



THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT





2017

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter I: OVERVIEW	1
Executive Summary	2
Our Organization: Vision, Mission, & Core Values.....	8
Our Organization at a Glance.....	9
Chapter II: OUTCOMES AND PERFORMANCE	10
<u>ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 1: Foreign Relations Strengthened to</u>	
Promote a Stable Security Environment for Economic Growth.....	11
Preservation and Enhancement of National Security	11
Promotion and Attainment of Economic Security	76
Cultural Diplomacy	82
Public Diplomacy	92
<u>ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 2: Overseas Filipinos Protected and</u>	
Engaged	96
Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN)	97
Utilization of ATN Fund and Legal Assistance Fund (LAF)	99
Migration Governance	99
Trafficking in Persons	100
Mapping of Overseas Filipinos.....	100
<u>ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 3: Consular Services Strengthened</u>	101
Regional Consular Offices / Satellite Offices.....	102
Passport Services	102
Other Services (Visa, Authentication, Consular Records).....	103
Overseas Voting.....	103
Chapter III: ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INSTITUTION BUILDING	105
Human Resources.....	107
Finance.....	111
Systems and Processes	112
Infrastructure.....	114
Policy Planning.....	115
ANNEXES	118
Annex A: Foreign Trips of the President and Incoming High Level Visits	119
Annex B: Official Travels of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs	123
Annex C: Agreements.....	125
Annex D: Consular Data and Statistics	137

"We pursue good relations with all nations anchored on an independent foreign policy, and the basic tenets of sovereign equality, mutual respect and non-interference.

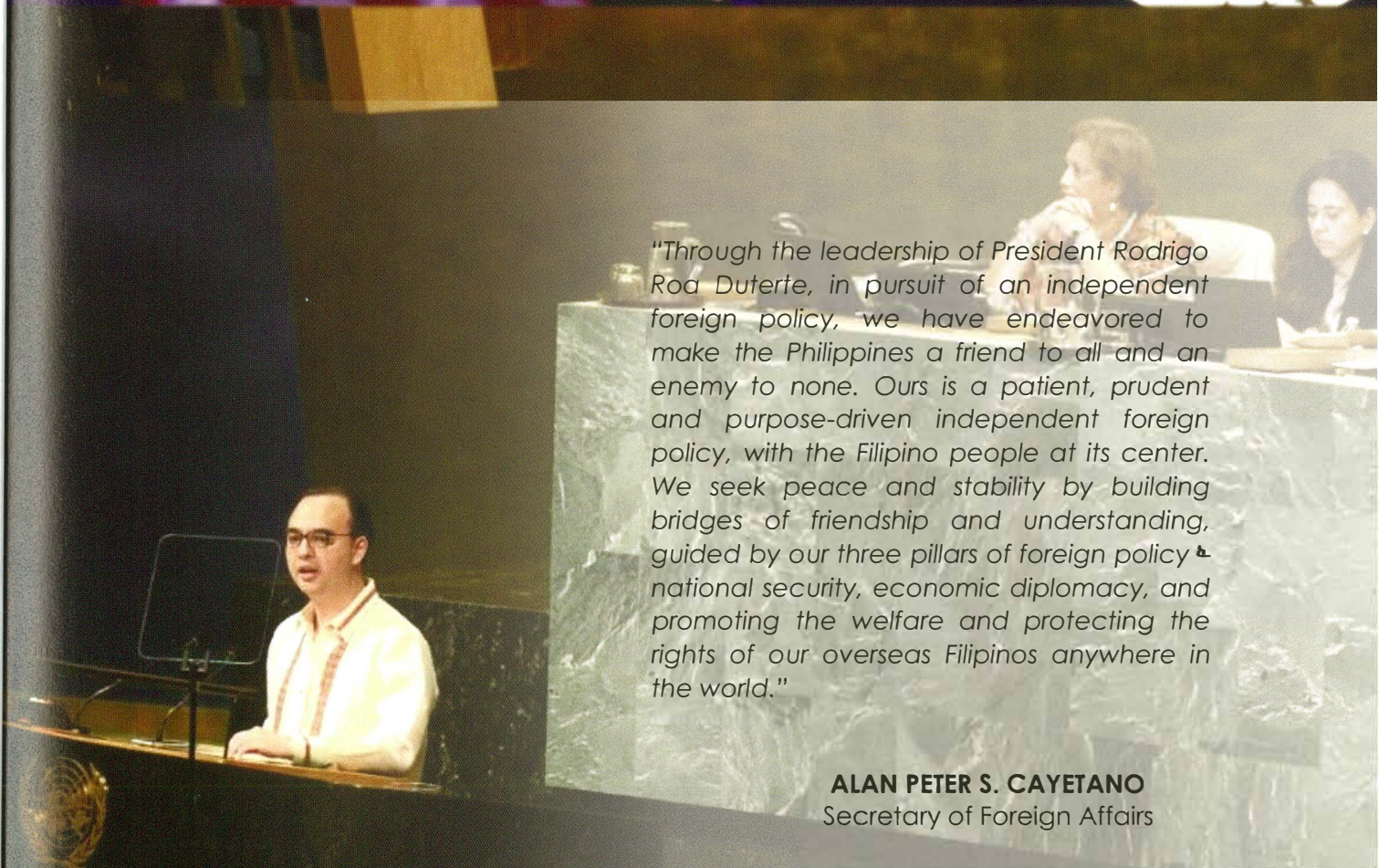
As an independent nation, we will uphold and promote our national interests in the international community. We will strengthen and seek partnerships with those who share our values. We will engage nations with full respect for the rule of law, sovereign equality, and non-interference."

RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
President of the Philippines



"Through the leadership of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, in pursuit of an independent foreign policy, we have endeavored to make the Philippines a friend to all and an enemy to none. Ours is a patient, prudent and purpose-driven independent foreign policy, with the Filipino people at its center. We seek peace and stability by building bridges of friendship and understanding, guided by our three pillars of foreign policy — national security, economic diplomacy, and promoting the welfare and protecting the rights of our overseas Filipinos anywhere in the world."

ALAN PETER S. CAYETANO
Secretary of Foreign Affairs





Chapter I

OVERVIEW

| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

| OUR ORGANIZATION: VISION, MISSION
AND CORE VALUES

| OUR ORGANIZATION AT A GLANCE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2017, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) actively led national efforts to advance Philippine interests in the global arena, as directed by President Rodrigo Duterte, the country's chief foreign policy architect.

With one of the most professional and dedicated workforces in the government, the DFA worked relentlessly to fulfill its mandate to pursue an independent foreign policy that is responsive to the demands of national development and the challenges presented by a rapidly changing global environment.

The year saw a leadership change at the DFA. In May, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano took over the helm of the Department from former Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto R. Yasay, Jr., with Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo easing the transition as Acting Secretary in between.

Building on past gains, Secretary Cayetano led the Department in harnessing the country's network of strategic international linkages to contribute to domestic growth and bring it closer to the national vision of a "strongly rooted, comfortable, and secure life" for the Filipino people by 2040.

In this mission, new partnerships were forged. The thrust was to "build, bridge and build" friendships and understanding, consistent with the Administration's foreign policy strategy of being a friend to all and enemy to none.

In the year, the DFA was also active at the regional and multilateral fronts to enhance international understanding of the country's development imperatives. It actively promoted cooperation on key advocacies, which include the protection of its maritime sovereign interests, countering terrorism and violent extremism, curbing human trafficking, migration and development, and the promotion of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises.

Overall, the three pillars of Philippine foreign policy-- national security, economic diplomacy, and promoting the welfare and protecting the rights of our overseas Filipinos—remain as the DFA's top work priorities. In fulfilling this mandate, the Department pursued an independent foreign policy that is, to quote Secretary Cayetano, "patient, prudent and purpose-driven, with the Filipino people at its center."

Some of the highlights of the DFA's accomplishments in 2017 were as follows:

PHILIPPINES AS 2017 ASEAN CHAIR

In 2017, the country's foreign policy directions were best articulated in the Philippines' role as ASEAN Chair during the regional organization's 50th foundation anniversary year, with the theme, "*Partnering for Change, Engaging the World.*"

The Philippines' chairmanship of the Association throughout the year was widely lauded as it helped the Association to move forward on various initiatives and action points to realize the ASEAN Community Vision 2025.

The outcome documents from the Philippines' chairmanship committed ASEAN to six priorities which will improve the lives of Filipinos and the rest of the ASEAN peoples. The Philippines together with the rest of ASEAN bound themselves to conduct activities and craft work plans towards the following:

1. A People-Oriented and People-Centered ASEAN, which will prioritize the health and nutrition of its citizens, the social protection of the vulnerable including migrant workers, and ensuring that they will not be exploited or mistreated.
2. Peace and Stability in the region, where ASEAN will work together to stop the proliferation of illegal drugs and counter terrorism that destroys lives.
3. Maritime Security and Cooperation, to ensure that we protect our seas and our fishermen who depend on it for livelihood.
4. Inclusive, Innovation-led Growth, helping people become successful entrepreneurs especially in micro, small, or medium enterprises.
5. A Resilient ASEAN, to boost the region's capability to respond to storms, droughts, and other natural catastrophes and be adaptable to climate change.
6. ASEAN as a Model of Regionalism and a Global Player, to strengthen ASEAN unity so as to effectively address critical issues that challenge our desire for better lives for our citizens.

The Philippines hosted a total of 141 meetings during its ASEAN Chairmanship: two Summits, 19 Ministerial Meetings, 42 Senior Officials' Meetings, and 78 Technical Working Group Meetings. A total of 56 outcome documents were noted, issued, adopted and signed throughout the year. Most noteworthy is the "ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers" signed by the ASEAN Leaders at the 31st ASEAN Summit held in Manila on 14 November, a landmark document that aims to develop an instrument that will establish a framework for cooperation in safeguarding the interests and welfare of the thousands of migrant workers in the region.

BUILD, BRIDGE, BUILD — ENHANCING BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS

Consistent with the foreign policy strategy of the President to be "a friend to all and enemy to none", steps were taken to fortify relations with traditional allies, as well as to revitalize and forge greater exchanges with non-traditional partners. ^h

Friendly, cooperative, and mutually beneficial ties with all nations were endeavored, guided by the principle that in a globalized and interdependent world, the country's strength and standing can be enhanced greatly by partnerships built on the basis of mutual respect and benefit.

The momentum of high-level exchanges between the Philippines and China continued in the year with President Duterte hosting Chinese Premier Li Keqiang during the latter's official visit to the Philippines in November. Agreements on infrastructure projects, finance, and economic and technical cooperation were signed during the visit.

Earlier, in January, the President also hosted Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for a two-day official visit, which also saw the signing of agreements on infrastructure and defense projects.

Meanwhile, President Duterte and US President Trump reaffirmed their commitment to the long-standing defense alliance between the Philippines and the US. Cooperation focused on counter-terrorism assistance from the US, the rehabilitation of Marawi, and assistance on addressing illegal drug demand reduction.

The Philippines also actively engaged Russia, with President Duterte undertaking an official visit and meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. During the visit, eleven agreements were signed in the fields of defense cooperation, tourism, agriculture, trade and industry, energy, transportation, and culture and the arts. President Duterte also met with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev in Manila, where they witnessed the signing of nine more agreements in the areas of security, energy, mass communication, intellectual property, and education. An inaugural meeting of the Joint Working Group on Defense Cooperation was also held between the Philippines and Russia in 2017.

With the Gulf States continuing to be a top destination for overseas Filipinos, President Duterte engaged the leaders of Bahrain, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia during his state visits in 2017, where focus was given to labor cooperation and investment promotion.

Building on the Trilateral Cooperative Agreement signed among the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia in July 2016 to conduct maritime patrol, enhance intelligence and information exchange and maintain a hotline among respective command centers, the DFA continued to facilitate efforts to strengthen cooperation and coordination with Indonesia and Malaysia to address common threats of terrorism and violent extremism confronting the region.

TOWARDS A FAST, EFFECTIVE AND SECURE PASSPORTING SYSTEM

A core part of the DFA's operations is the provision of consular services to its nationals, particularly the issuance of passports, considered the most important security document for Filipino citizens.

To better provide the Filipino people a fast, effective, and secure passporting system, the DFA undertook several measures to improve its services in the year, foremost of which was the amendment of the 1996 Passport Law extending the validity of the Philippine passport from five to 10 years. The new law, Republic Act No. 10928 (2017) otherwise known as "An Act Extending the Validity of Philippine Passports", was signed on 02 August 2017.

To enhance passport production capacity and improve access of Filipinos to consular services, on 20 October 2017, the President also signed Executive Order No. 45, "Providing for the Reorganization of the Field Offices of the Office of Consular Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs", which provides a legal basis for DFA to open additional Consular Offices all over the country.

In 2017, passport issuances increased an annual 19.38% to 3,712,920.

PROTECTING FILIPINOS ABROAD: MORE EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE TO NATIONALS SERVICES

The third pillar of Philippine foreign policy is the promotion and protection of the rights and interests of Filipinos working abroad to provide a comfortable life for their families at home.

During the year, the DFA provided various forms of assistance to a total of 27,871 overseas Filipinos (OFs), with 15,282 OFs as beneficiaries of the Assistance to Nationals (ATN) Fund and 744 OFs as beneficiaries of the Legal Assistance Fund (LAF).

Seeing the necessity to have more funds and flexibility to assist as many OFs in distress as possible, the Department worked to secure Congressional approval to increase the ATN Fund from P400 million to P1 billion and the LAF from P100 million to P200 million for 2018.

Following this development, Secretary Cayetano signed new guidelines on the use of both the ATN Fund and the LAF on 18 December 2017. With the new rules, the DFA is now in a position to more effectively respond to the growing number of distressed Filipinos abroad. The rules expand the scope of the services covered and allow more flexibility in the disbursement of the funds, thereby enabling the DFA to be more responsive to the needs of distressed Filipinos abroad.

The LAF may be availed of by a distressed overseas Filipino who is unable to engage the services of private counsel, and who is in a country where there is no system of legal aid or public defenders, or where there is no access to counsel de officio, or any lawyer provided by the foreign host government.

The ATN Fund, on the other hand, shall be used to cover welfare assistance, and repatriation for distressed Filipinos abroad, including those sick and deceased. These now include door-to-door repatriation from the host country to the actual residence in the Philippines, and in case of death, the cost of cremation or embalming and transport of remains to the final destination in the Philippines, with assistance on burial costs.

Under the new guidelines, the DFA will not only provide care packages and basic supplies for Filipinos on death row or serving life sentences abroad but will also shoulder the cost of compassionate visits by their next of kin to the country of incarceration. This also covers Filipinos with life-threatening illnesses abroad.

