Tel-Aviv)

# Filipino Language Training in Tel Aviv

The Philippine Embassy in Tel Aviv in partnership with the NCCA and the Bialik Rogozin International Campus, held its first Teachers Training on the Culture Filipino Language and Program in Israel in November 2016. The training aims to preserve the Filipino identity and heritage of Filipino children in Israel. Volunteer teachers who will teach the Filipino language to children of Filipino migrant workers attended the training.

### FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



# D. PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Public diplomacy is a core area in the efforts of the DFA to develop effective policy responses to international issues and challenges, and secure international and domestic support for the foreign policy priorities and objectives of the Philippines. In 2016, the DFA continued its robust engagement with domestic and international audiences on diverse subjects relevant to the country's foreign policy.



Secretary Yasay addresses the media on the Arbitral Tribunal ruling favoring the Philippines' claim, 12 July 2016, Pasay City (Photo credit: DFA-OPD)

In order to strengthen the capacity of the DFA's personnel to conduct effective public diplomacy, the DFA published A Handbook on Philippine Public Diplomacy, which documented the DFA's experience on the subject.

The vigorous efforts of the DFA in promoting the welfare of Overseas Filipinos (OFs) were also captured through books. This year saw the publication of Anti-Trafficking in Persons: Issues and Responsibilities and Bring Them Home, a book on the DFA's efforts during the Ebola virus epidemic in Africa.

The DFA also utilized various avenues to promote Philippine foreign policy advocacies to as wide an audience as possible, particularly on the issue of the sovereign right of the country to the West Philippine Sea under international law.

The online world, through Facebook and Twitter, proved to be a fertile ground to expand the reach of the DFA and interact with the public. Statistics showed that the DFA's internet presence ranked above those of fellow ASEAN foreign ministries.

### FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth





# TRACK II DIPLOMACY ON THE WPS/ SCS

Secretary Yasay and Assistant Secretary for Public Diplomacy Charles C. Jose talk to the media on various foreign policy issues, 04 July 2016, Pasay City (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

The DFA engaged Track II institutions, the press, and other stakeholders to increase public awareness of Philippine positions on WPS/ SCS, as well as to promote discourse on relevant issues.

On 29 January 2016, the DFA participated in the Forum on West Philippine Sea: Security Issues and Challenges in Puerto Princesa, Palawan, which was organized by the Inter-Agency Coordinating Committee on the West Philippine Sea.

On 03 and 11 March 2016, the DFA held roundtable discussions on WPS/ SCS in Berne and Sydney respectively, and also held a dialogue with the Australian Strategic Policy Institute in Canberra on 10 March 2016.

From 03 to 04 September 2016, the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and the DFA held the Second Manila Conference on the South China Sea in Manila. The DFA and FSI also participated in a roundtable discussion with officials from the Chinese Institute for Contemporary International Relations from 12 to 13 September 2016.

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

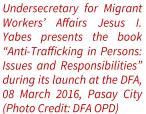


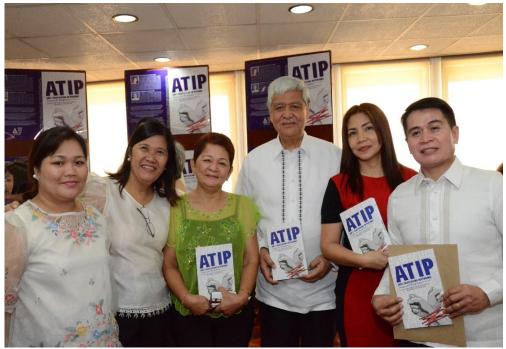
### **BOOK LAUNCHES**

### Anti-Trafficking in Persons: Issues and Responsibilities

The DFA, together with the Philippine Ambassadors' Foundation, Inc. and Quezon City Gender and Development Resources and Coordinating Office, launched the book, Anti-Trafficking In Persons: Issues and Responsibilities on 08 March 2016.





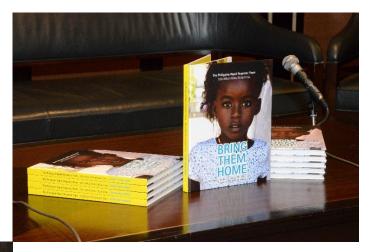


### FOREIGN RELATIONS STRENGTHENED TO PROMOTE A STABLE Security Environment and Economic Growth



### **Bring Them Home**

The DFA published the coffee table book, Bring Them Home, which chronicles the story of the Rapid Response Team deployed to West Africa in 2014 during the Ebola virus epidemic, one of the largest, most complex, and most severe public health emergencies of international concern in recent history.



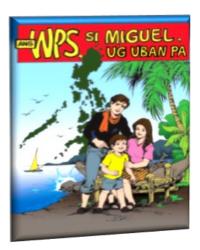


Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Jesus I. Yabes signs a copy of the book "Bring Them Home" during its launch, 06 May 2016, Pasay City (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

# PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

### Continued Campaign on the West Philippine

The DFA, in partnership with the Philippine Information Agency, continued its information campaign to increase public awareness and understanding on the WPS. The campaign included 70 visits to schools and participation in 17 multi-sectoral fora in various parts of the country to encourage discussion of the issue. The DFA distributed comic books and videos, and conducted film screenings of the documentary Kalayaan.



Comics distributed to the public on the WPS issue



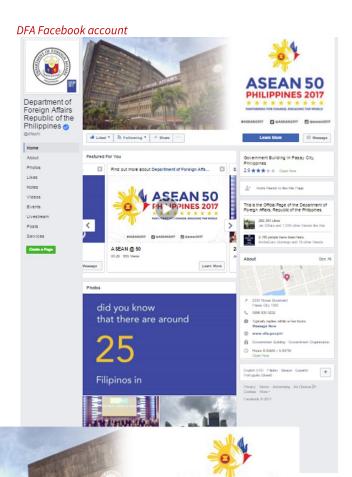
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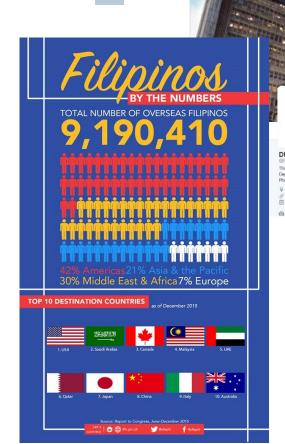


# INCREASED ENGAGEMENT THROUGH TRADITIONAL AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Philippine government positions were conveyed to the world through the DFA's intensified social media engagement. The DFA's Facebook and Twitter accounts provided an opportunity for the DFA to communicate the activities to the public.

DFA Twitter account





DFA infographic on Overseas Filipinos

# PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The DFA intensified its social media campaign on Facebook and Twitter through content such as updates on the Secretary's

activities, news from the Embassies, Permanent Missions and Consulates General, and public advisories announcements through visualization and strategic use of multimedia platforms.

What does ASEAN connectivity means?

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



As of December 2016, the DFA outranked other ASEAN foreign ministries in terms of audience reach on Facebook and Twitter with 165,838 page likes and 19,494 followers, respectively.

The DFA translated public advisories into major Philippine languages such as Cebuano, Chavacano, Hiligaynon, Ilocano, and Waray, to reach a broader audience base. As of December 2016, posts on the DFA public advisories were shared 2,849 times.

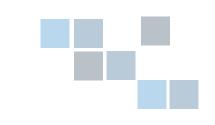
The DFA improved its information dissemination initiatives by translating important procedures such as those related to passport applications into infographics. As of December 2016, passport infographics reached a total of 21,477 album likes, 5,436 post shares, and 20,500 post likes.

The DFA launched a social media campaign called DFA Asks, in which the DFA initiated conversations with the public regarding the latest issues on foreign policy. This was also a way of monitoring public sentiment regarding pertinent foreign policy issues. The DFA promoted the use the hashtag, #DFAinACTION.



DFA public advisory on passport applications

@dfaphl www.dfa.gov.ph





### OVERSEAS FILIPINOS PROTECTED AND ENGAGED

Assistance to nationals (ATN) is a major pillar of Philippine foreign policy, given the millions of Overseas Filipinos (OFs). The DFA ensures that Filipinos are treated with respect under the laws of their host countries and prevailing international conventions. The DFA and other agencies that provide various services, look after the welfare of OFs. 2016 continued to see the DFA respond to the various political and security developments around the world that affect Filipinos.

Aside from providing various forms of help to distressed OFs, the DFA pursued advocacies that seek to ensure the protection of migrants, including the fight against trafficking in persons. In the 2016 Trafficking in Persons Report of the US State Department, the Philippines moved from Tier 2 to Tier 1, demonstrating that the country meets standards for the elimination of human trafficking.