The ATN Fund shall also be utilized to cover: the cost of medical services and hospitalization for emergency treatments; the opening and maintenance of shelters for distressed Filipinos; the establishment of a 24/7 communications and operations center in the Philippines and abroad; paralegal, security and other training for ATN personnel; and the establishment of an online ATN Case Management System to facilitate case retrieval and direct access to ATN cases and the development of mobile applications.

PH IN APEC 2017: VISION OF MEANINGFUL GLOBALIZATION

At the APEC in 2017, the Philippines made a strong pitch for an inclusive economic and business agenda, underscoring that the 21st century global economic agenda should help those who have been left behind by globalization.

The 25th APEC Economic Leaders Meeting in Vietnam in 2017 adopted a Leaders' Declaration that was of special significance to the Philippines, given the focus on micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

This was a sector the Philippines advocated through several Chairmanships, especially in 2015 when it last chaired APEC. The 2017 Declaration recognized the need to empower MSMEs by increasing their capacities to innovate, improving their access to digital infrastructure, enhancing their digital capacities, competitiveness and resilience, and creating a business environment and ecosystem that supports start-ups.

In the first ever APEC-ASEAN Informal Leaders' Dialogue on 10 November 2017, President Duterte linked the two regions' shared aspirations by describing how ASEAN brings to APEC's advocacy of free and open trade its own viable and open trade architecture and its open regionalism.

Economic empowerment, especially of women, was highlighted in the APEC 2017 Leaders' Declaration. This was also an area where the Philippines was particularly recognized.

THE PHILIPPINE PAVILION AT THE 2017 VENICE ART BIENNALE

The DFA spearheaded a number of cultural projects 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.

One of the highlights was the Philippines' participation in the Venice Art Biennale, the world's biggest contemporary art event, for the second time since its return in 2015 after a 51-year hiatus. The Philippines' exhibition, "*The Spectre of Comparison*", was curated by Joselina Cruz, and featured the works of Filipino artists Lani Maestro and Manuel Ocampo.

The exhibition's take off point was Jose Rizal's protagonist in *Noli Me Tangere*, Crisostomo Ibarra, who experienced a double vision when he gazed out at the botanical gardens of Manila. The exhibition looks at how Maestro and Ocampo see the events of the Philippines and their adopted countries through an inverted telescope.

The site of the 2017 Philippine Pavilion was the Arsenale, one of the main exhibition spaces of the Venice Biennale. The Arsenale is the largest pre-industrial pre-industrial production center of the world, then a symbol of the military, economic and political power of Venice at the time.

The Philippine participation at the Venice Biennale was a joint project of the NCCA, the DFA, and the Office of Senator Loren Legarda, with the support of the Department of Tourism (DOT).

The Philippine Pavilion was open to the public from 13 May 2017 until 26 November 2017.

GLOBAL CONFERENCE OF HEADS OF POST

To help build a more resilient foreign service, the Department gathered more than 80 Heads of Philippine Foreign Service Posts to the Global Conference of Heads of Post held on 30 January - 02 February 2017 in Makati City, only the second activity of its kind since the first conference of Heads of Post in March 2007.

The conference provided briefings on the current administration's policy, directions and agenda, discussed current and emerging trends and issues in various regions, and presented the Department's Strategic Plan 2017-2022. All key officials of the DFA and officials of partner government agencies attended the conference.

The conference was one of several initiatives undertaken by the DFA in 2017 to strengthen the institution, particularly its policy formulation and implementation processes, in line with the Department's vision of "A resilient foreign service for a strong Philippines."

OUR ORGANIZATION: VISION, MISSION, AND CORE VALUES

“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

Patriotism
Integrity
Professionalism
Excellence
Service

OUR ORGANIZATION AT A GLANCE

Total Number of Foreign Service Posts:

Embassy	60
Permanent Missions	4
Consulates General	21

Number of DFA Personnel:	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
Home Office Personnel	676	584	1,260
Staff in Consular Offices	168	124	292
Employees on Foreign Assignment	722	617	1,339
	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL:	1,566	1,325	2,891

Service Attachés	247	256	503
Locally Hired Staff	191	296	487
Honorary Consular Officers	40	142	182

Personnel Distribution by Region:	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL
Americas	141	137	278
Asia-Pacific	262	178	440
Europe	162	125	287
Middle East and Africa	157	177	334



Chapter II

OUTCOMES AND PERFORMANCE

ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 1

**Foreign Relations Strengthened
to Promote a Stable Security
Environment for Economic Growth**

| Preservation and Enhancement of
National Security

| Promotion and Attainment of
Economic Security

| Cultural Diplomacy

| Public Diplomacy

ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 2

**Overseas Filipinos Protected
and Engaged**

| Assistance-to-Nationals (ATN)

| Utilization of ATN Fund and Legal
Assistance Fund (LAF)

| Migration Governance

| Trafficking in Persons

| Mapping of Overseas Filipinos

ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 3

Consular Services Strengthened

| Regional Consular Offices / Satellite
Offices

| Passport Services

| Other Services (Visa, Authentication,
Consular Records)

| Overseas Voting

ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 1:

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

PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) is the lead agency that implements Philippine foreign policy in the areas of political and security affairs, under the guidance of the President.

Consistent with the country's independent foreign policy and with the Administration's policy to be "a friend to all and enemy to none", the DFA pursued a foreign policy that is "patient, prudent and purpose-driven, with the Filipino people at its center."

Thus guided and to help realize the Government's vision of a secure and prosperous Philippines that is confident of its place in the community of nations, the DFA actively led efforts to strengthen foreign relations to promote a stable security environment for the country's economic growth.

The country's foreign affairs in 2017 was capped by its successful chairmanship of ASEAN during the regional organization's 50th foundation anniversary year. The Philippines hosted a total of one hundred and forty-one meetings throughout the year, and a total of fifty-six outcome documents were noted, issued, adopted, and signed by Leaders. The Philippines' leadership resulted in a more inclusive, people-centered, resilient and relevant ASEAN community ready for the future and benefitting the Filipino people.

The DFA actively engaged both traditional and non-traditional bilateral partners, and actively participated in multilateral fora, to promote and protect Philippine national interests. This included the implementation of a whole-of-government strategy to address maritime issues in accordance with an independent foreign policy.



President Duterte chairs the 31st ASEAN Summit, 13 November 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)

KEY ADVOCACIES ON NATIONAL SECURITY

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF MARITIME SOVEREIGN INTERESTS

With President Duterte paving the way for improved relations with China, the DFA conducted bilateral visits and made full use of cooperative mechanisms to further create an improved environment for managing issues in the West Philippine Sea (WPS).

The DFA, as chair of the Politico-Legal and Diplomatic Working Group under the National Task Force (NTF) on the West Philippine Sea (WPS), contributed to the whole-of-government efforts in safeguarding Philippine interests in the WPS.

Among the DFA's key contributions are:

- The DFA continued to engage China relative to the Philippines' concerns on the West Philippine Sea. The First Meeting of the Philippines-China Bilateral Consultation Mechanism on the South China Sea (BCM), which serves as a venue for the Philippines and China to manage differences amicably, was held on 19 May 2017. Positive developments include improvement in the ability of both sides to manage developments in the WPS so as not to escalate tensions; wider access of Filipino artisanal fishermen in Scarborough Shoal; and measures to protect the environment and marine ecosystem in the South China Sea.
- The DFA spearheaded the Philippines' active participation in the ASEAN-China processes on the peaceful management and resolution of disputes in the South China Sea (SCS).

While underscoring the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety, the Philippines also worked actively with its ASEAN neighbors to push for the early conclusion of an effective Code of Conduct (COC). The draft framework for the COC was finalized at the 14th ASEAN-China SOM on the DoC on 18 May 2017; adopted by the ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the Chinese Foreign Minister during the ASEAN-China Post Ministerial Conference on 06 August 2017; and noted by the ASEAN Leaders and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang at the 20th ASEAN-China Summit on 13 November 2017.

The adopted framework will serve as the basis for the beginning of substantive negotiations between China and ASEAN member states on the actual Code of Conduct, which is scheduled to commence in early 2018.

- The Philippines shepherded the adoption of the Declaration for a Decade of Coastal and Marine Environmental Protection in the South China Sea (2017-2027) during the 20th ASEAN-China Summit in November 2017. The Declaration takes off from previous and existing commitments and mechanisms to protect, manage, conserve, preserve, and restore the area's fragile coastal and marine environment. The Declaration also calls for the

formulation of a Plan of Action as an early harvest and confidence building measure. The Declaration is a fitting milestone to commemorate both the 50th anniversary of ASEAN and the 15th anniversary of the 2002 DOC.



From left to right: **H.E. Najib Razak**, Prime Minister of Malaysia; **H.E. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi**, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar; **H.E. Prayut Chan-o-cha**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand; **H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc**, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam; **H.E. Li Keqiang**, Premier of the People's Republic of China; **H.E. Rodrigo Roa Duterte**, President of the Republic of the Philippines; **H.E. Lee Hsien Loong**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore; **His Majesty Hassanal Bolkiah**, Sultan of Brunei Darussalam; **H.E. Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia; **H.E. Joko Widodo**, President of the Republic of Indonesia; and **H.E. Thongloun Sisoulith**, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. (Photo Credit: PCOO)

- The DFA was at the forefront of operationalizing the ASEAN-China Foreign Ministry-to-Foreign Ministry Hotlines in 2017. The Hotlines agreement is intended to manage incidents arising from the implementation of the DOC, and will play a crucial role in preventing tensions from escalating in the WPS.
- The DFA, together with the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), organized a second meeting with the Chinese Coast Guard on 20-21 February 2017. Cooperation between the PH and Chinese coast guards will boost efforts in addressing drug trafficking and other illegal activities at sea, promoting marine environmental protection and strengthening emergency response to maritime incidents.

- Together with other government agencies, the DFA worked on the draft that was to become E.O. No. 25, renaming the Benham Rise to Philippine Rise. The E.O., signed by the President on 16 May 2017, will reinforce the Philippines' exercise of its sovereign rights and jurisdiction over said area.

The Philippine Rise Region is an underwater feature with an approximate area of 24 million hectares located within the Philippines' EEZ and continental shelf, as well as the outer limits of the continental shelf in accordance with the recommendations of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf issued on 12 April 2012.

ADDRESSING NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY THREATS

Counter-Terrorism and De-radicalization

Throughout 2017, the DFA participated in various efforts to build consensus among stakeholders in the government, civil society organizations and academe in relation to preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE). This included developing the National Action Plan (NAP) on PCVE shepherded by the Anti-Terrorism Council – Program Management Center (ATC-PMC). The NAP was completed in December 2017 and was submitted to the Executive Secretary/ATC Chairman and for approval of the ATC members.

The DFA also participated in the Technical Working Group meetings initiated by the ATC-PMC on the Amendment of the Human Security Act of 2007. The proposed amendment, completed on 06 December 2017, contains provisions relating to suppressing recruitment and incitement with respect to the new elements of Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014).

On the international front, the DFA worked towards strengthening cooperation and coordination on counter-terrorism and in managing non-traditional security threats.

The Trilateral Meeting on Security Among the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia held in Manila on 22 June 2017 aimed to enhance cooperation to address terrorism and violent extremism confronting the region. Participating in the meeting were the three countries' Foreign Ministers and leading officials of their Armed Forces, National Police and Intelligence agencies.

This meeting was followed on 12 November 2017 by the Informal Trilateral Ministerial Meeting on Security among the Foreign Ministers of the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia, which was held on the sidelines of the 31st ASEAN Summit in Manila. The meeting is a follow-up on the commitments made during the Trilateral Meeting on Security held in June, and focused on the liberation of Marawi City, the enhancement of Trilateral Cooperation, and the sharing of best practices in Madrasah education and de-radicalization efforts, and religious tolerance.

The Trilateral Roundtable on Legal Frameworks was held in Manila on 21 November 2017 as part of the commitment for a cross comparison of each countries' laws on terrorism. Present were security, intelligence, law enforcement officials, and representatives from the Foreign Ministries of Indonesia and Malaysia as well as representatives from Philippine agencies such as the DFA, DOJ, ATC-PMC and PCTC.

The Philippines also participated in the Aqaba Process Meeting on Southeast Asia held on 06-07 May 2017 in Aqaba, Jordan. The Aqaba meetings are hosted by Jordan as part of efforts to enhance global coordination in countering terrorism and violent extremism. The Philippine delegation was led by National Security Adviser General Hermogenes Esperon, Jr., with DFA represented by the Assistant Secretary for Middle East and African Affairs Hjayceelyn M. Quintana and Philippine Ambassador to Jordan Junever Mahilum-West.

Among the topics discussed during the meeting were the unique challenges in the Southeast Asia region, the identification of capacity gaps in terms of equipment and training, and the exchange of best practices and expertise from a diverse network of senior intelligence, military, and policy experts.

Continued active engagement with the US led to cooperation on counter-terrorism and extremism, defense, law enforcement, anti-drugs and anti-trafficking, and the rehabilitation of Marawi.

Australia, as the Philippines' second largest partner in defense and security, dispatched mobile training teams for urban warfare training and maritime security training, and deployed relief assistance for Marawi. The Philippines also engaged Japan and China on counter-terrorism initiatives and on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Marawi.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management

The DFA participated in the crafting of the Enhanced Philippine International Humanitarian Assistance Guidelines, which was approved during the Fourth Quarter National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) Full Council Meeting on 05 December 2017.

The thrust of the Guidelines is to develop national resiliency through exhausting all national resources prior to accepting international foreign donations, and the provision of guidelines for the acceptance of foreign donations without the call for international humanitarian assistance.

DEEPENING OF BILATERAL PARTNERSHIPS

Under the Philippines' policy of being "a friend to all and enemy to none", the DFA continued to build, bridge and build relationships and partnerships. It led active engagements with foreign partners in pursuit of amity and cooperation, and the deepening of strategic partnerships, through high-level meetings and visits.

Several agreements were signed during the President's various state visits, in the areas of defense and security cooperation, science and technology, energy, labor, agriculture, tourism, and economic development. Some of the economic agreements signed will feed into the Administration's Build-Build-Build Program to strengthen the country's infrastructure and connectivity.

BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AND OTHER DIALOGUE MECHANISMS

The DFA conducted bilateral consultations and took part in other dialogue mechanisms to strengthen the Philippines' diplomatic relations and cooperation with its partners:

- Philippines-United Arab Emirates Political Consultations, 09 January 2017
- Philippines-China Foreign Ministry Consultations, 18 January 2017
- Philippines-Canada Joint Commission on Bilateral Consultation, 16-17 February 2017
- Philippines-Indonesia Joint Commission on Bilateral Consultation, 23 February 2017
- Philippines-India 12th Political Consultations and 3rd Strategic Dialogue, 27 February 2017
- Special Philippines-Switzerland Political Consultations, 31 March 2017
- Philippines-Russia 10th Political Consultations, 20 April 2017
- Philippines- Israel 9th Joint Commission Meeting, 04 May 2017
- Philippines- European Union Senior Officials' Meeting, 04 July 2017
- Philippines-Laos Joint Commission on Bilateral Consultation, 13 July 2017
- Philippines-Australia 4th Strategic Dialogue, 27 July 2017
- Philippines-Brunei Bilateral Meeting, 02 August 2017
- Philippines-China Bilateral Meeting, 03 August 2017
- Philippines-Republic of Korea Bilateral Meeting, 04 August 2017
- Philippines-Australia Bilateral Meeting, 04 August 2017
- Philippines-New Zealand Bilateral Meeting, 05 August 2017
- Philippines-United States Bilateral Meeting, 05 August 2017
- Philippines-Switzerland Bilateral Meeting, 07 August 2017
- Philippines-Argentina 3rd Bilateral Consultation Meeting, 21-25 August 2017
- Philippines-Uruguay 1st Bilateral Consultation Meeting, 23 August 2017
- Philippines-Colombia Political Consultations, 01 September 2017
- Philippines-Brunei Bilateral Meeting on the sidelines of JCM and related Meetings, 11 October 2017
- Philippines-Japan Bilateral Meeting on the sidelines of the JCM and related Meetings, 12 October 2017
- Philippines-Australia Bilateral Meeting on the sidelines of the JCM and related Meetings, 12 October 2017
- Philippines-United States Bilateral Meeting on the sidelines of the JCM and related Meetings, 12 October 2017
- Philippines-Turkey 4th Political Consultations, 19 October 2017
- Philippines-Spain 4th Political Consultations, 27 October 2017
- Philippines-Italy 1st Political Consultations, 29 October to 01 November 2017
- Philippines-South Africa 4th Bilateral Consultative Forum, 9 November 2017
- Philippines-Brunei Bilateral Meeting with SOM Leader, 10 November 2017
- Philippines-Sweden Political Dialogue, 23 November 2017
- Philippines-Germany 3rd Political Consultations, 24 November 2017
- Philippines-United States Bilateral Strategic Dialogue, 28 November to 02 December 2017
- Philippines-United Kingdom 7th High Level Meeting and London Diplomatic Summit, 4 December 2017
- Philippines- France 1st Political Consultations, 20 December 2017

HIGH LEVEL BILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC:

Australia

Then Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique A. Manalo met with Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop during the latter's visit to the Philippines on 16-17 March 2017 to discuss the status of Philippines-Australia relations which were elevated to the status of Comprehensive Partnership in 2015.

On 10 October 2017, President Duterte visited the largest ship of the Royal Australian Navy, the HMAS Adelaide. It is designed to provide medical and humanitarian assistance during regional emergencies, and has capabilities to deploy personnel for rapid disaster response deployment.

President Duterte met with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on the sidelines of the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Manila on 12 November 2017. Discussions focused on Marawi and on economic cooperation.

Bangladesh

Secretary Cayetano and Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali of the People's Republic of Bangladesh met on the Sidelines of the 50th ASEAN Ministerial Meetings (AMM) and Related Meetings in Manila on 07 August 2017. The foreign ministers discussed the resolution of the Bangladesh bank heist, and improving air links between the Philippines and Bangladesh.

Brunei

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte received H.M. Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam during the latter's State Visit on 27 April 2017. The leaders discussed ways to strengthen the two countries' political, economic and people-to-people ties, and witnessed the signing of two agreements: (1) Agreement on Cultural Cooperation and (2) MOU on Halal Industry and Halal Export Development and Promotion.



President Rodrigo Roa Duterte with Brunei Darussalam Sultan Haji Hassanal during the latter's State Visit, 27 April 2017, Malacañan Palace.
(Photo credit: PNA)

Cambodia

Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Kingdom of Cambodia paid a courtesy call on President Duterte on the sidelines of the 30th ASEAN Summit on 29 April 2017. The Cambodian Prime Minister took the opportunity to personally invite the President to the World Economic Forum for Asia in Cambodia in May 2017, which the President accepted.

On 05-06 December 2017, Cambodian Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Prak Sokhonn paid an official visit to the Philippines and co-chaired with Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano the Second Meeting of the Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC).

The two countries also signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Defense Cooperation and the Agreement on Prevention of Looting and Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property during the visit.

China

Vice Premier Wang Yang of the People's Republic of China visited the Philippines on 16-19 March 2017 to attend the Opening Ceremony of the ASEAN-China Year of Tourism on 16 March. During the visit, he paid a courtesy call on President Duterte in Davao on 17 March, met with the country's economic managers, and delivered the keynote speech at the business forum "Chartering New Heights in the Philippines-China Economic Relations: SME Cross-Border Trade and Investment Matching" held in Manila on 18 March.

On 13 May 2017, President Duterte visited Hong Kong SAR and met with the Filipino community. The President acknowledged the role of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in national development. Hong Kong hosts around 211,545 Filipinos, one of the largest in the world.

Upon the invitation of Secretary Cayetano, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi paid an official visit to Manila on 24-25 July 2017. With the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement on strengthening cooperation between the DFA and Chinese Foreign Ministry, Secretary Cayetano expressed optimism that both sides shall harness the positive momentum generated by the improvement of Philippines-China cooperation in the areas of tourism, trade, finance, cooperation against illegal narcotics, terrorism, sports, arts, culture, and science and technology.

Chinese Defense Minister Chang Wanquan visited the PH to participate in the 11th ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and the 4th ADMM-Plus held on 23-24 October 2017 in Clark Field, Angeles City, Pampanga. Following the ADMM meetings, Minister Chang met with Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana on 25 October 2017 to discuss and explore avenues wherein the two countries can improve defense and military-to-military relations.

On 11 November 2017, President Rodrigo Roa Duterte met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Da Nang, Vietnam, following their participation in the 25th Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Economic Leaders Meeting (AELM). During the meeting, President Duterte thanked President Xi for China's counter-terrorism assistance to the Philippines during the Marawi siege.



*Philippine President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and Chinese President Xi Jinping in a brief meeting following their participation in the APEC Economic Leaders Meeting, 11 November 2017, Da Nang, Vietnam.
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

On 15-16 November 2017, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang paid an official visit to the Philippines, during which fourteen (14) agreements and memoranda of understanding on various fields of cooperation were signed. These included agreements on finance, economic and technical cooperation, infrastructure projects, climate change, intellectual property, youth, industrial parks development, production capacity, and defense industry cooperation.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (left) shaking the hand of President Duterte during his official visit to the Philippines, 15 November 2017, Manila (Photo Credit: PCOO)

Chinese Premier Li and President Duterte leading respective delegations in an expanded bilateral meeting during the former's official visit, 15 November 2017, Manila (Photo Credit: PCOO)

From 29 November to 04 December 2017, Secretary Cayetano paid official visits to Hong Kong SAR and Macau SAR. In Hong Kong, he officiated the opening ceremony of the *Ifugao Sculpture: Expressions in Philippine Cordillera Art* which showcased Ifugao culture. Secretary Cayetano also paid a courtesy call on HK SAR Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-Ngor on 01 December to discuss opportunities to further strengthen cooperation in the areas of trade and investments, labor, tourism, and people-to-people exchanges, especially with the signing of the ASEAN-HK Free Trade Agreement (AHKFTA).

In Macau, Secretary Cayetano met with the Filipino community and participated in the annual Christmas Party celebration *Paskong Pinoy 2017*, held at the St. Joseph the Worker Church Activity Hall.

India

Secretary Cayetano met with Minister of State for External Affairs Vijay Kumar Singh of the Republic of India on the sidelines of the 50th ASEAN Ministerial Meetings and Related Meetings on 08 August 2017 in Manila. Secretary Cayetano expressed gratitude for the Indian government's donation of USD 500,000 for the rehabilitation of Marawi, while State Minister Singh emphasized India's readiness to support the Philippines in counter-terrorism and to provide humanitarian assistance. Defense and security matters, multilateral cooperation, and regional issues were also discussed.

On 13 November 2017, President Duterte held a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit and Related Summits in Manila. The two leaders witnessed the exchange of four recently signed agreements on foreign service institutes, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME), agriculture, and defense industry and logistics.



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (left) shaking the hand of President Duterte during their meeting on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit, 13 November 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)

Indonesia

President Duterte received President Joko Widodo of the Republic of Indonesia during the latter's state visit to the Philippines on 28 April 2017, where they discussed the possible convening of the next Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC), the review of the 1975 Border Agreements, increased cooperation in the fight against illegal drugs, maritime security cooperation and transnational crime. The leaders also witnessed the signing of two agreements: 1) MOU on Agricultural Cooperation and 2) Joint Declaration on the Establishment of Sea Connectivity between Davao/General Santos, Southern Mindanao and Bitung, North Sulawesi. On 30 April 2017, President Duterte and President Widodo graced the formal launch of the Davao-General Santos-Bitung RoRo sea linkage route.

Japan

Highlighting the close and deep relations between the Philippines and Japan, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, accompanied by Mme. Akie Abe, undertook a two-day Official Visit to the Philippines on 12-13 January 2017.



President Duterte with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during an Official Visit to the Philippines, 13 January 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)

The Prime Minister was welcomed and hosted to a State Banquet by President Duterte in Manila during the first day, and was invited by the President to his private residence in Davao City on the second day. The Prime Minister was also honored with the privilege of adopting a Philippine eagle, the Philippines' national bird, which was named "Sakura".



*President Duterte hosts Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Mme. Akie Abe at his home, 13 January 2017, Davao City
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

On 05-07 June 2017, Secretary Cayetano undertook a working visit to Japan, where he officially met with Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida for the first time since his appointment as Secretary of Foreign Affairs. Secretary Cayetano expressed his gratitude for the unrelenting support of Japan for Philippine development, citing the over one trillion-yen Official Development Assistance package for social infrastructure projects. Secretary Cayetano also held a press briefing for the Japan National Press Club at its headquarters, and delivered a speech at the 23rd Nikkei International Conference on the Future of Asia.

On 29-31 October 2017, President Duterte paid an official visit to Japan, during which he met with His Majesty Emperor Akihito and Her Majesty Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.

In the President's meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, issues relating to economic relations and tensions in the Korean Peninsula were discussed. In a joint statement, both leaders expressed strong commitment to further enhance bilateral ties.

Following the meeting, the two leaders witnessed the signing of an exchange of notes on the provision of a yen loan of up to 15.928 billion yen for the Cavite Industrial Area Flood Risk Management Project by Secretary Cayetano and Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono. The President also witnessed the signing of letters of intent on cooperation between Philippine officials and Japanese businessmen.

On 13 November 2017, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was visiting the Philippines to attend the ASEAN-Related Summit Meetings in Manila, held a meeting with President Duterte to discuss bilateral and regional matters. The leaders witnessed the signing of five agreements and exchanges of notes on infrastructure and defense projects.

According to the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), in 2017, Japan remained the top provider of ODA to the Philippines, with a total outstanding account of USD 5.33 Billion in loans and grants, accounting for 36.18 percent of the country's total ODA portfolio.

Laos

Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith of the Lao People's Democratic Republic paid a courtesy call on President Duterte on the sidelines of the 30th ASEAN Summit on 29 April 2017, during which the two leaders discussed the good trajectory of bilateral relations.

On 12-14 July 2017, the Lao Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith paid an official visit to the Philippines upon the invitation of Secretary Cayetano. Minister Kommasith also headed the Lao PDR delegation to the Inaugural Meeting of the Philippines-Lao PDR Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC). With Secretary Cayetano as head of the Philippine delegation, various aspects of the bilateral relations were discussed with Laos, including the great potential for expanding tourism and trade and investments through possible mutual agreements on Air Services and Investment Promotion and Protection.

The Philippine and Lao delegations witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Academic Cooperation on Higher Education between the Philippine Commission on Higher Education and Laos' Ministry of Education and Sports.

Myanmar

President Duterte undertook a state visit to the Union of Myanmar on 19-20 March 2017 and met with President U Htin Kyaw, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar. President Duterte and President U Htin Kyaw witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Food Security and Agricultural Cooperation.

New Zealand

Secretary Cayetano held a bilateral meeting with Foreign Minister Gerry Brownlee of New Zealand on the sidelines of the 50th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and Related Meetings on 08 August 2017, where they discussed economic and trade cooperation.

On 14 November 2017, President Duterte and Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand met on the sidelines of the 31st ASEAN and Related Summits in Manila. The leaders focused on trade relations and on possible exchanges in science and technology.



*President Duterte meets with New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern on the sidelines of the 31st ASEAN Summit, 14 November 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

Papua New Guinea

President Duterte met with Prime Minister Peter O'Neill of Papua New Guinea on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) on 09 November 2017.

President Duterte conveyed the Philippines' support for Papua New Guinea's chairmanship and hosting of the APEC in 2018.

Singapore

Secretary Cayetano received Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan of the Republic of Singapore during the latter's visit to the Philippines on 13 June 2017. They affirmed the excellent state of the two countries' ties and resolved to continue to cooperate in ASEAN. Singapore is among the Philippines' top trade and investment partners. The two countries will commemorate 50 years of diplomatic relations in 2019.

Sri Lanka

Secretary Cayetano and State Minister of Foreign Affairs Vasantha Senanayake of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka met on the sidelines of the 50th ASEAN Ministerial Meetings and Related Meetings in Manila on 05 August 2017. The two sides discussed opportunities in tourism, agriculture and investments, and on labor cooperation.

Thailand

On 20-22 March 2017, President Duterte paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Thailand and met with Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. The leaders witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation on science and technology, and an implementing program on tourism and agriculture.

Secretary Cayetano and Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai held a bilateral meeting on 05 August 2017 on the sidelines of the 50th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Manila.

Secretary Cayetano also visited Thailand as Special Envoy of President Duterte for the Royal Cremation of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on 26 October 2017 at the Royal Pavilion, Sanam Luang Grounds in Bangkok.

Timor-Leste

Secretary Cayetano and Foreign Minister Hernani Coelho Da Silva of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste held a bilateral meeting on 05 August 2017 on the sidelines of the 50th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Manila. Foreign Minister Coelho briefed the Secretary on the political developments in Timor-Leste, especially the establishment of its new government.

On the sidelines of the 31st ASEAN Summit on 14 November 2017, Secretary Cayetano met with newly-appointed Foreign Minister Aurelio Guterres of Timor-Leste. Foreign Minister Guterres handed over a letter from Timorese President Francisco Guterres Lu'Olo who was invited as Guest at the Closing Ceremony of the Philippine Chairmanship of ASEAN.