The DFA constantly monitored developments particularly in the Middle East and Africa, home to millions of OFs, to ensure minimal impact on them. In 2016, monitoring was expanded to include mapping missions to African countries.

Life and liberty were an important focus of the DFA's work in 2016. The DFA maintained efforts to ensure that Filipinos could be spared from capital punishment abroad. These efforts led to the repatriation of two (2) Filipinos from Saudi Arabia and one (1) Filipino from Kuwait.

The DFA also worked for the release of five (5) Filipino seafarers from their 4-year captivity by Somali pirates.

Repatriation efforts for thousands of Filipinos in Saudi Arabia continued, as the government sought to resolve their pending labor disputes.

### OVERSEAS FILIPINOS PROTECTED AND ENGAGED



# A. ASSISTANCE TO NATIONALS (ATN)

# Three Filipinos spared from the Death Penalty in the Middle East

By facilitating the issuance of letters of forgiveness (tanazul) and helping in the negotiations for the payment of blood money (diyyah), three (3) OFs were spared from the death penalty in 2016:

- a) Joseph Urbiztondo—former OF from Kuwait, repatriated on 23 February 2016.
- b) Jonard O. Langamin—former OF from Riyadh, repatriated on 25 May 2016.
- c) Edgar Eric Quizon—former OF from Dammam, repatriated on 01 November 2016.



Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Senior Special Assistant Ricardo Endaya welcomes Jonard O. Langamin after he was deported from Saudi Arabia, 24 May 2016, Pasay City (Photo Credit: DFA-OUMWA)



Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Senior Special Assistant Ricardo Endaya provides legal advice to OFs regarding labor-related issues, 08 November 2016, Al Khobar (Photo Credit: DFA-OUMWA)



Secretary Yasay welcomes five freed hostages at NAIA. 28 October 2016, Paranaque City (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

# Five Filipino Seafarers Freed by Somali Pirates

On 24 October 2016, Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs Jesus I. Yabes received in Nairobi, the five (5) Filipino seafarers—Arnel Balbero, Elmer Balbero, Antonio Libres, Jr., Akes Tininggal, Jr., and Ferdinand Dalit—who were among the 29-man crew of the Omani-flagged FV Naham 3 that was hijacked on 26 March 2012 by Somali pirates.

## Repatriation from Saudi Arabia

As of December 2016, more than 4,000 OFs in Saudi Arabia had been repatriated as the DFA continued to lead the on-going repatriation efforts.

On 10 August 2016, the DFA led Inter-Agency Composite Team, known Operation Bring Them Home, to Saudi Arabia to address the needs of OFs stranded in the work camps of Saudi Oger, MMG, Saudi bin Laden Group, and their subcontractors in Al Khobar, Riyadh, Jeddah, and nearby areas. The said companies could no longer employ the OFs as a result of the drop in oil prices.

The DFA secured legal services and facilitated the release of unpaid wages, end-of-service benefits, and other claims of the said OFs.

### OVERSEAS FILIPINOS PROTECTED AND ENGAGED



# B. UTILIZATION OF ATN FUND AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND



Secretary Yasay welcomes Filipino workers repatriated from Saudi Arabia at NAIA, 04 September 2016, Paranaque City (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

> President Duterte, Secretary Yasay, and Labor and Employment Secretary Silvestre H. Bello III pose with Filipino workers repatriated from Saudi Arabia at NAIA, 31 August 2016, Paranaque City (Photo Credit: DFA OPD)



In 2016, a total of 16,630 OFs in distress were assisted. PHP 308.50 million was spent on OFs in distress. This number includes recipients of the ATN fund, walk-ins and referrals, and those who availed of mass repatriation.

On the other hand, a total of PHP 73.28 million was disbursed for legal assistance to 278 OFs whose rights need to be defended. The Legal Assistance Fund (LAF) also covered the services of ten (10) legal retainers in various Embassies and Consulates General.

### OVERSEAS FILIPINOS PROTECTED AND ENGAGED



### C. MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

# High Level Meeting on the Large Movements of **Refugees and Migrants**



Permanent Representative to the United Nations Lourdes O. Yparraguirre delivers her remarks during the Migrant in Countries in Crisis Initiative, 21 September 2016, New York (Photo Credit: Permanent Mission to the United Nations, New York)

During the High Level Meeting on the Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants held on 19 September 2016 in New York, the Philippines welcomed the Political Declaration of the High Level Summit on Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants and its Annexes. The Philippines reaffirmed commitment to protecting the rights and promoting the welfare of OFs through various migration initiatives such as the Guidelines on Migrants in Countries in Crisis (MICIC) and the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime. The Philippines also advocated the recognition contribution migrants' positive inclusive growth and sustainable development. The Philippines stressed the significance of the engagement of relevant stakeholders, through intergovernmental process οf negotiations, in the adoption of Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration in 2018.

### OVERSEAS FILIPINOS PROTECTED AND ENGAGED



## D. TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

The DFA assisted a total of 348 alleged victims of trafficking in persons (TIP) in 2016, of which 256 were from the Middle East and Africa, 40 were from Asia and the Pacific, 41 were from Europe and 11 were from the Americas. The majority of the victims were females and mostly victims of forced labor.

and Kalibo international airports going to third and even fourth transit countries before ending up in their countries of destination.

Most of these victims travelled on tourist visas with fraudulent supporting documents. Others carried work visas that did not correspond to the actual jobs that were waiting for them in their countries of destination. Traffickers used alternate routes such as Clark The Philippines moved up to Tier 1 of the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons Report of 2016. Tier 1 ranking reflects countries' effort that fully satisfies the minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking as provided under the United States Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.



Undersecretary for Administration Linglingay F. Lacanlale addresses the attendees of the Command Conference of Embassies and Consulates in the Middle East and North Africa, 20 January 2016, Amman (Photo Credit: DFA-OUA)

# E. POLICY AND PLANNING ON ASSISTANCE TO NATIONALS

# Command Conference on the Regional Contingency Plan

In 2016, tensions in the Middle East and North Africa, which had the potential to impinge upon the safety and security of OFs, persisted. In this regard, the DFA organized a command conference which was attended by Philippine Ambassadors and Consuls General in the Middle East and North Africa.

During the conference held in Jordan from 20 to 23 January 2016, the participants updated their respective contingency plans for the evacuation and repatriation of OFs. The outcome document of the conference was a regional contingency plan.

After the command conference, the DFA conducted a mapping of OFs in the Gulf Cooperation Council areas, as well as ocular inspections of exit routes in the Gulf areas.

### OVERSEAS FILIPINOS PROTECTED AND ENGAGED



### Security Assessment Mission to Libya



Assistant Secretary for Middle East and African Affairs Hjayceelyn M. Quintana meets with the Filipino community, 25 August 2016, Tripoli (Photo Credit: DFA-OMEAA)

Assistant Secretary for Middle East and African Affairs Hjayceelyn M. Quintana led a four-member Security Assessment Team (SAT) to Libya from 18 to 24 August 2016 to assess the political and security situation in the country. The team met with high-level Libyan government officials and the Filipino community.

The SAT recommended the lowering of Libya's Alert Level from 4 (Mandatory Evacuation) to 2 (Restriction Phase) in view of the improving security situation in the country. The new Alert Level took

effect on 02 September 2016. Alert Level 2 allows for re-deployment of OFs with valid and existing contracts, and the availment of the Balik Manggagawa Program.

The lowering of the Alert Level addresses the concerns of 2,843 OFs who opted to remain in Libya for fear of losing their jobs in view of the absolute deployment ban that the previous Alert Level 4

entailed. The downgrade also sought to curb the practice of Filipinos re-entering Libya through alternative entry points.

OMEAA Assistant Secretary Hjayceelyn M. Quintana meets with the Filipino community in Mozambique during her trip to Africa for a mapping mission, 11 December 2016, Maputo. (Photo Credit: DFA-OMEAA)

# ATN and Mapping Mission to Africa

From 04 to 19 December 2016, Assistant Secretary for Middle East and African Affairs Hjayceelyn M. Quintana led an ATN and Mapping Mission to address concerns affecting Filipinos in Botswana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Africa, and Tanzania.

The mission mapped out the locations of OFs in Africa, collected information on their demographic and employment profiles, as well as assessed their working and living conditions in their countries.





### CONSULAR SERVICES STRENGTHENED



Secretary Yasay inspects the newly opened DFA Satellite Office in Novaliches, 29 November 2016, Quezon City (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD) In line with the President's directive for government offices to streamline processes and provide better service, the DFA sought to provide efficient, prompt, and responsive consular services.

Pursuant to its goal of bringing quality consular services closer to the people, the DFA achieved the following milestones in 2016:

- Implementation of the new ePassport and online appointment system to accommodate the growing demand for passports;
- Issuance of the new ePassport booklet containing additional security features to further protect the integrity of the Philippine passport;
- Transfer of Regional Consular Office (RCO) La Union to the La Union Sky Mall;
- Opening of the 6th satellite consular office of DFA National Capital Region (NCR) North – Robinsons Mall Novaliches, Quezon City; and
- Automation of the cashiering system for authentication services.

# ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 3 CONSULAR SERVICES STRENGTHENED



# A. REGIONAL CONSULAR OFFICES (RCOS) & SATELLITE OFFICES



Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Concerns Ariel Y. Abadilla and Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Frank R. Cimafranca join La Union provincial officials and Manna Mall CEO Joey Tanyao during the ribbon cutting to open the new office of RCO La Union, 10 September 2016, San Fernando. (Photo credit: DFA-OPD)

Secretary Yasay inaugurates DFA NCR-North, together with Representative Alfredo D. Vargas III and Robinsons Land Corporation Senior Vice President Arlene G. Magtibay, 29 November 2016, Quezon City (Photo credit: DFA-OPD) On 15 August 2016, the DFA Satellite Office in Robinsons Galleria participated in the DOLE-One Stop Shop Center for OFWs (OSSCO) launched at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration. The OSSCO-DFA Information Desk assesses documents and endorses passport applications to the DFA-Satellite Office in Robinsons Galleria for processing.

On 10 September 2016, Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Concerns Ariel Y. Abadilla inaugurated the new office of RCO La Union at Manna Mall, San Fernando City, La Union. The new location of the RCO makes it more convenient and easier for applicants to apply for passports.



### CONSULAR SERVICES STRENGTHENED



# B. PASSPORT SERVICES

In 2016, the DFA issued 3,110,204 passports. The DFA also deployed 49 mobile passport missions in various locations around the Philippines.

Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Concerns Rafael E. Seguis heads the delegation to the 6th Philippines-Iran Joint Consular Consultation Meeting, 30 January 2016, Tehran (Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, Tehran)



# C. VISA AND AUTHENTICATION



Secretary Yasay and Sri Lankan Ambassador Aruni Ranaraja shake hands after the signing of the Philippines-Sri Lanka Waiver of the Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports, 07 October 2016, Pasay City. (Photo credit: DFA-OPD)

#### Visa

Embassies and Consulates General issued 669,690 visas in 2016.

In August 2016, the DFA started issuing Machine Readable Visa (MRV) stickers with a new design and enhanced security features to prevent counterfeiting of Philippine visas.

The DFA also participated in meetings of the APEC Business Mobility Group which discussed measures to enable faster, more efficient and more secure travel of business persons within the APEC region. In 2016, the DFA issued 720 APEC Business Travel Cards (ABTC) to Filipino businessmen and pre-cleared 88,296 foreign ABTC applications.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> DFA-Bureau of Immigration Working Group Consultation Meeting was held on 07 December 2016 in Manila to convey immigration-related questions of Embassies and Consulates General and to harmonize policies relating to visas.

In order to expand bilateral relations and improve consular services between countries, the DFA held consular consultations in 2016 with Iran and Indonesia. The 6th Philippines-Iran Joint Consular Consultation Meeting, held from 30 to 31 January 2016 in Tehran, discussed judicial agreements, intelligence cooperation, and mutual support in combating drug trafficking, human trafficking, terrorism, organized crimes, and forgery and fraud of documents.



The Philippine and Indonesian delegations during the 1st Philippines-Indonesia Consular Consultations, 18 March 2016, Davao City (Photo credit: DFA-OCA)

The 1st Philippines-Indonesia Joint Consular Consultation Meeting, held from 18 to 20 March 2016 in Davao City, discussed a possible visa waiver agreement for holders of diplomatic, service, and official passports.

#### Authentication

The DFA issued 767,028 authentication certificates in 2016. In comparison, 859,638 Authentication Certificates were processed for the same period in 2015, reflecting a 10.77% decrease in issuances.

### CONSULAR SERVICES STRENGTHENED



# D. OVERSEAS VOTING

Pursuant to Republic Act No. 10590 or the Overseas Voting Act of 2013, the DFA fulfilled its mandate to assist the Commission on Elections to enable Filipino overseas voters to exercise suffrage in the 2016 national elections.



Personnel of the Philippine Embassy in Singapore conduct the final testing and sealing of vote counting machines before the first day of the 30-day overseas voting period for the 2016 National Elections, 09 April 2016, Singapore (Photo Credit: Philippine **Embassy Singapore**)

The 2016 national elections, conducted from 09 April 2016 to 09 May 2016, saw a record in terms of voter turnout and automated vote counting.

With more than 432,000 overseas votes cast, the year's turnout tripled the 153,323 of the 2010 Presidential elections. The 2016 figure almost doubled the record high of 233,137 votes of the inaugural overseas voting exercise of 2004.

There was a 328% increase in the number of Embassies and Consulates General which conducted automated vote counting from seven (7) Foreign Service Posts (FSPs) covering 324,770 overseas voters in 2013 to 30 FSPs covering approximately 1.12 million voters in 2016. Fifty-two FSPs with an estimated 183,000 voters continued to implement manual vote counting.

### CONSULAR SERVICES STRENGTHENED



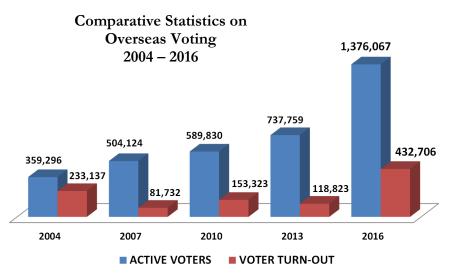
#### Record of Voter Turnout

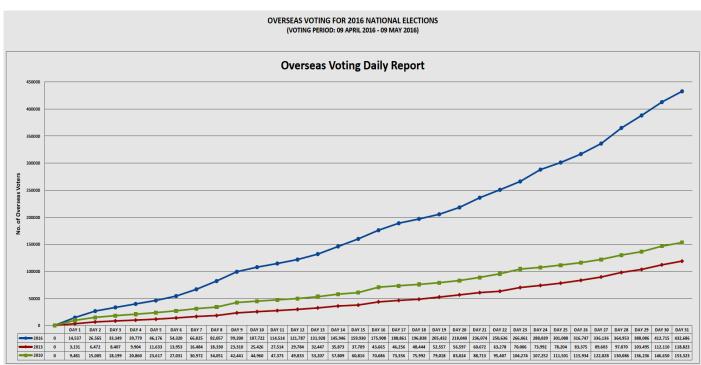
### 2016 Philippine National Elections

REGION	VOTER TURNOUT
Americas	76,650
Asia Pacific	146,603
Europe	47,192
Middle East	162,261
and Africa	
TOTAL	432,706

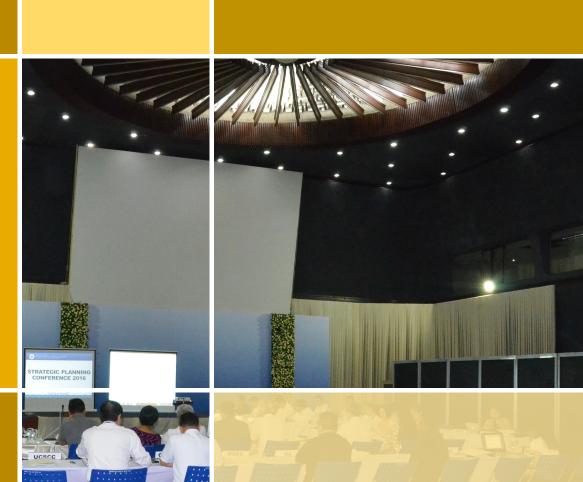
In October and November 2016, the DFA Overseas Voting Secretariat (DFA-OVS) conducted regional on-site trainings on the registration/certification for qualified OFs for the 2019 elections. Two hundred officers and staff from the FSPs, who would act as Administering Officers, Voter Registration Machine Operators, and Resident Election Registration Board members, participated in the training.

In partnership with UBE Media/Panahon TV and in coordination with COMELEC, DFA-OVS released on 15 December 2016 video and radio public service announcements on the registration/certification for qualified OFs for the 2019 elections. The announcements were disseminated to all FSPs, media partners, and other overseas voting stakeholders to jumpstart the Secretariat's omni-media information campaign.