Viet Nam

On 20 February 2017, then Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto R. Yasay, Jr. met with Deputy Prime Minister Pham Binh Minh of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in Boracay, where they discussed matters related to defense, economic relations, the West Philippine Sea, and the Philippine Chairmanship of ASEAN 2017.

President Duterte held a bilateral meeting with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc on the sidelines of the 30th ASEAN Summit on 29 April 2017, where they discussed Viet Nam's commitment to provide long-term supply of rice to PH and progress on the ASEAN-China Code of Conduct (CoC) in the South China Sea.

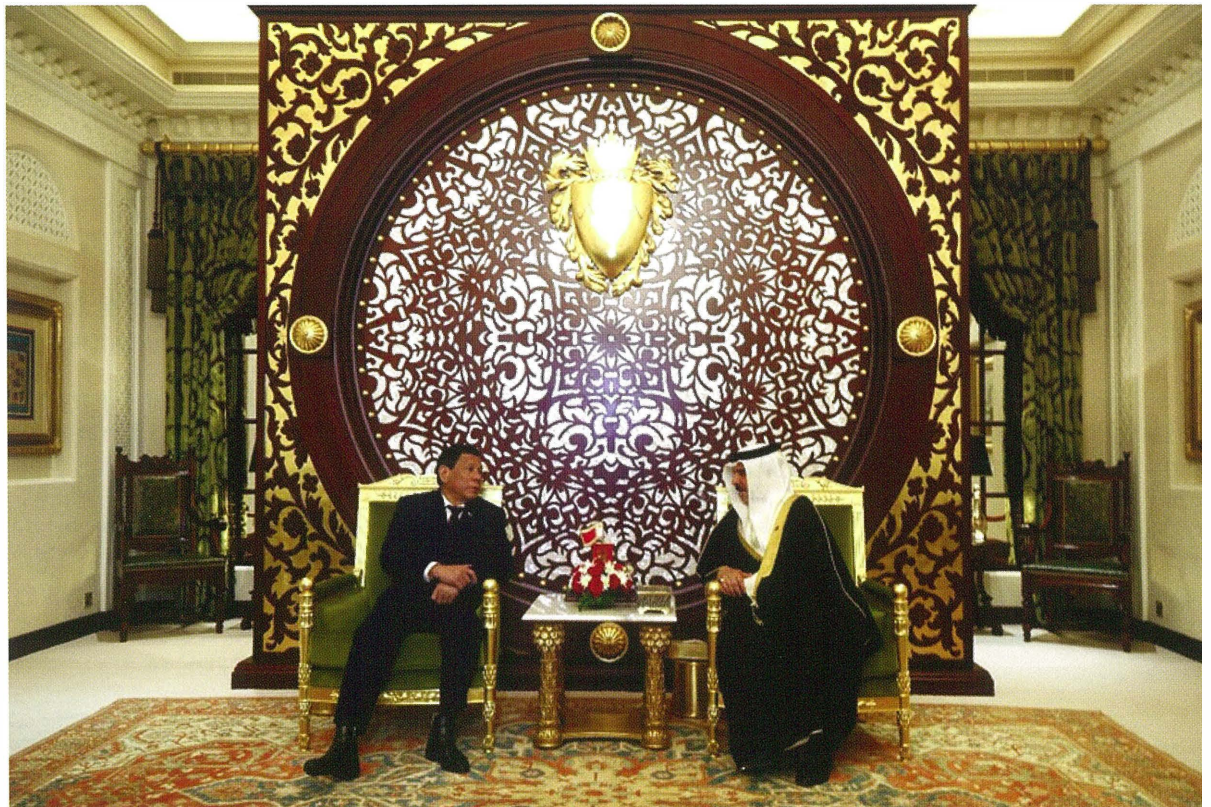
MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

Bahrain

On 13-14 April 2017, President Duterte met with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa during his state visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain. The leaders witnessed the signing of four agreements on the establishment of a High Joint Commission that is aimed at enhancing economic and political cooperation, training of diplomats, air services, and agreement on the avoidance of double taxation.

The President also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the AMA Group Holdings, Inc. and the Nader and Abraham Sons of Hassan Company W.L.L. on the additional investment of USD 250 million, which will see the expansion of the operations of the banana plantation of RP Bahrain Harvest, Inc. in Mindanao. This project is expected to provide 40,000 jobs for farm workers.

Earlier in the year, on 24 January 2017, then Foreign Secretary Yasay conducted a town hall meeting with over 200 Filipino Community leaders and members in Bahrain at the Our Lady of Arabia Auditorium of the Sacred Heart Church in Manama during his short visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain on 24 January 2017.



*His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa of Bahrain receives President Duterte at Sakhir Palace, 13 April 2017, Manama
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

Egypt

Then Foreign Affairs Secretary Yasay visited the Arab Republic of Egypt on 22 January 2017 to meet with his counterpart, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry. During the meeting at the Foreign Ministry, Secretary Yasay and Minister Shoukry signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Foreign Service Institute of the Philippines and the Institute for Diplomatic Studies of Egypt. The MOU will strengthen institutional linkages between the two diplomatic academies, specifically on research and seminars.



Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry welcomes Secretary Yasay, 22 January 2017, Cairo
(Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

Qatar

During his state visit to Qatar on 15-16 April 2017, President Duterte met Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, and discussed bilateral relations. The two leaders then witnessed the signing of four agreements in the areas of culture, health, technical and vocational education and training, and investment promotion and protection. The last agreement provides favorable conditions for inbound investments from Qatar in the areas of infrastructure and other strategic sectors.

During the visit, President Duterte also attended the Philippines-Qatar Business Forum and witnessed the signing of USD 206 million worth of business deals between Qatari businessmen and the PEZA, which is expected to create almost 5,770 jobs in the Philippines.

Saudi Arabia

On 10-12 April 2017, President Duterte met with Saudi Arabian King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, at the latter's private residence during a state visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

President Duterte and King Salman witnessed the signing of the following agreements: (1) Agreement on Labor Cooperation for General Workers Recruitment and Employment between the Department of Labor and Employment of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Labor and Social Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; (2) Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Political Consultations between the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and (3) Cooperation Program Between the Foreign Service Institute of the Republic of the Philippines and Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Earlier, then Secretary Yasay visited Riyadh on 21-22 January 2017. He engaged the Filipino community in Riyadh in an open forum at the Riyadh Marriott Hotel, where around 150 leaders of the different Filipino organizations in the Kingdom were in attendance.



*President Duterte with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, His Majesty, King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, 11 April 2017, Riyadh
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

United Arab Emirates

On 02 March 2017, during his official visit to the United Arab Emirates, then Foreign Affairs Secretary Yasay met with the UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash.

Secretary Yasay and Dr. Gargash discussed the tentative date for the visit of President Duterte to the UAE, and expressed their commitment to finalize pending bilateral agreements on consular, judicial, and labor cooperation.

Secretary Yasay also paid a courtesy call on Sheikh Mohammad bin Rashid al Maktoum, UAE Prime Minister and Vice President and Ruler of Dubai, at the Zaabeel Sports Club on 03 March 2017. Sheikh Maktoum conveyed his personal congratulations as the Philippines assumed the Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2017.



*Secretary Yasay with UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash, 02 March 2017, Abu Dhabi
(Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)*

EUROPE

Belgium

Secretary Cayetano met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and European Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium Didier Reynders, on the sidelines of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly in New York on 22 September 2017. They discussed economic relations and development projects.

Denmark

Then Acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique A. Manalo and Danish Permanent Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Ulrik Vestergaard Knudsen signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark on the Establishment of a Mechanism for Bilateral Consultations on 04 April 2017, Taguig City.

European Union

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for International Economic Relations Manuel A.J. Teehankee met with Mr. Gunnar Wiegand, Managing Director for Asia and Pacific at the European External Action Service (EEAS), the EU's diplomatic service, on 25 May 2017, Pasay City.

On 02 June 2017, Secretary Cayetano met with EU Ambassador Franz Jessen in Pasay City to discuss the PH-EU Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and EU's official development assistance to the Philippines.

On 18 July 2017, Secretary Cayetano met with four members of the Sub-Committee on Human Rights (DROI) of the European Parliament in Pasay City. The DROI Delegation was composed of Members of European Parliament (MEPs) Soraya Post (Socialists and Democrats [S&D], Sweden), Ádám Kósa (European People's Party, Hungary), Josef Weidenholzer (S&D, Austria), and Rikke Karlsson (European Conservatives and Reformists, Denmark).

Secretary Cayetano also held a meeting with Madame Federica Mogherini, the European Union's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission, on 08 August 2017 on the margins of the 50th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting and Post-Ministerial Conferences in Manila.

France

A five-member French Parliamentary delegation led by its Chairperson-Senator Gérard Miguel and accompanied by French Ambassador to the Philippines Thierry Mathou paid a courtesy call on then Foreign Affairs Secretary Yasay on 09 January 2017.

The French delegation, composed of members of the French-Southeast Asia Group in the French Senate, visited the Philippines on 06-09 January 2017 upon the invitation of of Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III.

Holy See

Secretary Cayetano had a bilateral meeting with Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States of the Holy See, on the sidelines of the 72nd UN General Assembly in New York, USA on 22 September 2017.

During the meeting, Secretary Cayetano took the opportunity to introduce to Archbishop Gallagher the Special Envoy of the President for Interfaith Dialogue, Fr. Alexander P. Balatbat.

Hungary

On 27-28 March 2017, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Hungary Péter Szijjártó visited the Philippines and met with President Duterte, then Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo and Trade Secretary Ramon M. Lopez.



*From left to right: DFA Assistant Secretary Maria Cleofe Natividad, Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo, President Rodrigo R. Duterte, Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister of Hungary Péter Szijjártó, Secretary of Defense Delfin Negrillo Lorenzana, Philippine Ambassador to Hungary Ma. Fe Pangilinan at the Presidential Guest House in Panacan, 27 March 2017, Davao City
(Photo Credit: DFA-OEA)*

Four agreements were signed during the visit: (1) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of the Philippines and the Institute of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary; (2) Cultural Cooperation Program between the National Commission for Culture and the Arts of the Philippines and the Ministry of Human Capacities of Hungary; (3) Memorandum of Understanding Between the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry; and (4) Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Hungary on Economic Cooperation.

Minister Szijjártó also formally re-opened the Embassy of Hungary in the Philippines on 28 March 2017 as part of their “*opening to the East policy.*”

On 22 September 2017, Secretary Cayetano met with Minister Szijjártó on the sidelines of the 72nd UN General Assembly in New York, USA. The extension of the Educational and Scientific Exchange Program for the years 2018-2020 was signed during the meeting.

Ireland

On 19 September 2017, Secretary Cayetano held a bilateral meeting with Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Simon Coveney, TD on the sidelines of the 72nd UN General Assembly in New York, USA. They discussed the forthcoming PH-Ireland political consultations, economic relations, and consular matters.



*Secretary Cayetano meets with Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Simon Coveney, TD, 19 September 2017, New York City
(Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)*

Italy

Then Foreign Affairs Secretary Yasay met with Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano on 18 January 2017 in Rome, Italy to discuss the strengthening of Philippine-Italian relations as it enters its 70th year anniversary in July 2017. Secretary Yasay and Minister Alfano signed the Philippines-Italy Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Establishment of a Bilateral Consultation Mechanism, which provides the framework for political consultations on bilateral and global issues of mutual interest.



Secretary Yasay and Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano,
18 January 2017, Rome
(Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

Norway

On 20 September 2017, Secretary Cayetano met with Foreign Minister Børge Brende of the Kingdom of Norway on the sidelines of the 72nd UN General Assembly in New York, USA. Discussions focused on the maritime industry and the peace process.

Poland

Secretary Cayetano met with Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski of the Republic of Poland on the sidelines of the 72nd UN General Assembly in New York, USA on 19 September 2017, where they discussed the re-opening of the Polish Embassy in Manila in 2018 and possible cooperation activities in the fields of trade and investment, tourism, and education.

Russia

Russian Secretary of the Security Council Nikolay P. Patrushev paid an official visit to the Philippines on 13-17 February 2017. During the visit, he called on President Duterte, held consultations with National Security Adviser and Director General Hermogenes C. Esperon, Jr., and held a working meeting with Secretary of National Defense Delfin N. Lorenzana.



*President Duterte and Russian Secretary of the Security Council Nikolay P. Patrushev,
16 February 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

On 20 February 2017, Russian Senator Andrey Klimov, Deputy Chairman of the Committee on International Affairs of the Russian Federation, paid a courtesy call on President Duterte. Senator Klimov was accompanied by the Ambassador of Russia to the Philippines Igor Khovaeu.

President Duterte undertook an official visit to the Russian Federation on 23-24 May 2017, where he met with Russian President Vladimir Putin. During the visit, eleven agreements were signed in the fields of defense cooperation, tourism, agriculture, trade and industry, energy, transportation, and culture and the arts.

Secretary Cayetano met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on 07 August 2017 to discuss how to further strengthen relations between the Philippines and Russia.



*Secretary Cayetano and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov lead their respective delegations in a meeting, 07 August 2017, Pasay City
(Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)*



*President Duterte and Russian Federation President Vladimir Putin,
24 May 2017, Moscow
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

On 24 October 2017, President Duterte received Russian Minister of Defense Sergey Shoygu in Clark, following his meeting with the Defense Ministers participating in the 11th ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting (ADMM) and 4th ADMM-Plus.

President Rodrigo Duterte again met with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders Meeting on 10 November 2017 in Da Nang, Vietnam.

President Duterte also met with Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev at the Coconut Palace in Pasay City on 13 November 2017, where they witnessed the signing of nine more agreements in the areas of security, energy, mass communication, intellectual property, and education.



*President Duterte and Russian Federation Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, 13 November 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

Switzerland

The year 2017 was a milestone for Philippine-Swiss relations, as it marked the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Then Foreign Affairs Secretary Yasay met with Swiss Federal Councilor Didier Burkhalter on the sidelines of the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council's High Level Segment, kickstarting a series of engagements and activities to celebrate the anniversary. The meeting was held in Geneva, Switzerland on 27 February 2017.

Issues of mutual concern, particularly the Philippine peace processes, federalism, possible cooperation on technical vocational education and training, ratification of the PH-European Free Trade Association Free Trade Agreement (PH-EFTA FTA), PH Chairmanship of ASEAN, the Duterte Administration's campaign against illegal drugs, and death penalty were discussed during the meeting.

This was followed by the convening of the Special Political Consultations between the two countries' officials on 31 March 2017 in Makati. Discussions focused on peace and development, economic and cultural cooperation, human rights and human security.

The Philippine Embassy in Bern hosted a diplomatic reception on 16 June 2017 at the Rathaus, and then organized the first Philippine Fiesta on 17 June 2017 at Waisenhausplatz in the heart of Bern, to celebrate Philippine Independence Day and 60 years of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Switzerland. Filipino communities all over Switzerland joined in celebrating the milestone year through parades, cultural shows, and culinary events.