# CHAPTER III: ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NSTITUTION BUILDING





# ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INSTITUTION BUILDING



Outgoing Secretary Almendras turns over the leadership of the DFA to Incoming Secretary Yasay, 01 July 2016, Pasay City (Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) undertook a major review of its organizational structure and continued to work on the Institutional Strengthening and Productivity Improvement (ISPI) Program to ensure alignment of the DFA's structure with its functions and responsibilities.

The DFA also initiated projects in the areas of accounting, property acquisition and development, physical infrastructure, and quality management to improve the quality and efficiency of the delivery of its public services.

The DFA pursued ISO certification of its Authentication Services to ensure the delivery of quality consular service. The efforts of the DFA resulted in third-party auditors recommending that it be given ISO 9001:2008 certification. In support of the ISO certification drive, the DFA ensured that all its issuances were reviewed and that offices and personnel were briefed and prepared to undergo the auditing process.

The DFA offered various seminars to employees to improve their capabilities in delivering public service, with an emphasis on gender and disability issues. Personnel also underwent courses on vital administrative matters such as budgeting, accounting, fiscal management, and coaching and mentoring.

The DFA acquired properties for use by Philippine diplomatic missions in Europe, Asia, and America to ensure proper representation and better services.

The DFA continued the technological upgrade of its communication and financial systems.

## A. HUMAN RESOURCES



The DFA conducted 99 trainings/seminars related to career development, skills upgrading, gender development, and wellness of personnel in 2016, with 1,745 participants from various offices.

### Seminar on Empowering Women with Disabilities



The participants, together with Human Resource Management Office Executive Director Mardomel Melicor and DSWD representative, Miramel Laxa, at the Seminar on Empowering Women with Disabilities, 28 March 2016, Pasay City (Photo credit: DFA-HRMO)

The DFA conducted the Seminar on Empowering Women with Disabilities on 28 March 2016, in celebration of Women with Disabilities Day. Twenty participants from the different offices in the DFA attended. Ms. Miramel Laxa from the Protective Services Bureau of the Department of Social Welfare and Development discussed government and services related to persons with disabilities.

### Wellness and Stress Management Seminars

The DFA conducted four (4) Wellness and Debriefing Seminars for Recalled Personnel to 124 participants. The Seminars provided newly-recalled personnel a venue for a debriefing on stressful experiences and educated them on stress management techniques.



The participants, together with Human Resource Management Office Director Lenna de Dios-Sison and resource speakers Dr. Nilda Woolsey and Ms. Yolly Alba of Professional Advancement and Continuing Education (PMF-PACE) at the Wellness and Debriefing Seminar for Recalled DFA personnel, 19 August 2016, Pasay City (Photo credit: DFA-HRMO)

# A. HUMAN RESOURCES





The DFA conducted a Wellness Seminar for Officers-in-Charge of Regional Consular Offices (RCO) and Satellite Offices (SO) from 27 to 29 July 2016 to brief the participants on crisis identification and stress management, and help them cope with their work. Twenty-four participants attended the seminar.

Ms. Yolly Alba of PMF-PACE facilitates the Wellness Seminar for Officers-in-Charge of RCOs and SOs, 27 July 2016, Makati City (Photo Credit: DFA-HRMO)

The Wellness/ Stress Management Seminar-Workshop for Office of Financial Management and Services (OFMS) personnel, held at the Hotel H2O from 24 to 25 September 2016, aimed to improve employees' overall health and morale, and foster stronger relationships and communication in the workplace. One hundred personnel participated in the seminar workshop.

Disease Prevention and Control Bureau Executive Assistant Nelson R. Mendoza lectured on stress and stress management techniques



OFMS personnel do stretching exercises during the Wellness and Stress Management Seminar, 24September 2016, Manila (Photo Credit: DFA-OFMS)

### Coaching and Mentoring Workshops

The DFA conducted six (6) Coaching and Mentoring Workshops in 2016 for 114 personnel in support of the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS).

# B. FINANCE



### **DFA Budget**

For fiscal year (FY) 2017, the DFA obtained additional budget for its Personnel Services (PS) and Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses. These are resources that would strengthen the DFA's ability to continue its programs and activities, such as the implementation of the e-Passport Project launched in 2015, delivery of other diplomatic and consular services, assistance to OFs, contributions to international organizations and hosting of international conferences.

The DFA also received appropriations for Information and Communications Technology projects to help improve office productivity and provide cyber security solutions.

In FY 2016, the DFA obligated 84.33% of its total budget. The International Commitments Fund budget was almost fully utilized at 94%, and the e-Passport budget at 95%.

Releases from the Building Fund in FY 2016 made possible the acquisition of the chancery of the Philippine Mission in Jakarta and renovation of the chancery in New York. These projects are all part of the DFA's efforts to upgrade the representation of posts and enhance the client experience of consular applicants abroad.

Secretary Yasay presents the 2017 DFA Budget Proposal before the members of the House Committee on Appropriations supported by Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo, Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Concerns Ariel Y. Abadilla and other DFA officials, 30 August 2016, Quezon City. (Photo credit: DFA-OPPC)



# B. FINANCE



# Seminar on the New Government Accounting Manual

The DFA organized the Seminar on the new Government Accounting Manual (GAM) from 12 to 16 September 2016 to update participants on the salient features of the new GAM. Commission on Audit technical experts conducted the seminar which was attended by 115 participants.



Participants from different DFA offices at the workshop on the new GAM, 16 September 2016, Pasay City (Photo credit: DFA-OFMS)

### **Course for Special Disbursing Officers**

The DFA conducted the Course for Special Disbursing Officers (SDO) from 20 to 21 September 2016. The Foreign Service Institute facilitated the course which was attended by 25 participants.



Participants in the Retooling Seminar for Finance Officers and a Procurement Process Seminar for Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Members and Finance Officers for foreign service posts in the Americas,01 December 2016, New York (Photo credit: Philippine Consulate General, New York)

# B. FINANCE





Undersecretary for Administration Linglingay F. Lacanlale interacts with participants at the seminar on Enhanced e-NGAS and e-Budget System, 05 July 2016, Pasay City (Photo credit: DFA-OFMS)

# Seminar on Enhanced e-NGAS and e-Budget System

The DFA held two (2) seminars in 2016 on the enhanced e-New Government Accounting System (e-NGAS) and e-Budget System. The seminars upgraded the skills of DFA personnel who use the enhanced e-NGAS and e-Budget System.

#### **Training Workshops for Finance Officers**

The DFA organized several Training Workshops for Finance Officers per geographic region, held on the following dates:

(a) Europe	London, UK	07-11 November 2016
(b) The Americas	New York, USA	28 November-02 December 2016
(c) Middle East and Africa	Dubai, UAE	12-16 December 2016

COA personnel served as resource speakers to discuss topics on the new GAM that ranged from revenue and receipts, inventories, disbursement, and bank reconciliation.



Participants of the Finance Officers' Training Workshop on the GAM, 08 November 2016, London. (Photo credit: Philippine Embassy, London)

# C. Systems and Processes



## **Organizational Diagnosis**

The DFA commissioned the services of the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) in undertaking an Organizational Diagnosis (OD) from January to May 2016. The OD project involved various activities such as an in-depth review of existing policies and procedures, surveys, focus-group discussions, as well as consultations with top-level management.

The project revealed performance and capacity gaps along key organizational dimensions such as human resource assessment, financial performance review, culture-mapping and organiza-

tional structure review. It also proposed improvement and priority institutional interventions to address the identified performance and capacity gaps.



The ISPI program, which started in 2014, has a two-tier approach under the General Appropriations Act. The first phase of the program commenced in 2015, and continued in 2016. The DBM approved the modifications to the DFA's structure including splitting of the Planning and Review Division of the Office of

Policy Planning and Coordination (OPPC), creation of additional divisions, and amendment of the Scheme of Payment of Representation and Transportation Allowances.

# **Quality Management System**

The DFA set in place a Quality Management System (QMS) with authentication service as core process upon the approval of the ISO-aligned Quality Manual and Procedures on 11 May 2016.

In September 2016, the DFA's QMS Core Team conducted an internal quality audit as an integral part of efforts to obtain ISO 9001:2008 certification within the year. Results of the audit were thoroughly discussed in a Management Review meeting on 24 October 2016.

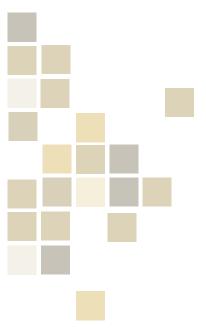
Having passed Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the third-party audit held in December, the third party auditors recommended that the DFA's authentication services be awarded ISO 9001:2008 certification.

# C. SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES



With particular emphasis on the client perspective and based on the QMS, the conducted quality monitoring visits to its five (5) DFA Satellite Consular Offices in Metro Manila namely: NCR-East (SM Megamall); NCR-West (SM Manila); NCR-South (Alabang Town Center); NCR-Northeast (Ali Mall, Cubao) and NCR-Central (Robinsons Galleria).

The DFA also conducted monitoring visits to the Regional Consular Offices (RCOs) in Legazpi, Tuguegarao, Angeles, La Union, Dumaguete, and Calasiao. During the monitoring visits, the visiting teams gave presentations on the DFA's QMS and customer service.



#### Codification of Department Issuances Project

The DFA embarked on a project to codify and review DFA issuances from July 1946 to September 2016. The project produced a manual containing the list of issuances and recommendations for their possible delisting, updating or consolidation.

The project was also undertaken in line with the government's efforts to reduce red tape and to improve its services. This project contributed to the goals of the Project Repeal by the National Competitiveness Council which aimed to eliminate obsolete regulations to increase the effectiveness of the government.

# C. Systems and Processes



#### Audit on Property Inventory and Management

The DFA conducted physical audits of 11 FSPs, RCOs and Satellite offices and paper audits of 72 FSPs on Property Inventory and Management in 2016 to ensure that the internal controls to safeguard government assets are complied with and establish the Baselines Assessment of Internal Controls.

# Seminar on National Guidelines on Internal Control System and Rules on Accountability

The DFA organized three (3) seminars with 299 participants on the internal control system and rules on accountability to promote effective, efficient, ethical and economical management. Deputy Executive Secretary of the Office of the President Alberto A. Bernardo conducted the seminar for the Heads of Posts and other DFA officials.

# **Enterprise Content Management System**

The DFA implemented Phase 1 of the Enterprise Content Management System, a project that aims to fully automate its back-office processes.

# **Authentication Cashiering System**

The DFA developed the Authentication Cashiering System in preparation for the ISO Certification of its authentication services. The system is an electronic solution designed to print invoices and track the delivery time of products and services provided by the Authentication Division. The system automates the registration of client information, computation of fees, and the recording of data.

#### iTrack

The DFA started using iTrack, a network-based system to improve service delivery to external and internal customers by (a) tracking and monitoring documents coursed through OFMS; (b) determining the turnaround time for document processing; and (c) generating reports of OFMS' performance in documents processing.

# D. INFRASTRUCTURE



## **Building Fund Program**

Through the Building Fund Program, the DFA completed the following projects in 2016:

- (a) Acquisition of property at Charitestrasse 710117 Berlin for the Chancery. Building construction started on 06 January 2016, with project completion and occupancy expected by 31 October 2017;
- (b) Construction of the Chancery and Official Residence in Islamabad at the Diplomatic Enclave G-6, Islamabad, which were inaugurated on 28 June 2016;
  - (c) Acquisition of property at JI. Wijaya XVI No. 3-5, Jakarta for the Permanent Mission to ASEAN;
  - (d) Acquisition of property at 30 Murray Street, Ottawa, Ontario for the Chancery.

The Building Fund was also utilized for major repairs, renovations and development of government-owned properties in Agana, Honolulu, Jakarta, Riyadh, and Singapore.

The DFA, in partnership with the University of the Philippines National Engineering Center (UP-NEC), implemented the Foreign Service Buildings Design Excellence Program, producing a singular set of guidelines for the construction and fit-out of buildings for FSPs.



# DFA Strategic Plan 2017-2022

With the denouement of the DFA Strategic Plan 2011 – 2016 and the assumption of a new leadership in July 2016, the DFA embarked on its strategic planning exercise in July 2015 and completed it in June 2016. The planning exercise included an organizational diagnosis conducted by the DAP, an environmental scan prepared by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI), a training course on strategic planning conducted by the UP National College of Public Administration and Governance, a series of stakeholders' consultations sponsored by OPPC and regional consultation meetings hosted by the DFA's geographic offices.

The drafting process was conducted from April to June 2016. DFA Undersecretaries and Assistant Secretaries participated in a Strategic Planning Conference on 24 and 27 June 2016 which resulted in the DFA Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022. The Plan guides the DFA in pursuing foreign policy goals and objectives and provides the basis for measuring performance.



Secretary Almendras turns over the DFA Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022 to Secretary Yasay on 01 July 2016, Pasay City (Photo credit: DFA-OPD)



# Convening of the Policy Advisory Board

On 19 July 2016, the DFA revived and institutionalized the regular convening of the Policy Advisory Board (PAB). The PAB, chaired by Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo, is composed of the Undersecretaries, Assistant Secretaries, the Director-General of the FSI, and the Chair of the Technical Cooperation Council of the Philippines. It is mandated to convene as an exclusive deliberative mechanism to consider policy recommendations from DFA offices on cross-cutting policy issues for the Secretary's approval.

The PAB had seven (7) meetings in 2016 to deliberate on various bilateral, regional and multilateral issues impacting the DFA and the country's foreign policy.













"I have my marching orders coming from the President, the first being we must make sure that our overseas Filipino workers' needs and problems are specially and adequately addressed"







# A RESILIENT FOR A STRONG PHILIPPINES









# 2016 FOREIGN TRIPS OF THE PRESIDENT AND INCOMING HIGH-LEVEL VISITS

#### INCOMING VISITS

DATE	EVENT	HIGHLIGHTS
26-30 January	State Visit of the Emperor and Empress of Japan	The visit highlighted the commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Establishment of Philippines-Japan relations. They visited the International Rice Research Institute in Los Baños, Laguna and attended a State Dinner hosted by President Aquino.
06-14 April	Official Visit of Prince Albert II of Monaco	Prince Albert II called on President Aquino and discussed marine protection and illegal, unreported, unregulated fishing, environmental damage to the South China Sea (SCS) caused by China's island-building activities, and Monaco's humanitarian assistance to the Philippines. They witnessed the signing of the Framework Agreement on Cooperation. Prince Albert II also visited the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park.

#### **OUTGOING VISITS**

DATE	EVENT	HIGHLIGHTS
15-16 February	Special ASEAN-US Summit California, USA	President Aquino attended the Special ASEAN-United States Summit in Sunnylands, California. The leaders issued the ASEAN-US sunnylands Declaration wherein they agreed on a shared commitment to peaceful resolution of disputes including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes without resorting to the threat or use of force in accordance with universally-recognized principles of international law and the 1982 UN Convention of the Law of the Sea.
05 September	Working Visit to Lao PDR	President Duterte paid courtesy calls on Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith and President Bounnhang Vorachit during which he expressed intent to expand bilateral relations with Laos. He also met with the Filipino Community in Vientiane.
06-08 September	28th and 29th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits  Vientiane, Lao PDR	<ul> <li>Espoused an independent foreign policy</li> <li>Called for cooperation to fully realize a Drug-Free ASEAN and affirmed commitment to combating the spread of illegal drugs</li> <li>Explained the Philippine position on human rights in the context of the country's urgent priorities, national experience and history</li> <li>Affirmed the need and importance of a rules-based approach in the peaceful resolution of disputes</li> <li>Called for re-doubling of efforts in countering terrorism and violent extremism</li> <li>Highlighted the importance of an ASEAN instrument for the promotion and protection of migrant workers</li> <li>Highlighted the importance of enhancing MSME capacity</li> <li>Accepted the Chairship of ASEAN and introduced the theme Partnering for Change, Engaging the World.</li> </ul>

# ANNEX A

08-09 September	State Visit to Indonesia	President Duterte met and had an expanded bilateral meeting with President Joko Widodo . They discussed security in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas, combating piracy and lawlessness, the Philippines' war against illegal drugs, the Mary Jane Veloso case, and connectivity between Mindanao and Sulawesi as well as maritime cooperation with Indonesia. The President also met the Filipino community in Indonesia.
28-29 September	Official Visit to Viet Nam	President Duterte met President Tran Dai Quang, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and General Secretary of the Community Party of Viet Nam Nguyen Phu Trong. The President also met the Filipino community, and Filipino and Vietnamese businessmen.
16-19 October	State Visit to Brunei	President Duterte met Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah and had an expanded bilateral meeting. The President also met the Filipino community.
18-21 October	State Visit to China	President Duterte had meetings with President Xi Jinping, Premier Li Keqiang, National People's Congress Chairman Zhang Dejiang and Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli. The President witnessed the signing of 13 Memoranda of Understanding. The President also had a meeting with the Filipino Community in Beijing.
25-27 October	Official Visit to Japan	President Duterte had an expanded bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The President also met the Filipino Community.
09 November	Official Visit to Malaysia	President Duterte paid respects to the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej.
09-10 November	Official Visit to Malaysia	President Duterte met Prime Minister Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak and had a meeting with the Filipino Community.
19-20 November	Asia Pacific Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM), Lima Peru	Under the theme <i>Quality Growth and Human Development</i> , APEC Leaders issued a declaration that focused on issues and work programs supporting free and open trade and investment, and fosters the achievement of balanced, sustainable and inclusive growth. President Duterte's intervention included the call to go beyond free trade and shift the focus on policies that benefit MSMEs and regulatory reforms. The President cited his administration's initiatives on food security, connectivity, and human capital.
13-14 December	State Visit to Cambodia	President Duterte met King Norodom Sihamoni, Prime Minister Hun Sen, and the Filipino Community, and witnessed the signing of agreements.
15-16 December	State Visit to Singapore	President Duterte had meetings with President Tony Tan Keng Yam and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong during which he discussed economic cooperation, defense and security cooperation, economic relations, people-to-people ties and the Philippines' Chairship of ASEAN in 2017. The President also received executives of the Singapore Business Federation and the Footprints LLC, and met the Filipino Community.