Turkey

On 14 May 2017, President Duterte held a bilateral meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of the Republic of Turkey on the sidelines of the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing, China.

On 4 August 2017, Secretary Cayetano welcomed to Manila his Turkish Counterpart Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, highlighting the historic first-time visit of a Turkish Foreign Minister to the Philippines.



Secretary Cayetano and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, 04 August 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

United Kingdom

Secretary of State for International Trade Liam Fox, MP, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland called on President Duterte on 03 April 2017. Mr. Fox visited the Philippines on 03-04 April 2017 as the latest in a series of visits by high level economic officials from the UK that aim to strengthen Philippines-UK trade and investment relations.



*President Duterte and UK Secretary of State for International Trade Liam Fox,
03 April 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

On 27 September 2017, the UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Malaysia and the Philippines, Mr. Richard Graham MP, paid a courtesy call on President Duterte. Joining them are British Ambassador to the Philippines Daniel Pruce, Undersecretary Manuel Teehankee, Trade and Industry Undersecretary Rowel Barba, British Embassy Manila Director of Trade and Investment Mike Moon, and British Embassy Manila Head of Inward Investment Aaron Chan. The President and Mr. Graham discussed ways of enhancing bilateral economic relations between the Philippines and UK.



AMERICAS

Argentina

Secretary Cayetano met with Jorge Marcelo Faurie, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of the Argentine Republic on 31 August 2017 on the sidelines of the 8th Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation (FEALAC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) in Busan, Republic of Korea.

The leaders discussed cooperation in agriculture, tourism, culture, education and sports as well as opportunities for trade and investments. They also shared views on Argentina's application to join the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation.



Secretary Cayetano and Argentinian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship Jorge Marcelo Faurie, 31 August 2017, Busan
(Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

Canada

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Policy Enrique A. Manalo met with Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland on 06 August 2017 in Manila, prior to the start of the Post-Ministerial Conference Session with Canada. They exchanged views on the future direction of the ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Partnership.

Colombia

Secretary Cayetano met with Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin of the Republic of Colombia at the UN Headquarters in New York City on the margins of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly on 22 September 2017. Secretary Cayetano expressed appreciation for the reopening of the Embassy of Colombia in Manila.

Mexico

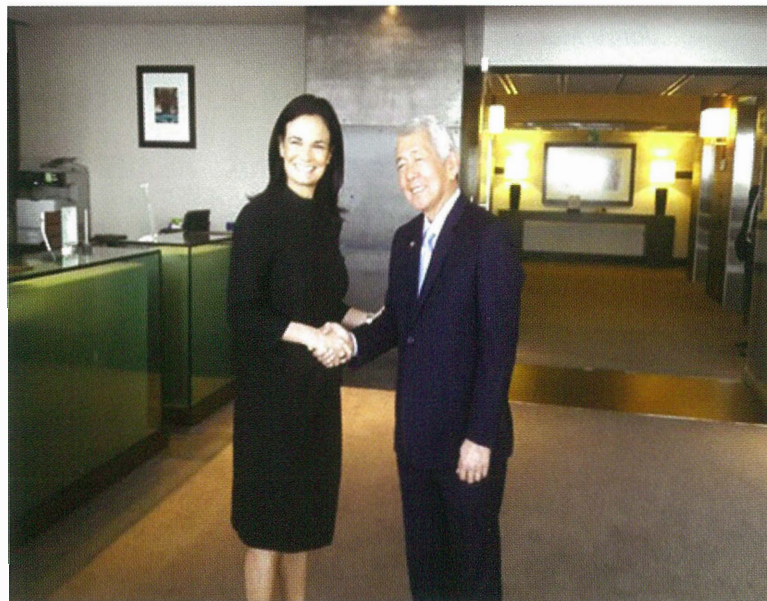
Then Secretary Yasay paid a working visit to Mexico on 14 February 2017, where he met with Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray Caso and discussed cooperation in combatting illegal drugs and growing economic relations.



*Secretary Yasay and Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray Caso, 14 February 2017, Mexico City
(Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)*

Panama

Then Secretary Yasay met with Panamanian Vice President and Foreign Minister Isabel Saint Malo de Alvarado during his working visit to Mexico on 14 February 2017. He confirmed the importance of Panama as a maritime partner of the Philippines, citing that 70,000 Filipino seafarers work in Panama-registered vessels every year.



*Secretary Yasay and Panamanian Vice-President and Foreign Minister Isabel Saint Malo de Alvarado, 14 February 2017, Mexico City
(Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)*

United States of America

Then Secretary Yasay met with Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr. on 10 February 2017 at the Pacific Command Headquarters in Camp Smith, Hawaii. Among the topics discussed during the meeting were continued cooperation between the PH and US militaries in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations, counter-terrorism efforts, and the fight against illegal drugs and other transnational crimes.



Secretary Yasay and US Pacific Command Commander Admiral Harry B. Harris Jr.,
10 February 2017, Hawaii
(Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

On 02-04 May 2017, then Acting Secretary Manalo visited the US and met with the following US government officials: Senate Foreign Relations Committee Ranking Member Ben Cardin; Asia Pacific Subcommittee Chair Senator Cory Gardner; US-PH Friendship Caucus Co-Chairs Representatives Steve Chabot and Bobby Scott; and officials from the National Security Council, and the Departments of State and Defense.

US Ambassador to the Philippines Sung Kim paid a courtesy call on President Duterte on 15 January and 27 March 2017, to discuss cooperation in counter-terrorism and counter-narcotics. The US provides support to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) through grant assistance and expedited sales of arms and munitions to support both long-term AFP modernization goals and urgent counter-terrorism requirements.

US Senator Cory Gardner called on President Duterte on 31 May 2017 and discussed further advancing PH-US relations through trade, investment, defense, and security. This was followed by a meeting between Secretary Cayetano and Senator Gardner in September, when the former paid an official visit to Washington and the two officials discussed ways to expand economic cooperation and other areas of bilateral relations.



*US Senator Cory Gardner calls on President Duterte, 31 May 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

On 19 July 2017, Secretary Cayetano received Former United States of America Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who was in Manila for a leadership forum.



*Secretary Cayetano and Former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright,
19 July 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)*

On the sidelines of the 50th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting held on 05-08 August 2017 in Manila, President Duterte received US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.



*President Duterte and US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson,
05 August 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

Admiral Harris, commander of the US Pacific Command, called on President Duterte on 23 August 2017 in Manila, to discuss PH-US defense and security cooperation. The President thanked Admiral Harris for the close partnership of the US in the fight against terrorism, especially in Marawi.

After attending the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly in New York, Secretary Cayetano visited Washington, D.C. on 25–28 September 2017, during which he met with key US government officials including National Security Advisor Herbert Raymond McMaster, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Senators John McCain, Ben Cardin and Cory Gardner; think tanks; and the Filipino community in Washington D.C..



*Secretary Cayetano and US Senator John McCain,
27 September 2017, Washington D.C.
(Photo Credit: Philippine Embassy in Washington D.C.)*



Secretary Cayetano and US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson,
28 September 2017, Washington D.C.
(Photo Credit: U.S. Department of State)



Secretary Cayetano meets with US Senator Cory Gardner,
26 September 2017, Washington D.C.
(Photo Credit: Philippine Embassy in Washington D.C.)

US Secretary of Defense James Mattis, on the other hand, visited the Philippines on 24 October 2017 to participate in the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus. President Duterte thanked Secretary Mattis for US assistance in the counterterrorism operations against the Maute Group in Marawi City.

On 13 November 2017, a bilateral meeting between President Duterte and US President Donald J. Trump was held on the sidelines of the 31st ASEAN and Related Summits in Manila, to discuss the full range of PH-US relations.

The Philippines and the US reaffirmed the enduring PH-US alliance and pledged to strengthen cooperation. They also touched on the ongoing PH campaign against criminality and drugs and committed to share best practices in addressing illicit drug use.



*President Duterte meets with US President Donald J. Trump,
13 November 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

Uruguay

The 1st Philippines - Uruguay High-Level Bilateral Consultation took place on 23 August 2017 in Montevideo, Uruguay. Undersecretary Manalo is the highest Filipino official to make a bilateral visit to Uruguay since diplomatic relations were established between the Philippines and Uruguay on 29 December 1975. Undersecretary Manalo and Uruguay Vice Foreign Minister for Policy Enrique Loedel agreed to implement existing MOUs, such as on agriculture and sports.

ENHANCING REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duterte Administration actively participated in regional and global platforms to pursue Philippine advocacies and interests in the international arena.

ASEAN CHAIRMANSHIP IN 2017

The Philippines led the ASEAN in its role as Chair during the regional organization's 50th foundation anniversary year, using the theme, *"Partnering for Change, Engaging the World."* The Philippines' Chairmanship had six thematic priorities, namely (a) a people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN; (b) peace and stability in the region; (c) maritime security and cooperation; (d) inclusive, innovation-led growth; (e) ASEAN's resiliency; and (f) ASEAN as a model of regionalism and a global player.

A total of 56 outcome documents were noted, issued, adopted, and signed by Leaders during the Philippine Chairmanship in 2017. Most noteworthy is the "ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers" signed by the ASEAN Leaders at the 31st ASEAN Summit held in Manila on 14 November 2017.

This landmark document establishes a framework for cooperation in safeguarding the interests and welfare of the thousands of migrant workers in the region. It strengthens the social protection and access to justice and health services of the region's migrant workers, and ensures their humane and fair treatment.

Among its many provisions, the ASEAN Consensus document recognizes the fundamental rights of migrant workers; upholds fair treatment with respect to gender and nationality; takes necessary actions to prohibit overcharging of placement or recruitment fees and protect from violence and sexual harassment; regulates recruiters to eliminate recruitment malpractices; ensures right to fair and appropriate remuneration and benefits, and join trade unions and associations.

Below is a list of outcome documents acted upon by Leaders during the Philippines' Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2017, per thematic priority (THP):

Meeting		Outcome Document/s	Procedure
30 th ASEAN Summit (26-29 April 2017)	1	Chairman's Statement of the 30 th ASEAN Summit	Issued
	THP #1: A people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN		
	2	ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the Role of Civil Service as a Catalyst for Achieving ASEAN Vision 2025	Signed
	THP #4: Inclusive, innovation-led growth		
	3	BIMP-EAGA Vision 2025	Adopted
	4	Protocol to Amend the BIMP-EAGA MOU on Expansion of Air Linkages	Noted

Meeting		Outcome Document/s	Procedure	
31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits (10-14 November 2017)	5	Chairman's Statement of the 31 st ASEAN Summit	Issued	
	6	Chairman's Statement of the 20 th ASEAN-China Summit	Issued	
	7	Chairman's Statement of the 19 th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit	Issued	
	8	Chairman's Statement of the 20 th ASEAN-Japan Summit	Issued	
	9	Chairman's Statement of the 20 th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Commemorative Summit	Issued	
	10	Chairman's Statement of the 15 th ASEAN-India Summit	Issued	
	11	Chairman's Statement of the 9 th ASEAN-UN Summit	Issued	
	12	Chairman's Statement of the 12 th East Asia Summit	Issued	
	THP #1: A people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN			
	13	ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers	Signed	
	14	ASEAN Declaration on the Gender-Responsive Implementation of the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and Sustainable Development Goals	Adopted	
	15	ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Ending All Forms of Malnutrition	Adopted	
16	ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR): Combating AMR through One Health Approach	Adopted		
17	ASEAN Declaration on the Adoption of the ASEAN Youth Development Index	Adopted		
18	First ASEAN Youth Development Index (YDI)	Noted		
19	Joint Statement on Promoting Women, Peace and Security in ASEAN	Adopted		
20	ASEAN Declaration on 'Culture of Prevention' for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society	Adopted		
21	EAS Leaders' Statement on Cooperation in Poverty Alleviation	Adopted		
THP #2: Peace and stability in the region				
22	Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism	Noted		
23	ASEAN Declaration to Prevent and Combat Cybercrime	Adopted		
24	Bohol Trafficking in Person (TIP) Work Plan 2017-2020	Noted		
25	ASEAN-China Joint Statement on Comprehensively Strengthening Effective Anti-Corruption Cooperation	Issued		
26	EAS Leaders' Declaration on Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism	Adopted		
27	EAS Leaders' Statement on Chemical Weapons	Adopted		
28	EAS Leaders' Statement on Countering Ideological Challenges of Terrorism and Terrorist Narratives and Propaganda	Adopted		
THP #3: Maritime Security and Cooperation				
29	Declaration for a Decade of Coastal and Marine Environmental Protection in the South China Sea (2017-2027)	Adopted		
THP #4: Inclusive, innovation-led growth				
30	ASEAN Declaration on Innovation	Adopted		
31	Action Agenda on Mainstreaming Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) in ASEAN	Adopted		
32	ASEAN Inclusive Business Framework	Noted		
33	ASEAN-China Leaders' Statement on Tourism Cooperation	Issued		
34	Joint Statement between China and ASEAN on Further Deepening the Cooperation of Infrastructure Connectivity	Issued		
35	ASEAN Plus Three Economic Cooperation Work Programme (2018-2022)	Noted		
36	RCEP Ministers' Collective Assessment Report to Leaders	Noted		
37	Joint Leaders' Statement on the Negotiations for the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)	Issued		

Meeting	Outcome Document/s	Procedure
38	ASEAN-Hong Kong, China (HKC) Free Trade Agreement	Noted
39	ASEAN-Hong Kong, China (HKC) Investment Agreement	Noted
THP #5: ASEAN's Resiliency		
40	ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 23rd Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP-23)	Adopted
41	ASEAN Joint Declaration on Hazardous Chemicals and Wastes Management to the 13th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention (BC COP-13); the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention (RC COP-18); and the 8th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention (SC COP-8) / 2017 Meetings of the COPs to the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions	Noted
42	ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on Disaster Health Management	Adopted
43	ASEAN Plus Three Leaders' Statement on Food Security Cooperation	Adopted
44	ASEAN Statement on the Engagement with Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Noted
THP #6: ASEAN: A Model of Regionalism, A Global Player		
45	Manila Declaration on the 20 th Anniversary of the ASEAN Plus Three	Adopted
46	Chairman's Statement of the 5 th ASEAN-U.S. Summit to Commemorate the 40 th Anniversary of ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations	Issued
47	Co-Chairs' Press Statement of the ASEAN-Canada Commemorative Summit on the Occasion of the 40 th Anniversary of the Establishment of ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations	Issued
48	Press Statement of the ASEAN-EU Commemorative Summit on the Occasion of the 40 th Anniversary of the Establishment of ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations	Issued
49	Joint Statement of the ASEAN-U.S. Commemorative Summit on the 40 th Anniversary of the ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations	Adopted
50	Progress Report on the Implementation of the Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2016-2020)	Noted
51	Executive Report on the Progress of the Implementation of the ASEAN-Republic of Korea (ROK) Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership for Peace and Prosperity (2016-2020)	Noted
52	List of Activities for 2017 ASEAN-ROK Cultural Exchange Year	Noted
53	Executive Report on the Progress of the Implementation of the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation and the Revised Implementation Plan of the Vision Statement on ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Cooperation	Noted
54	Report on the Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Framework for Action by Thailand, UN ESCAP, and ASEAN Secretariat	Noted
55	4 th Progress Report on the Implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2013-2017)	Noted
56	ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation Work Plan (2018-2022)	Noted

The Philippines hosted a total of 141 meetings during its ASEAN Chairmanship. These included two Summits, 19 Ministerial Meetings, 42 Senior Officials' Meetings, and 78 Technical Working Group Meetings. In addition, the Philippines organized 79 commemorative activities to highlight ASEAN's 50th year throughout 2017.