#### **OUTGOING VISITS**

		AMERICAS
DATE	EVENT	HIGHLIGHTS
12 January	PH-US 2+2 Ministerial Meeting Washington D.C., USA	Secretary Albert F. del Rosario and Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin met US Secretary of State John Kerry and Defense Secretary Ashton Carter and discussed the SCS/ West Philippine Sea issue, defense and security engagement, economic cooperation, climate change and the Special ASEAN-US Summit in Sunnylands, California.
15-16 September	Our Ocean Conference Washington D.C., USA	Secretary Perfecto R. Yasay, Jr., as head of delegation, exchanged views and discussed key ocean conservation issues with conference participants from more than 90 countries.
20-24 September	United Nations General Assembly New York, USA	Secretary Yasay headed the delegation to the 71st United Nations General Assembly.
		ASIA PACIFIC
11 April	Introductory Visit to Vietnam	Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh and Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc
13 April	Introductory Visit to Singapore	Secretary Almendras met Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan.
19 April	Introductory Visit to Lao PDR	Secretary Almendras met Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong, Foreign Minister Thongloun Sisilouth and Deputy Foreign Minister Saleumxay Khomassit
04-06 May	Trilateral Meeting be- tween Indonesia, Malay- sia and the Philippines Yogyakarta, Indonesia	Secretary Almendras and Navy Chief Rear Admiral Caesar C. Taccad met their Indonesian and Malaysian counterparts to discuss maritime security issues in the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas.
29-30 May	Introductory Visit to Brunei	Secretary Almendras met Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muízzadin Waddaulahm, Second Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Lim Jock Seng, and Minister of Energy and Industry Pehin Datu Singamanteri Colonel (Rtd) Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Awang Haji Mohammad Yasmin bin Haji Umar.
10 June	Introductory Visit to Thailand	Secretary Almendras met Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai.
14-15 June	Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meet- ing	The Ministers discussed ASEAN-China cooperation and the preparations for the ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit to be held in Vientiane in September 2016. They also exchanged views on developments in the SCS.
	Kunming, China	

# ANNEX A

15-16 July	11 <sup>th</sup> ASEM Summit  Ulanbaatar, Mongolia	Secretary Yasay participated in the Plenary and Retreat Sessions of the Summit wherein he reiterated the Philippine position on the SCS/WPS issue and shared President Duterte's socio-economic and domestic agenda.
21-26 July	49th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting / Post-Ministerial Conferences / 17th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting / 6th East Asia Summit / 23rd ASEAN Regional Forum Vientiane, Lao PDR	Secretary Yasay exchanged views with ASEAN and Dialogue Partners on regional and international issues, including the SCS issue, the protection of migrant workers, trafficking in persons, the evolving security architecture, the Korean peninsula, terrorism, and bio-diversity and climate change.
12-14 August	Visit to Malaysia	Secretary Yasay attended the opening ceremony of the peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and had a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister Dato' Sri Anifah Aman.
17-18 November	APEC Foreign Ministers'	The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Foreign and Trade
	Ministerial Meeting	Ministers issued a Joint Statement that called for greater economic
	Lima, Peru	cooperation and collaboration among APEC member economies in advancing regional economic integration to create more jobs, enhance the regional food market, modernize small businesses, and develop human capital.
19 December	ASEAN Foreign Minis- ters' Retreat	The ASEAN Foreign Ministers met to discuss recent developments involving the Rohingyas in the northern Rakhine State of Myanmar.
	Yangon, Myanmar	
		EUROPE
04-05 December	Official Visit to Russia	Secretary Yasay met with Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and the Filipino Community in Moscow.



#### INCOMING VISITS

DATE	MINISTER / HIGH LEVEL REPRE- SENTATIVE	HIGHLIGHTS
07 January	Foreign Minister Philip Hammond United Kingdom	Secretary del Rosario and Foreign Minister Hammond discussed the 70th Anniversary of Philippines-United Kingdom Bilateral Relations, economic and defense cooperation, the Mindanao Peace Process and the SCS/ WPS issue.  Foreign Minister Hammond also called on President Aquino.
25-27 February	Princess Therese von und zu Liechtenstein Liechtenstein	Princess Therese's visit was the first high-level visit of a delegation from Liechtenstein since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1995. The visit jumpstarted economic cooperation between the Philippines and Liechtenstein.
01-02 April	Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi Indonesia	Foreign Minister Marsudi met with Secretary Almendras to discuss pressing issues of mutual concern.
13-16 April	Defense Secretary Ashton Carter USA	Defense Secretary Carter called on President Aquino and held bilateral meetings with Defense Secretary Voltaire T. Gazmin and Secretary Almendras.
27 July	Secretary of State John Kerry USA	Secretary Kerry met President Duterte and Secretary Yasay, and exchanged assurances to continue to strengthen the Philippines - US alliance.
24-25 November	Foreign Minister Børge Brende Norway	President Duterte and Secretary Yasay received Foreign Minister Brende. He also attended the 4 <sup>th</sup> European Ambassadors Forum: Briefing on Philippine Peace and Development Roadmap.
12-15 December	ASEAN Secretary- General Le Loung Minh	President Duterte received Secretary-General Minh. In preparation for the Philippines' Chairship in 2017, Secretary-General Minh held meetings and breakout sessions with delegates from ASEAN's political, economic and socio-economic pillars.



	POLITICAL/ DEFENSE AGREEMENTS							
		Signed	President's Ratification	Senate's Concurrence	Effectivity			
1	Philippines (PH) – United States Cooperative Threat Reduction Agreement	15-16 October 2015	22 January 2016	N/A	05 February 2016			
2	Agreement between the Philippines and the Republic of Korea on the Protection of Classified Military Information	14 September 2015	16 December 2015	N/A	09 February 2016			
3	Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Ja- pan Concerning the Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology	29 February 2016	27 April 2016					
4	The Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduc- tion	Adopted on 25 October 1980	16 December 2015	01 February 2016	01 June 2016			
5	Agreement between the Philippines and Spain on Cooperation in Combating Transnational Crime	18 December 2015	29 March 2016	N/A	Date of PH Noti- fication: 28 June 2016			
6	Memorandum of Understanding on Political Consultations between the De- partment of Foreign Affairs of the Phil- ippines and the Ministry of Foreign Af- fairs of the Democratic Socialist Repub- lic of Sri Lanka	03 February 2016	13 May 2016					
7	Philippines- Russia Joint Commission on Trade and Economic Cooperation	18 November 2015	11 October 2016					
8	Arms Trade Treaty	Adopted on 02 April 2013	29 December 2016					
9	Memorandum of Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and Government of the Swiss Confederation Concerning the Recognition of Certificates under the Terms of the 1978 STCW	03 March 2016						
10	Arrangement between the Secretary of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines and the Minister of Defense of the French Republic related to De- fense Cooperation	11 May 2016	Pending at the OP.  Date Submitted: 25 August 2016					
11	Budapest Convention on Cybercrime	23 November 2001	09 December 2016					
12	Framework for Trilateral Cooperative Arrangement among Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines on Immediate Measures to Address Security Issues in Maritime Areas of Common Concern	14 July 2016	Pending at the OP.  Date Submitted: 28 September 2016					
13	Memorandum of Understanding be- tween the Philippine Coast Guard and China Coast Guard on the Establish- ment of a Joint Coast Guard Committee on Maritime Cooperation	20 October 2016						



	ECONOMIC/ CULTURAL AGREEMENTS						
		Signed	President's Ratification	Senate's Concurrence	Effectivity		
14	Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with Respect to Tax- es on Income between the Philip- pines and Turkey	18 March 2009	14 January 2014	14 December 2015	11 January 2016		
15	Protocol Amending the Agreement between the Philippines and the Netherlands on the Export of Social Insurance Benefits	21 April 2015	13 October 2015	N/A	01 March 2016		
16	Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol	Adopted on 08 December 2012	12 November 2015	01 February 2016	April 2016		
17	Philippines – Paraguay Bilateral Consultation Mechanism	25 August 2011	29 March 2016	N/A	08 April 2016		
18	Memorandum of Cooperation in the Field of Healthcare between the Department of Health of the Philip- pines and the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan	04 June 2015	16 December 2015	N/A	22 April 2016		
19	Agreement between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of the Netherlands on Mutual Admin- istrative Assistance on Custom Mat- ters	04 February 2011	11 September 2015	N/A	01 May 2016		
20	Protocol Amending the Convention between the Republic of the Philip- pines and the Italian Republic for the Avoidance of Double Taxation with Respect to Taxes on Income and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion	09 December 2013	18 February 2015	14 December 2015	Date of PH Notification: 29 January 2016		
21	Memorandum of Understanding on Agricultural and Agribusiness Coop- eration between the Philippines and Cambodia	10 September 2015	22 January 2016	N/A	09 February 2016		
22	Confidential Memorandum of Un- derstanding between the Philippines and Korea on Air Transport Agree- ment	03 April 2012	29 March 2016				
23	Third Protocol to Amend the Agreement on Trade in Goods un- der the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooper- ation Among the Government of the Member Countries of ASEAN and the Republic of Korea	22 November 2015	29 March 2016				

# ANNEX B

		Signed	President's Ratification	Senate's Concurrence	Effectivity
24	Protocol between the Philippines and Vietnam to Amend the 2010 Memorandum of Agreement on Vietnamese Rice	16 November 2015	07 April 2016		
25	Amendment to the Instrument of Ratification of the Protocol to Im- plement the Sixth Package of Com- mitments on Financial Services un- der the ASEAN Framework Agree- ment on Financial Services	20 March 2015	13 May 2016		
26	ASEAN Agreement on Movement of Natural Persons	19 November 2012	13 May 2016		
27	Memorandum of Understanding on Air Services between the Philippines and Qatar	28 May 2015	07 April 2016	N/A	Date of PH Notification: 28 June 2016
28	Agreement on Trade and Services under the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Co- operation between ASEAN and the Republic of India	13 November 2014	05 September 2016		
29	Protocol to Implement the Eighth Package of Commitments on Air Transport Services under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services	20 December 2013	05 September 2016		
30	Protocol to Amend the Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Eco- nomic Cooperation and Certain Agreements thereunder between ASEAN and the People's Republic of China	21 November 2015	05 August 2016		
31	Framework Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of His Serene Highness the Prince of Monaco	07 April 2016			
32	Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of Bilateral Con- sultations between the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Transport of the Republic of Seychelles	21 April 2016			
33	Paris Agreement	22 April 2016			

# ANNEX B

		Signed	President's Ratification	Senate's Concurrence	Effectivity
34	Memorandum of Cooperation between the Presidential Communications Operations Office of the Government 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	26 October 2016			
35	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the United States of America to Improve International Tax Compliance and to Implement the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act	13 July 2015	01 December 2016		
36	Articles of Agreement of the Asian Infrastructure and Investment Bank	04 February 2016	19 October 2016	Press Release: 06 December 2016	Date of PH Noti- fication: 28 De- cember 2016
37	Arrangement between the Philip- pines and New Zealand Regarding Food Safety Cooperation	18 January 2016			
38	PH – Korea Arrangement Concern- ing a Loan from the Economic De- velopment Cooperation Fund for Panguil Bay Bridge Project	28 April 2016			
39	Philippines – Japan Exchange of Notes on the Project for Improve- ment of TV Programs of People's Television Network	17 June 2016			
40	Philippines – Jordan Memorandum of Understanding on Cultural Coop- eration	27 June 2016			



# ASSISTANCE TO NATIONALS DATA AND STATISTICS

# TABLE 1: NUMBER OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS

Region	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Jan-June 2016
Americas	3,896,853	4,111,095	3,908,601	4,107,543	4,146,066	3,838,798	4,228,601
Asia and Pacific	1,675,507	1,973,224	2,028,396	2,046,145	1,974,831	1,959,156	1,944,149
Europe	715,627	746,701	782,878	768,999	743,826	608,356	662,229
Middle East and Africa	2,868,272	2,681,130	2,050,475	2,169,992	2,205,706	2,784,100	2,130,683
Total	9,156,259	9,512,150	8,770,350	9,092,679	9,070,429	9,190,410	8,965,662

# <u>TABLE 2: TOP 25 COUNTRIES WITH THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS</u> (Based on January- June 2016 Report to Congress)

RANK	COUNTRY	NUMBER OF FILIPINOS
1	United States	3,566,001
2	Saudi Arabia	763,825
3	Canada	662,600
4	Malaysia	620,043
5	United Arab Emirates	615,318
6	Japan	357,430
7	Qatar	281,871
8	Italy	271,654
9	China	251,598
10	Kuwait	236,744
11	Australia	223,352
12	United Kingdom	182,709
13	Singapore	180,000
14	Taiwan	133,577
15	Republic of Korea	67,198
16	Bahrain	57,186
17	Jordan	45,435
18	New Zealand	45,295
19	Spain	39,715
20	Oman	36,413
21	Papua New Guinea	35,758
22	France	34,934
23	Norway	30,068
24	Lebanon	28,207
25	Brunei	23,000

#### TABLE 3: NUMBER OF FILIPINOS ASSISTED THROUGH THE ASSISTANCE TO NATIONALS

Year	ATN Fund	LAF	Total
2016	16,352	278	16,630
2015	36,290	839	37,129
2014	20,697	258	20,955
2013	18,029	246	18,275
2012	6,359	627	6,986
2011	8,339	132	8,471
2010	2,820	130	2,950
2009	3,308	85	3,393
2008	4,245	88	4,333
2007	2,788	86	2,874
2006	3,192	148	3,340
2005	1,963	66	2,029
2004	1,566	73	1,639
2003	1,084	92	1,176
2002	899	157	1,056
2001	1,020	1,774	2,794
2000	679	67	746

# TABLE 4: 2016 DATA ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING CASES

REGION	PERSONS ASSISTED
Americas	11
Asia and the Pacific	40
Europe	41
Middle East and Africa	256
TOTAL	348

# **CONSULAR DATA AND STATISTICS**

# TABLE 5: 2016 PASSPORT ISSUANCES

Passport Issuing Site	NUMBER OF PASSPORTS ISSUED
DFA Manila (ASEANA)	513,297
DFA-NCR Central (Robinsons Galleria)	76,172
DFA-NCR East (SM Megamall)	149,521
DFA-NCR North (Robinsons Novaliches)	9,239
DFA-NCR Northeast (Ali Mall)	123,185
DFA-NCR South (Alabang Town Center)	140,955
DFA-NCR West (SM Manila)	127,030
Regional Consular Offices	1,245,814
Foreign Service Posts	724,991
TOTAL	3,110,204

# TABLE 6: 2016 VISA ISSUANCES – LOCAL

	CLASSIFICATION		NUMBER OF VISAS ISSUED
	Temporary Visitor - Restricted Nati	ionals 9(a)	1,786
Non Immigrant	Foreign Government Officials 9(e)		4,307
Non-Immigrant	Student Visa 9(f)		28
	Pre-arranged employment	9(g)	16
Special Non-Immigrant		47(a)(2)	137
TOTAL			6,274
APEC Business Travel Ca	rds (ABTC)		720

# TABLE 7:VISA ISSUANCES- FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS

CLASSIFICATION	TOTAL
A. Non-Immigrant Visa	2 9 2 1 2 2
Temporary Visitor's Visa 9(a)	661,870
Transit Visa 9(b)	278
Seaman / Airline Crew 9(c)	1,748
Treaty/ Trader Investor 9(d)	80
Foreign Government Official 9(e)	4,368
Student Visa 9(f)	52
Pre-Arranged Employee 9(g)	92
B. Special Category	
SIRV	0
SRRV	625
C. Special Non-Immigrant 47a(2)	261
Special Non- Immigrant 47(b)	10
TOTAL NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS ISSUED	669,384
Immigrant Visa	
13(a)	286
13(g)	20
TOTAL IMMIGRANT VISA ISSUED	306
TOTAL	669,690