*Launch of the Philippines' Chairmanship of ASEAN
15 January 2017, Davao City*



*President Duterte delivers his keynote address at the launch of the Philippines' Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2017, 15 January 2017, Davao City
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

The Philippines, under the leadership of President Duterte, officially launched its Chairmanship of ASEAN at the SMX Convention Center in Davao City on 15 January 2017.

In his keynote address, President Duterte reaffirmed the country's steadfast commitment to upholding the ideals of ASEAN through unity and cooperation which, according to him, have defined the regional community for more than five decades. The ceremony included the unveiling of the Philippines' Chairmanship Commemorative Coin and the Commemorative Stamp, as well as the launch of the ASEAN chairmanship theme song entitled ASEAN Spirit.

23rd Meeting of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) 13-15 February 2017, Boracay

At the 23rd Meeting of the AICHR, the AICHR Representatives had a Retreat session where they adopted the *Guidelines on Field Visits* for the AICHR Philippines-proposed project *Thematic Study on Women Affected by Natural Disasters*. The meeting also adopted in principle the concept note for the 2nd *Workshop on Developing ASEAN Legal Human Rights Instruments*.

30th ASEAN Summit
26-29 April 2017, Manila



ASEAN Leaders at the 30th ASEAN Summit, 29 April 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

President Duterte chaired the following Leaders' meetings during the 30th ASEAN Summit:

- 30th ASEAN Summit – Plenary and Retreat
- ASEAN Leaders' Interface with ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)
- ASEAN Leaders' Interface with ASEAN Youth Leaders
- 12th BIMP-EAGA Summit

The Leaders discussed the progress in ASEAN Community-building and the realization of the ASEAN Vision 2025, noted the need to achieve a modern, comprehensive, high-quality and mutually beneficial Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement amidst the sluggish economic environment and trends toward protectionism, and discussed developments in the South China Sea and in the Korean peninsula.

The Leaders also welcomed the operationalization of the Guidelines for Hotline Communications among Senior Officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of ASEAN Member States and China in Response to Maritime Emergencies in the Implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.

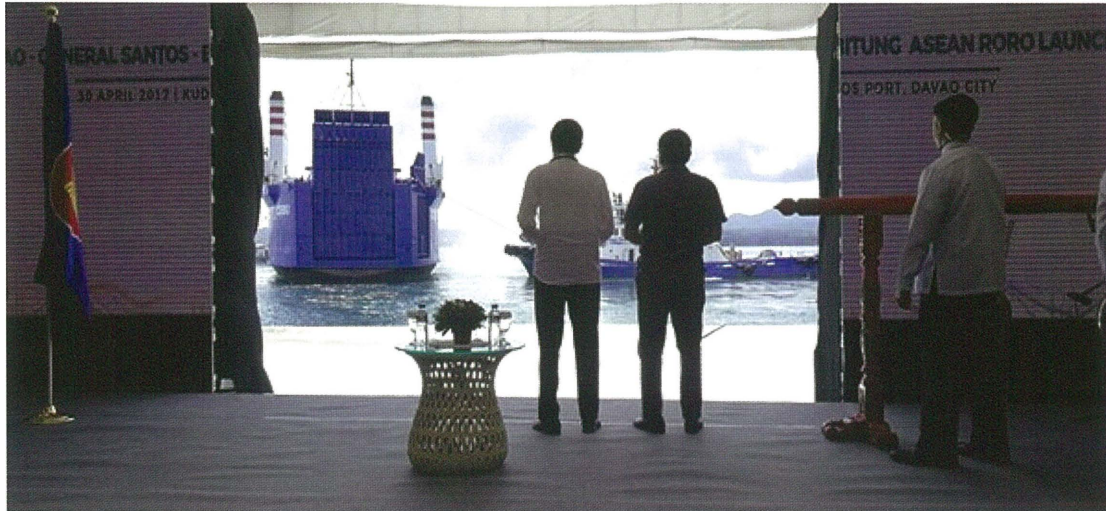
12th BIMP-EAGA Summit
29 April 2017, Manila

The Leaders of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, together with the ASEAN Secretariat and the Asian Development Bank as the BIMP-EAGA Regional Development Advisor, discussed the milestones and developments in the BIMP-EAGA sub-region. Highlighted during the Summit were the adoption of the BIMP-EAGA Vision 2025 (BEV 2025), the successor document to the BIMP-EAGA Implementation Blueprint 2012-2016, and the launching of the Davao/General Santos-Bitung ASEAN Roll-On / Roll-Off (RORO) Sea Linkage Route on 30 April 2017 in Davao City, Philippines.

President Duterte and Indonesian President Joko Widodo spearheaded the launch of the new shipping route which, in President Duterte's words, "will integrate our archipelago to the rest of the region", "strengthen inter-regional maritime connectivity", and "introduce new opportunities for trade expansion with larger and emerging economies outside the region". The launching of the ASEAN RoRo is an initiative that revitalizes trade in the EAGA area and cuts shipping time of goods (agriculture products and implements) between Davao City, General Santos City, and Bitung City on the northern coast of Sulawesi in Indonesia from two weeks to just two to three days.



Leaders of the BIMP-EAGA Member Countries, from left to right: His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'zzaddin, Sultan and Yang-Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Joko Widodo, President of the Republic of Indonesia; H.E. Dato' Sri Mohd, Najib Bin Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, and President Duterte, 29 April 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: ASEAN National Organizing Council)



President Duterte and Indonesian President Joko Widodo witness the launch of the Davao/General Santos-Bitung ASEAN RoRo route, 30 April 2017, Davao City
(Photo Credit: Mindanao Development Authority)



Indonesian President Joko Widodo highlights the significance of the Davao/General Santos-Bitung ASEAN RoRo sea linkage route on trade and infrastructure development in the BIMP-EAGA sub-region during the launch of the Davao/General Santos-Bitung ASEAN RoRo route, 30 April 2017, Davao City
(Photo Credit: Mindanao Development Authority)

*50th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM)
05 August 2017, Manila*



*ASEAN Foreign Ministers at the 50th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 05 August 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: RTVM)*

The 50th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting, led by Secretary Cayetano, discussed matters on ASEAN Centrality, noted progress in the implementation of the ASEAN Vision 2025, exchanged views on regional and international political, security and economic developments, including developments in the South China Sea and the Korean Peninsula, and discussed important ASEAN initiatives including the ASEAN business travel card and the ASEAN Cyber Security Center.

The Ministers also approved the publication of the AICHR's Annual Report 2016-2017, the accession of Argentina to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC), and the issuance of an ASEAN Leaders' Declaration on the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN on 08 August 2017.

*24th ASEAN Regional Forum
07 August 2017, Manila*

The 24th Meeting of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) was held in Manila, Philippines on 07 August 2017. The Meeting was chaired by Secretary Cayetano.

The Ministers underscored the importance of the ARF as the primary forum for constructive dialogue and consultation on political and security issues of mutual interest and concern to the Asia-Pacific region. On the occasion of the ASEAN's 50th Anniversary, the Ministers noted the timeliness of initiating efforts to help advance the evolution of the ARF Process from confidence-building to preventive diplomacy and eventually, towards conflict resolution.

*18th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting
07 August 2017, Philippine International Convention Center, Pasay City*

The Foreign Ministers of ASEAN Member States, China, Japan and the Republic of Korea discussed the Review and Future Direction of the APT Cooperation including the adoption of the APT Cooperation Work Plan 2018-2022, exchanged views on regional and international issues, and preparations for the 20th APT Summit on 13 November 2017.

7th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM)
07 August 2017, Manila



*EAS Foreign Ministers at the 7th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting,
07 August 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: ASEAN Secretariat)*

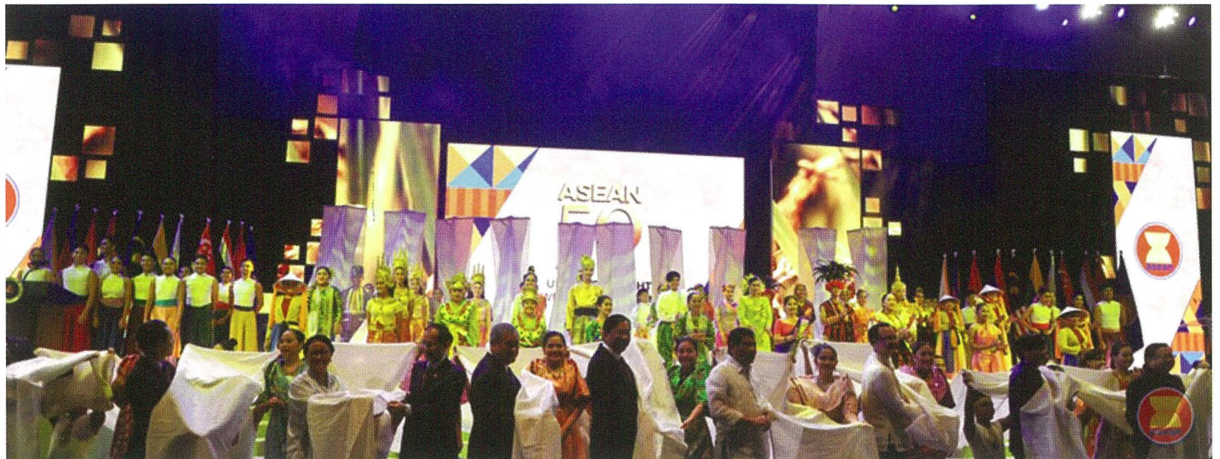
The Philippines hosted the 7th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 07 August 2017 in Manila. It was chaired by Secretary Cayetano and was attended by Foreign Ministers from EAS participating countries – ASEAN Member States: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam, as well as Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia, and the United States of America.



*Secretary Cayetano chairs the 7th EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 07 August 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: ASEAN Secretariat)*

*Grand Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN
08 August 2017, PICC Plenary Hall*

The Philippines commemorated ASEAN's Golden Anniversary on 8 August 2017 with a Grand Celebration at the PICC Plenary Hall in the morning of 8 August. The event also served as the Closing Ceremony of the 50th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting (AMM) and Related Meetings which took place on 2-8 August.



*ASEAN Foreign Ministers participate in the cultural show of the Grand Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN, 08 August 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*



*President Duterte delivers the keynote message during the Grand Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN, 08 August 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*



President Duterte awards the plaques of recognition to the descendants/representatives of the Founding Fathers of ASEAN during the “Tribute to the Founding Fathers” ceremony of the Grand Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of ASEAN. ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh and Foreign Ministers of ASEAN Member States join the President in the recognition rites, 08 August 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)

*Annual ASEAN Foreign Ministers’ Meeting with the UN Secretary General and the President of the UN General Assembly
23 September 2017, UN Headquarters, New York*



Secretary Cayetano chairs the ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting, 23 September 2017, New York
(Photo Credit: ASEAN Secretariat)

Focusing on common goals and shared interests, the ASEAN-UN Ministerial Meeting was held at the UN Headquarters in New York. The Meeting was chaired by Secretary Cayetano, and was attended by the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, the President of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly Miroslav Lajčák, the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN, Secretary-General of ASEAN Le Luong Minh, Foreign Ministers of ASEAN Member States and senior officials of the United Nations.

31st ASEAN Summit
13 November 2017, Manila



President Duterte chairs the 31st ASEAN Summit, 13 November 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)

At the 31st ASEAN Summit, the ASEAN Leaders signed the “ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers”. They also recognized the important role of the AHA Centre in operationalizing the “ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region” and extended appreciation for the prompt response in the delivery of relief items for the Northern Viet Nam flash flood and landslides victims and the displaced communities in Marawi City.

20th ASEAN-China Summit
13 November 2017, Manila

The Summit was chaired by President Duterte, and was attended by all Heads of State/Government of ASEAN Member States and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.

The Summit agreed to increase high-level exchanges and dialogues across the three pillars of cooperation to further solidify ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership and promote mutual understanding; welcomed the positive developments in the South China Sea (SCS) since the last ASEAN-China Summit, including the adoption of a Framework of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) by the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN Member States and China in August 2017; formally announced the start of the substantive negotiations on the COC; and adopted the “ASEAN-China Leaders’ Declaration on a Decade of Coastal and Marine Environmental Protection in the South China Sea (2017-2027).

5th ASEAN-US Summit to Commemorate the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-US Dialogue Relations
13 November 2017, Manila

On 13 November 2017, Leaders of ASEAN Member States met with U.S. President Donald J. Trump in a commemorative summit to mark the 40th Anniversary of ASEAN-U.S. Dialogue Relations. President Duterte, as ASEAN Chair, acknowledged the significance of President Trump's visit to the region at a time when ASEAN celebrates 50 years of relative peace and prosperity made possible by supportive external partners, including the United States.

Under the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-U.S. Strategic Partnership (2016-2020), the Leaders discussed the strengthening of mechanisms to enhance aviation and border security, share information on terrorist networks and counter terrorist financing.

19th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit
13 November 2017, Manila

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte chaired the 19th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit held at the Philippine International Convention Center in Manila on 13 November 2017. The Summit reviewed ASEAN-ROK political-security, economic and socio-cultural cooperation and pointed to ways forward for ASEAN-ROK Strategic Partnership.



Leaders at the 19th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit, 13 November 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)

*20th ASEAN-Japan Summit
13 November 2017, Manila*



*Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during the
20th ASEAN-Japan Summit, 13 November 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

Leaders of ASEAN Member States and Japan gathered in Manila on 13 November 2017 for the 20th ASEAN-Japan Summit in Manila to discuss their longstanding cooperation and strategic partnership.