#### TABLE 8: 2016 AUTHENTICATED DOCUMENTS

# **AUTHENTICATED DOCUMENTS**

Period	Manila (ASEANA)	DFA-NCR East	DFA-NCR Northeast	DFA-NCR South	DFA-NCR West	RCO Pampanga
JANUARY	45,812	3,726	7,767	,320	7,860	3,379
FEBRUARY	48,008	3,315	7,148	1,160	7,557	3,280
MARCH	44,308	3,707	7,714	1,781	7,806	2,909
APRIL	39,535	4,223	8,231	1,806	10,824	2,852
MAY	40,501	4,223	8,232	1,745	10,193	3,141
JUNE	41,277	5,430	8,364	1,734	9,928	3,055
JULY	38,995	4,643	8,148	1,905	8,588	2,914
AUGUST	41,734	5,207	7,943	1,931	9,327	3,208
SEPTEMBER	36,197	4,724	7,640	1,043	7,874	2,688
OCTOBER	32,258	4,034	6,517	967	7,434	2,592
NOVEMBER	31,924	4,356	7,014	1,015	8,389	2,764
DECEMBER	28,339	4,115	6,268	865	7,106	2,511
Sub-Total	468,888	51,703	90,986	17,272	102,886	35,293
Total	Total 767,028					
Total Authenticated Documents: 767,028						

# TABLE 9: 2016 CIVIL REGISTRY SERVICES

CIVIL REGISTRY REPORTS	TOTAL
Birth	1,178
Legal Instruments	19
Marriage	687
Death	365
Petition for Correction of Clerical Error (RA 9048)	408
Total Number of Reports Processed	2,657

RECEIVED FROM POSTS: TRANSMITTED TO PSA	TOTAL
Birth	31,243
Marriage	18,501
Death	3,008
Petition for Correction of Clerical Error (RA 9048)	863
Conversion to Islam	8
Renunciation	258
Legal Instruments	137
Total No. of Reports received from FSPs	54,018
TOTAL	56,808

# V. 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 Services
		ASIA AND THE	PACIFIC		
Bangkok PE	8	592	305	143	-
Beijing PE	-	-	-	-	-
Brunei PE	1	7	-	-	-
Canberra PE	6	4,672	4,023	-	-
Chongqing PCG	2	47	36	3	-
Dhaka PE	-	-	-	-	-
Dili PE	-	-	-	-	-
Guangzhou PCG	2	272	144	-	-
Hanoi PE	-	-	-	-	-
Hong Kong SAR PCG	-	-	-	-	-
Islamabad PE	4	315	78	100	25
Jakarta PE	10	5,786	2,120	3,141	125
Kuala Lumpur PE	9	9,590	9,590	-	5,167
Macau SAR PCG	-	-	-	-	-
Manado PCG	-	-	-	-	-
New Delhi PE	7	89	89	-	-
Osaka PCG	1	601	248	114	22
Phnom Penh PE	7	429	51	68	2
Port Moresby PE	-	-	-	-	-
Seoul PE	4	942	743	134	74
Shanghai PCG	1	82	3	4	11
Singapore PE	-	-	-	-	-
Sydney PCG	3	121	89	7	3
Tokyo PE	9	1,375	1,374	-	-
Vientiane PE	1	53	43	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 Services
Agana PCG	15	4,394	3,531	474	134
Brasilia PE	3	68	61	3	10
Buenos Aires PE	2	39	9	<u> </u>	10
Calgary PCG	7	2,583	2,117	425	425
Chicago PCG	12	2,662	1775	635	250
Honolulu PCG	10	1,754	1,456	224	74
Los Angeles PCG	17	6,018	4,015	484	303
Mexico PE	5	396	378		18
New York PCG	7	949	512	172	265
Ottawa PE	5	637	296	74	9
San Francisco PCG					
Santiago PE	2	32	30	2	
Toronto PCG	7	5,500	4,461	1,124	17
Vancouver PCG	10	4,268	3,767	409	39
Washington DC PE	20	5,092	4,252	361	479
		EURC	)PE		
Athens PE	9	1,931	1,931	21	4
Ankara PE	18	2,156	619	179	44
Berlin PE	10	1,614	975	260	37
Berne PE					
Brussels PE/PM	2	93	13	5	5
Budapest PE	3	171	133	12	22
Geneva PCG/PM	1	32	20	10	2
Lisbon PE	1	65		9	7
London PE	16	1,641	1,290	370	53
Madrid PE	10	1,097	837	216	33
Milan PCG	19	3,204	2,108	973	123
Moscow PE	1	15	15		
Oslo PE	7	1,439	1,331		119
Paris PE	3	546	427	44	38
Prague PE					
Rome PE	13	4,103	3,284	445	176
The Hague PE	2				
Vienna PE/PM	1	5	2	9	2
Warsaw PE	-	-	-	-	-

Post	Total No. Consular Outreach	Number of Applicants served	Number of Passport Issuances	Number of Legalized Documents	Number of Civil Registration Services
		MIDDLE EAST	AND AFRICA		
Abu Dhabi PE					
Abuja PE	22	229	192	7	17
Amman PE	3	262	15	8	8
Baghdad PE	7	257	250	6	1
Beirut PE					
Cairo PE	5	295	249	18	28
Damascus PE	-	-	-	-	-
Doha PE	-	-	-	-	-
Dubai PCG	12	2,209	1,897	325	25
Jeddah PCG	9	4,121	3,524	559	110
Kuwait PE	-	-	-	-	-
Manama PE	-	-	-	-	-
Muscat PE	5	320	225	70	8
Nairobi PE	10	332	280	35	17
Pretoria PE	12	378	338	26	14
Riyadh PE	42	34,325	18,028	5,748	429
Tehran PE	1	10	-	-	-
Tel Aviv PE	5	558	47	85	-
Tripoli PE	5	516	476	30	7
TOTAL	479	127823	91183	18290	9117

# ANNEX D



Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
February 4	House of Representatives	600	521
March 12	Department of Health, Manila	400	321
March 19	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Quezon City	532	432
April 8	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Manila	500	448
April 9	United Laboratories	650	558
April 30	ABS-CBN, Quezon City	550	458
May 12	Commission on Audit	500	436
May 14	Commission on Audit	500	423
May 27-28	Tagbilaran, Bohol	700	650
une 11	Vigan, Ilocos Sur	950	734
une 25	Hagonoy, Bulacan	600	425
uly 2	Calamba, Laguna	650	550
uly 9	Norzagaray, Bulacan	550	478
uly 15-16	Laoag, Ilocos Norte	2,200	1,772
uly 23	San Miguel, Bulacan	550	456
uly 30	Quezon City	600	449
uly 30	Camp Crame, Quezon City	1,000	631
August 6	Dauis, Bohol	700	600
August 13	Valenzuela City	600	497
August 13	Baler, Aurora	600	517
August 20	Santa Maria, Bulacan	600	492
August 20	San Pablo, Laguna	500	342
August 27	Obando, Bulacan	600	497
September 1	House of Representatives	639	510
September 3	Tubod, Lanao Del Norte	200	142
September 10	Malolos, Bulcan	600	526
September 10	Rodriguez, Rizal	550	414
September 11	Jaen, Nueva Ecija	550	413
September 17	Gen. Tinio, Nueva Ecija	977	794
September 17	Sta. Cruz, Laguna	550	493
September 24	Baliwag, Bulacan	800	699
October 1	San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	800	765
October 1	Marilao, Bulacan	650	443
October 8	Santa Rosa, Laguna	600	531
October 15	Minalin, Pampanga	300	225
October 15	Imus, Cavite	750	585
October 29	Taguig City	650	598
October 29	Catarman, Samar	300	207
November 5	Mandaluyong City	500	341
November 5	Dasmariñas, Cavite	500	437
November 12	Tarlac City	650	547
November 12	Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro	500	408
November 19	Makati City	700	561
November 19	Tanay, Rizal	700	649
December 3	De La Salle Dasmariñas, Cavite	500	376
December 3	Antipolo City	600	564
December 3	Biñan, Laguna	550	484
December 17	Balanga, Bataan	700	665
December 17	Guiguinto, Bulacan	700	650
	TOTA	<b>AL</b> 31,148	25,714

# 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 advices.

#### **DENIS Y. LEPATAN**

Assistant Secretary

#### ARIEL R. PEÑARANDA

**Executive Director** 

#### STEPHANIE BEATRIZ O. VALERA

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**Acting Directors** 

FAITH P. BAUTISTA

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**ROSMIN B. TABING** 

Records Officer

PEDRO B. LUTERIA III

Clerk/Messenger

**BERNARD F. BARTOLOME** 

Property Officer & Secretary

**EDGAR B. GUINTO** 

SDO & Secretary

LIZA A. VILLAFRANCA
LUDIVINA T. CHICO
JANETH C. CONCEPCION
MA. SHIELA E. SOTTO
MA. VICTORIA M. LAPINORIA
NIEL ALEN E. BALLEZA
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Assistants

EDITORIAL ADVISERS

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