ASEAN Leaders conveyed their deep appreciation to Prime Minister Abe for his personal efforts to strengthen ASEAN-Japan dialogue relations. Prime Minister Abe was credited for his vision for East Asia that respects ASEAN's central role in the regional architecture while espousing Japan's "Proactive Contribution to Peace" as a fundamental security principle.

*9th ASEAN-UN Summit
13 November 2017, Manila*

As ASEAN Chair, the Philippines welcomed Secretary General Guterres to his first summit with Leaders of ASEAN Member States, and led discussions on the Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the UN.

The Leaders welcomed the Report on the Complementarities between the ASEAN Community Vision 2025 and the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A Framework for Action, which was prepared by Thailand, UN ESCAP and the ASEAN Secretariat. The Report examines the priority regional catalysts of resilience, infrastructure and connectivity, sustainable production and consumption, poverty eradication and sustainable management of resources.

40th ASEAN-Canada Anniversary Commemorative Summit 14 November 2017, Manila



Leaders at the 40th ASEAN-Canada Summit, 14 November 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)

ASEAN Leaders welcomed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to the ASEAN-Canada Summit commemorating the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Canada Dialogue at the PICC in Manila, the first meeting between Leaders of ASEAN and Canada since dialogue relations were established in 1977.

President Duterte chaired the Summit and delivered the ASEAN Common Statement in the Philippines' capacity as Country Coordinator for ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations. The President cited ASEAN's longstanding partnership with Canada as a collective expression of ASEAN's outward-looking approach toward the region's vision of lasting peace, security and stability, sustained economic growth, shared prosperity and social progress.

40th ASEAN-EU Anniversary Commemorative Summit 14 November 2017, Manila

ASEAN Leaders marked the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-EU Dialogue Relations in a commemorative summit with Mr. Donald Tusk, President of the European Council in Manila.

ASEAN established dialogue relations with the European Union in 1977. Both sides adopted the ASEAN-EU Plan of Action (2018-2022) to guide future cooperation across ASEAN's political-security, economic and socio-cultural pillars.

15th ASEAN-India Summit 14 November 2017, Manila

President Duterte co-chaired with Prime Minister Narendra Modi the 15th ASEAN-India Summit in Manila which was held on 14 November 2017 in Manila. ASEAN-India cooperation in trade and investments, connectivity through India's USD 1 Billion line of credit, cultural and civilizational links as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief exercises were among the topics discussed by Leaders of both sides.

*12th East Asia Summit,
14 November 2017, Manila*



*Leaders at the 12th East Asia Summit, 14 November 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

The Leaders of East Asia Summit (EAS) participating countries reaffirmed that the EAS, as a Leaders-led forum for strategic dialogue and discussion, is an integral component of the evolving rules-based regional architecture that must continue to be open, inclusive, transparent and outward-looking, with ASEAN at its driving force.

*20th ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Commemorative Summit
14 November 2017, PICC*

The 20th APT Summit adopted two documents: (1) The “Manila Declaration on the 20th Anniversary of ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation” which underscored the significant achievements made in the last two decades and set in motion the priorities that will be pursued in the coming years; and (2) the APT Leaders’ Statement on Food Security Cooperation which sets the vision for strengthening APT cooperation on food security through the various capacity-building programs and projects that promote, among other things, closer coordination among relevant sectoral bodies, the pursuit of international partnerships, increased private sector participation, and improvement of the agricultural investment environment.

*Finalization and Signing Ceremony of the “ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers”
14 November 2017, PICC Plenary Hall*



*Leaders at the signing ceremony for the ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers, 14 November 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

The signing by the ASEAN Leaders of the “ASEAN Consensus on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Migrant Workers” on 14 November in Manila, Philippines is ASEAN’s commitment to ensure the improved welfare of migrant workers in the region.

The signing is part of the closing ceremony of the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits held on 13-14 November 2017, and was witnessed by heads of other states as well as ministers and senior officials of ASEAN Member States, ASEAN Dialogue Partners, and East Asia Summit members.

*Closing Ceremony of the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits and Handing-over of the ASEAN Chairmanship to the Republic of Singapore
14 November 2017, PICC, Pasay City*

ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners’ Leaders gathered at the Plenary Hall of the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City on November 14, 2017 for the Closing Ceremony of the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits. Filipino talents performed during the ceremony to entertain the crowd.

President Duterte then handed over the gavel of the ASEAN Chairmanship to Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, symbolically turning over the Chairmanship of ASEAN to the incoming Chair for 2018.



*Ceremonial hand-over of gavel of the Philippines (President Duterte) to Singapore (Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong), 14 November 2017, Manila
(Photo Credit: PCOO)*

ASEM

Undersecretary for Civilian Security and Consular Concerns Jose Luis G. Montales represented the Philippines at the 13th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ASEM FMM13) held on 20-21 November 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. The Meeting was attended by Foreign Ministers/High-Level Representatives of 51 Asian and European countries, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the Deputy Secretary-General for ASEAN Political-Security Community.



*ASEM Foreign Ministers pose for a photo with State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of Myanmar during the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 21 November 2017, Nay Pyi Taw
(Photo Credit: ASEM InfoBoard)*

FEALAC



Secretary Cayetano joins FEALAC Foreign Ministers and South Korean President Moon Jae-in at the 18th Forum for East Asia-Latin American Cooperation (FEALAC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, 31 August 2017, Busan
(Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano led the Philippine delegation to the 18th Forum for East Asia-Latin American Cooperation (FEALAC) Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM) held in Busan, Republic of Korea on 31 August 2017. The Secretary delivered an intervention on the importance of FEALAC in facilitating meaningful dialogue and concrete cooperation between East Asia and Latin America, and the Philippines' commitment to reinvigorating its engagement with its Latin American partners as envisioned under President Duterte's independent foreign policy.

The meeting adopted the *Busan Declaration*, which provided a direction for deeper and more comprehensive cooperation for the future. It highlighted the following initiatives: Endorsement of the new FEALAC Action Plan; Establishment of a FEALAC Fund to finance the group's flagship and bi-regional projects and activities; and Creation of a FEALAC Experts Group Pool and FEALAC mechanisms to provide more tangible outputs.

25TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF AGENCY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (OPANAL) AND THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO

Then Secretary Yasay led the PH delegation to the 25th Session of the General Conference of Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) and the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco on 14 February 2017 in Mexico City. The Secretary delivered an intervention on the important role of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in serving as a political, legal, and institutional model for the creation of nuclear weapon- free zones, and called for closer working relations between OPANAL and ASEAN towards the signing and ratifying of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone protocol.



*Secretary Yasay, with Philippine Ambassador to Mexico Eduardo De Vega, speaks at the 25th Session of the General Conference of Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) and the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, 14 February 2017, Mexico City
(Photo Credit: DFA-OPD)*



UNITED NATIONS

Philippine Ratification of the Paris Agreement 23 March 2017, New York

The DFA facilitated the signing of the Paris Agreement on 22 April 2015, its ratification on 1 March 2017, legislative concurrence on 14 March 2017, and the deposit of the Instrument of Accession in the United Nations in New York on 23 March 2017.

The Paris Agreement aims to hold global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius and encourages Parties to make efforts to limit this rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius. The treaty also seeks to improve the resilience of communities to climate change impacts, and to promote the increase in financial flows to support mitigation and adaptation.



*Chargé d'Affaires a.i. Irene Susan Natividad of the Philippine Mission to the United Nations in New York deposits the Philippines' Instrument of Accession to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change with Ms. Arancha Hinojal (right) of the UN Treaty Section, 23 March 2017, New York
(Photo Credit: Philippine Mission to the United Nations, New York)*

*Third Cycle Review of the Philippines, Universal Periodic Review
08 May 2017, Geneva*



*Then Senator and now Secretary of Foreign affairs Alan Peter Cayetano co-headed the Philippine delegation to the Universal Periodic Review reporting of the country before the UN Human Rights Council. Also in photo are Undersecretary Sarah Lou Y. Arriola of the Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs and Minister Enrico T. Fos of the Philippine Mission to Geneva, 08 May 2017, Geneva
(Photo Credit: Philippine Mission to Geneva)*

Senior Deputy Executive Secretary Medardo Guevarra and then Senator and Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Alan Peter Cayetano led the Philippine delegation to the third cycle review of the Philippines in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and participated in the interactive dialogue at the Human Rights Council on 08 May 2017 in Geneva. The UPR is the periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 UN member states.

The Philippines reported on its actions on the recommendations of the 2012 UPR. In addition, then Senator Cayetano informed the HRC of the Duterte administration's human rights policies, underscoring the Government's adoption of a holistic and balanced approach to address the problems of criminality and illegal drugs.

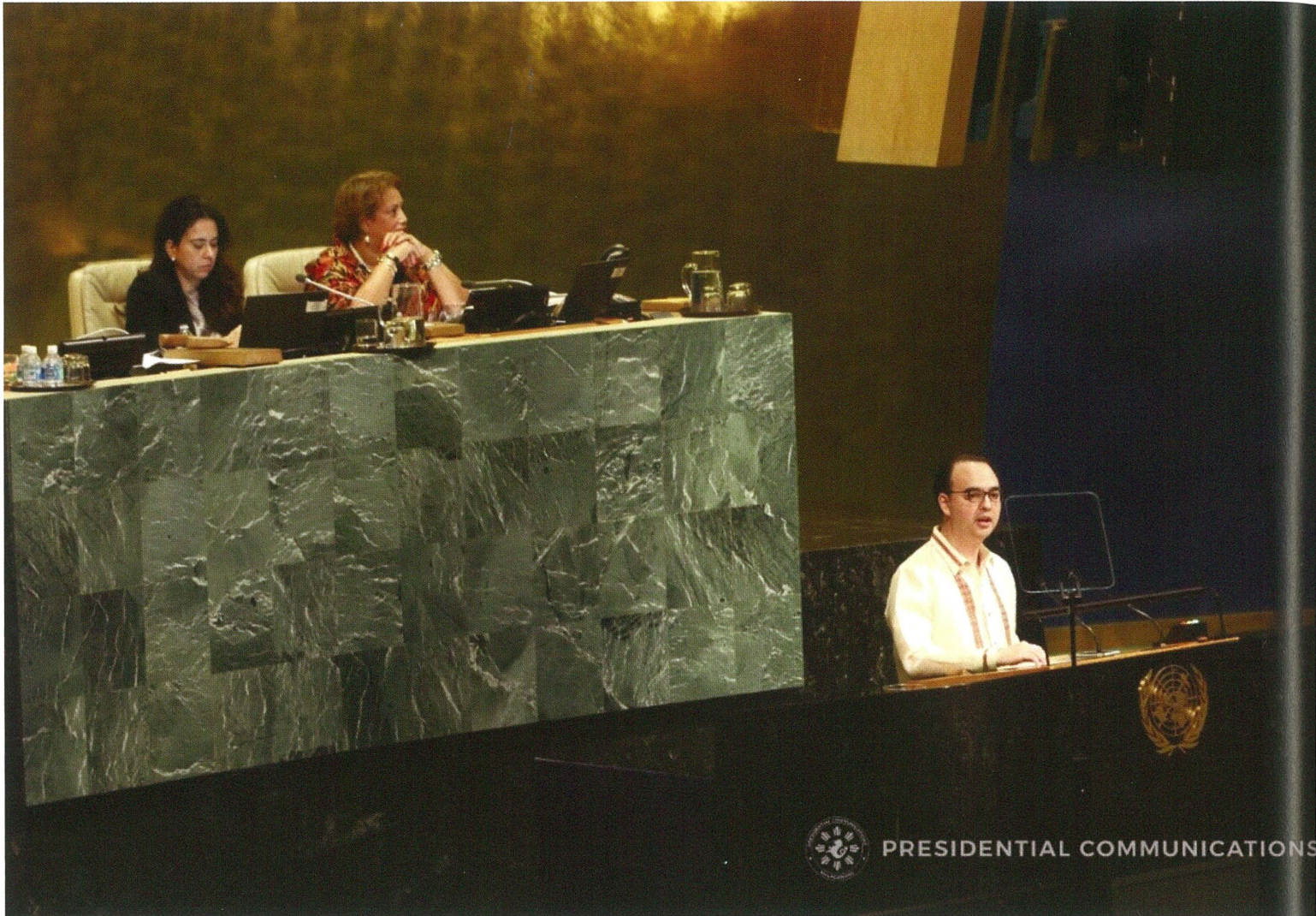
72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly
12-25 September 2017, New York



Secretary Cayetano (1st row, left) during the opening of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly. With the Secretary are Philippine Permanent Representative Teodoro Locsin Jr., (1st row, middle) Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Policy Enrique Manalo (1st row, right), UNIO Assistant Secretary Bayani Mercado (2nd row, left) and Philippine Consul General to New York, Ma. Theresa Dizon-De Vega (2nd row, right),
12 September 2017, New York

(Photo credit: Philippine Mission to the United Nations, New York)

Secretary Cayetano led the Philippine delegation to the 72nd UN General Assembly (UNGA) Meetings, his first appearance on the world stage since he assumed as Secretary of Foreign Affairs in June 2017. The 72nd UNGA opened on 12 September 2017 and the General Debate was held on 19-23 and 25 September 2017 at the U.N. Headquarters in New York.



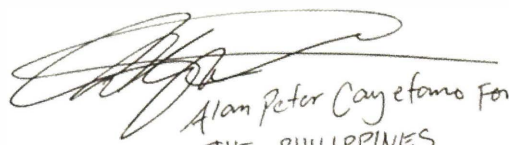
*Secretary Cayetano delivers the Philippine Statement during the High-level General Debate at the UN General Assembly, 23 September 2017, New York
(Photo credit: PCOO)*

Secretary Cayetano delivered the Philippine Statement during the High-level General Debate on 23 September 2017. Participation in the General Debate enabled the Philippines to present to the international community the key priorities of the administration of President Rodrigo R. Duterte. The Secretary also hosted an informal ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting and attended the group's meeting with the President of the 72nd UN General assembly and the UN Secretary General.

Signing the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)
20 September 2017, New York



باسم الفلبين:
代表菲律宾:
In the name of the Philippines:
Au nom des Philippines:
От имени Филиппин:
En nombre de Filipinas:


Alan Peter Cayetano For
THE PHILIPPINES
Sept 20, 2017

Secretary Cayetano signs the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons on the sidelines of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, 20 September 2017, New York
(Photo credit: Philippine Mission to the United Nations, New York)

The DFA actively participated in the process leading to the adoption by the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly of the text of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). The Treaty was opened for signature on the sidelines of the 72nd UNGA, and Foreign Secretary Cayetano signed the Treaty on 20 September 2017.

This historic treaty is the first legally-binding international agreement to prohibit nuclear weapons and addresses the legal gap in the prohibition and elimination of what was heretofore the only type of weapon of mass destruction without an International treaty. Despite the lack of universal acceptance, significant support for and adoption of the treaty will make nuclear weapons illegal in at least 122 countries.

*Philippines Hosts its First Conference of the Parties of a UN Multilateral Environment Agreement
22-27 October 2017, Manila*

The DFA assisted the DENR in hosting the 12th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Migratory Species (CMS-COP12). This is the first environmental COP that the Philippines has hosted.

Among the outcomes of CMS-COP12 are the establishment of the Convention's Review Mechanism, the introduction of a COP Presidency that will perform intersessional work, and pledges by a number of countries to join the Convention, including the ratification commitment made by Cambodia, seen as a positive step towards bringing the rest of the nine ASEAN countries into the Convention and its work of protecting the flyways and habitats of migratory species in Southeast Asia.

*Philippines elected President of the 61st Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (GC-IAEA)
18-22 September 2017, Vienna*

Ambassador Maria Zeneida Angara Collinson was elected as President of the 61st Session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (GC-IAEA) in Vienna. She became only the third woman and fourth Philippine official to have been elected President of the GC-IAEA since its establishment in 1956.

Philippine engagement with the IAEA are in the areas of health, nuclear safety and security concerns, nuclear science and technology, nuclear non-proliferation, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy, among others.

*Philippine Chairmanship of the 40th Session of the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Conference
03-08 July 2017, Rome*



Philippine Delegation to the 40th Session of the FAO Conference. (left to right) Agriculture Attaché Lupiño J. Lazaro, DA International Affairs Division Chief Maria Araceli S. Escandor, DFA-UNIO Director Roberto G. Manalo, Philippine Permanent Representative to FAO Ambassador Domingo P. Nolasco, DFA Assistant Secretary for United Nations and International Organizations Bayani S. Mercado, Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food Senator Cynthia S. Villar, Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol (head of PH Delegation), Chair of the House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture and Food Congressman Jose T. Panganiban, Jr., DA Head Executive Assistant Ferdinand F. Piñol, and DA Undersecretary Segfredo R. Serrano, 03 July 2017, Rome

(Photo Credit: Philippine Embassy in Rome, Italy)

The Philippines, represented by Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, chaired the 40th Session of the FAO Conference held in Rome. This was the first time that a Filipino has chaired the Conference, which meets every two years, and is the highest policy-making body of the FAO. The Philippine chairmanship highlighted the threat posed by climate change on food production and called on governments to invest more in agriculture to ensure the availability and affordability of food and reduce poverty in the countryside.

The Philippine chairmanship of the FAO Conference is seen as an affirmation of confidence of the international community in the Philippines, which is becoming an important player in the multilateral fora for economic, development and food security issues. The DFA, through the Philippine Embassy in Rome, played a key role in securing the Philippine Chairmanship.

*Ratification of International Labor Organization
Convention No. 151 (C151)
10 October 2017, Geneva*

As a Philippine commitment to protect the rights of employees in the public service to organize, President Duterte signed the instrument of ratification of International Labor Organization Convention (C151) or Convention Concerning Protection of the Right to Organise and Procedures for Determining Conditions of Employment in the Public Service, with the Senate concurring on 14 August 2017. The Philippine Mission in Geneva handed over the PH ratification documents to the ILO on 10 October 2017.

The Convention promotes sound labor relations between public authorities and public employees' organizations through the protection of the right to organize, granting of full facilities or privileges to its representatives, full development and utilization of machinery for negotiations terms and conditions of employment, and promotion of civil and political rights of public employees.

Successful Philippine Candidatures

The DFA spearheaded efforts in several international candidatures, which resulted in the Philippines being elected to seats in the following international organizations:

- Council of the Economic and Social Commission (ECOSOC) 2018-2020, 5 June 2017, New York
- Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 7 July 2017, Rome
- Chairperson of the FAO Finance Committee (Mr. Lupiño Lazaro), 10 July 2017
- Executive Board of the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) 2017-2021, 08 November 2017, Paris
- Council, Category C, of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) 2018-2018, 01 December 2017, London

PROMOTION AND ATTAINMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

In 2017, the Philippines continued to actively participate in regional and international fora as part of efforts to contribute to sustainable development, and to shape a better global economic order.

The DFA worked closely with various agencies and business groups in the promotion of the country's economic interests, reinforcing the One Country Team Approach.



*President Duterte presides over the RCEP Summit, 14 November 2017, Manila
(Photo credit: PCOO)*

REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP (RCEP)

The DFA continued to participate in all rounds of negotiations to forge the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) in 2017. The RCEP is a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) among sixteen parties, composed of the ten ASEAN Member States and its six FTA partners, namely: Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, and New Zealand.



*President Duterte at the RCEP Summit, 14 November 2017, Manila
(Photo credit: PCOO)*

The Philippines, led by the DTI, hosted the 18th RCEP Trade Negotiations Committee and Related Meetings on 02-12 May 2017 in Manila, the 5th RCEP Ministerial Meeting on 10 September 2017, and the RCEP Summit on 14 November 2017. The DFA participated in the rounds of negotiations.

Negotiations were not concluded in 2017. At the RCEP Summit in Manila, RCEP Leaders instructed the Ministers and negotiators to intensify efforts in 2018 to bring the RCEP negotiations to conclusion.

ASIA COOPERATION DIALOGUE (ACD)



Foreign Undersecretary Manuel Antonio J. Teehankee (fourth from right) co-chaired the 2nd ACD Energy Working Group Meeting, which was held back to back with the ACD Conference Towards Energy Security, Sustainability, and Resilience, 08 August 2017, Bohol. (Photo credit: DFA-OPD)

The Philippines hosted the *Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) Conference Towards Energy Security, Sustainability and Resiliency* and its associated meetings, the 2nd *ACD Energy Working Group Meeting* and the 1st *East Asia Energy Forum* on 07-08 August 2017 at the Be Grand Resort in Panglao, Bohol. The Philippines is a Co-Prime Mover of the ACD Pillar on Food, Water and Energy Security.

The Energy Conference was hosted by the Department of Energy and is in fulfillment of the Philippine commitment during the 15th ACD Ministerial Meeting in Abu Dhabi in January 2017.

The 2nd ACD Energy Working Group Meeting was co-chaired by DFA Undersecretary Manuel A.J. Teehankee with ACD Secretary General Bundit Limschoon.

Since its establishment in 2002, the ACD has grown to become one of the flagship energy conferences in Asia where new ideas and best practices are exchanged to benefit the whole region.

WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION

Implementing the World Trade Organization - Information Technology Agreement II (WTO - ITA 2)

The Instrument of Ratification of the Philippines to the World Trade Organization (WTO) – Information Technology Agreement II (ITA-2) was signed by the President on 28 February 2017. Executive Order No. 21, indicating the PH Schedule of Commitments, was consequently signed on 28 April 2017. The PH implemented the Law in 01 July 2017, with flexibility on some products until 01 July 2023.

ITA-2 is expected to make the Philippines more attractive to FDIs particularly from key ICT players such as the US, Japan, and the EU. The gains will redound to other sectors that use IT products as inputs, such as technology start-ups, manufacturing companies and the business processing and outsourcing (BPO) industry. The lower prices will improve access to technology that will facilitate education and accelerate innovation. The 201 products in the agreement is valued at \$1.3 trillion per year. The PH is the 14th largest exporter of the said products valued at USD14 billion.

Reinforcing the Multilateral Trading System: The 11th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11)

The PH participated in the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference held on 10-13 December 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Ministerial decisions were delivered on a commitment to continue on Fisheries Subsidies, a Work Program on E-Commerce, an extension of the moratorium on TRIPS Non-Violation and Situation Complaints, a Work Program on Small Economies and the creation of the working party on accession for South Sudan.

The country's MC11 priorities were anchored on positions that support the Administration's determination to achieve inclusive Philippine economic development and address issues on rural and agricultural poverty, accessibility of public health goods and services, and integrating MSMEs into global value chains.

ASIA-PACIFIC ECONOMIC COOPERATION (APEC)



*President Duterte at the APEC Economic Leaders' Week, 11 November 2017, Da Nang Vietnam
(Photo credit: PCOO)*

In 2017, the Philippines attended a total of 111 meetings hosted by the APEC 2017 Chair, Viet Nam. Besides the seven (7) core meetings of APEC (AELM, Ministers, SOM, Ministers Responsible for Trade), the Philippine delegation also attended technical meetings and several sectoral meetings, including five (5) meetings on Agriculture, three (3) meetings on Connectivity, and four (4) meetings on MSMEs.

The President participated in four (4) meetings during the APEC Economic Leaders' Week (AELW) on 06 to 11 November 2017 in Da Nang, Viet Nam. The following key messages were delivered during the President's interventions in these meetings:

- The need for inclusive growth
- APEC will only remain relevant if prosperity is shared by all
- Economies should institute more equitable terms in all facets of relations, like tariffs, terms and benefits of trade, and encouraged economies to addressing barriers to free and open trade
- CEOs need to include MSMEs in their retail operations and in their sourcing decisions in order to enable MSMEs to enter the global value chain
- Businesses should adopt inclusive business models to create and distribute wealth
- Measures must be instituted to address the challenge presented by the loss of human capital in developing economies, due to the migration of talent to developed economies

In the lead-up to the AELW, the DFA participated in three stand-alone Senior Officials' Meetings (SOMs).

PHILIPPINES – EUROPE TRADE RELATIONS

PH-European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Free Trade Agreement

On 08 December 2017, President Duterte signed the Instrument of Ratification for PH-EFTA Free Trade Agreement. The FTA covers trade in goods (industrial and agricultural goods, fish and other marine products), rules of origin, trade facilitation, sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, trade in services, investment, competition, protection of intellectual property rights, government procurement, and sustainable development. The DFA co-chaired the negotiations with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

EU Generalized Scheme of Preferences (GSP) Plus

The DFA participated in the 2nd EU GSP+ Monitoring Mission held on 27 January – 02 February 2017. The EU GSP+ is a special trade arrangement where zero duties are imposed on Philippine exports to EU member countries. It currently covers 6,274 products. In exchange, the EU requires that the Philippines report on its compliance to 27 International Conventions on human rights, labor standards, environmental protection and good governance.

PH-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement

The DFA was also part of the PH negotiating team during the 2nd Round of PH-EU Free Trade Negotiations, which was held in Radisson Blu Hotel, Cebu on 13-17 February 2017. The FTA covers trade in goods (industrial and agricultural goods, fish and other marine products), rules of origin, trade facilitation, sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures, technical barriers to trade, trade in services, investment, competition, protection of intellectual property rights, government procurement, and sustainable development.

Philippines-Latin America Economic Roundtable

The DFA organized the first Philippines-Latin America Economic Roundtable to discuss and exchange ideas on how to enhance and strengthen trade and economic relations between the Philippines and Latin America. Held at Casino Español de Manila on 27 September 2017, it was attended by the resident Ambassadors and other officials from the Embassies of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Panama, and Venezuela in Manila.

Philippines-South Asia Economic Roundtable

The Philippines-South Asia Economic Roundtable was held at the Diamond Hotel Manila on 29 November 2017. Philippine officials met with the resident Ambassadors and other officials from the Embassies of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to explore economic cooperation in new and non-traditional areas.

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

Cultural Diplomacy is increasingly getting recognition for the important role it plays in international affairs. It fosters understanding and builds relations among nations and peoples through the exchange of ideas, art, literature, music, sports, and other aspects of both high culture and popular culture.

The DFA, in partnership with other Philippine government agencies, the private sector, and its Embassies and Consulates General, undertook several initiatives in 2017 to promote awareness of Philippine culture and heritage. Highlights include the promotion of Philippine cuisine in the world's major cities through two culinary tours, Philippine participation in the 57th Venice Art Biennale, and the opening of a Center for Philippine Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in the University of London.



Dishes served by the team of Purple Yam Chef Romy Dorotan in Ela restaurant, Philadelphia. Left: Cab cab with bagoong and eggplant kulawo Top right: Fogo island cod baked in banana leaves with kumquat and coffee gata sauce Bottom right: Beef short rib adobo with Vegetable fried heirloom rice (Ominio and Red Mindoro) and Pinakbet, 09 October 2017, Philadelphia (Photo credit: Philippine Consulate General in New York)

PROMOTION OF PHILIPPINE CUISINE OVERSEAS

The DFA's Cultural Diplomacy Unit organized two culinary tours to contribute to efforts that introduce Filipino food traditions to the international market, and to mainstream Philippine flavors in global cities possessing a diverse gastronomic landscape. The culinary tours complemented the objectives to promote goodwill and deeper people-to-people ties, and set the ground for an expanded trade in agriculture, food, and beverages as intended consequences.

KULINARYA: A GUIDE TO PHILIPPINE FOOD

Headed by Chef Myrna Segismundo, and joined by Chef Jill Sandique, Chef Raul Ramos and food writer Mikaela Fenix, *Kulinarya: A Guide to Philippine Food* was held in the cities of London, United Kingdom; Brussels, Belgium; The Hague, Netherlands and Berlin, Germany from 27 May to 24 June 2017.

The culinary team successfully delivered the following activities in each city: a photo exhibit on Filipino food using the pictures from the book "*Kulinarya: A Guidebook to Philippine Cuisine*"; a talk and cooking demonstration with food-tasting; and the preparation of a ticketed full-course dinner.

From the top: Canonigo prepared by Chef Jill Sandique, 31 May 2017, London (Photo credit: Philippine Embassy in London); Fresh oysters served as Kinilaw, 22 June 2017, Berlin (Photo credit: Philippine Embassy in Berlin); Chef Myrna Segismundo introduces Filipino cuisine to an international audience, 01 June 2017, London (Photo credit: Philippine Embassy in London)



HIDDEN FLAVORS OF THE PHILIPPINE KITCHEN

Ms. Amy Besa and Chef Romy Dorotan, together with chefs Ralph Cristobal and Alvin Cruz of Purple Yam in Malate, introduced the ingredients and methods of Philippine cuisine to five cities in North America and Canada from 16 September to 13 October 2017. Different Philippine artisanal and indigenous ingredients such as heirloom rice, vinegar, alcohol, honey were showcased in New York, Seattle, Chicago, Toronto and Philadelphia through small dinners and guest stints at a reputable restaurant in each city.



*Ingredients from all around the Philippines are showcased and used during the culinary tour,
22 September 2017, Seattle
(Photo credit: Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco)*



*Chef Romy Dorotan prepares dinner using Philippine ingredients,
09 October 2017, New York
(Photo credit: Philippine Consulate General in New York)*

PHILIPPINE PARTICIPATION IN THE VENICE ART BIENNALE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS (NCCA) AND THE OFFICE OF SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

The Philippines once again set a milestone in the international art community through its official pavilion in the 57th *Venice Art Biennale*, entitled *The Spectre of Comparison*, curated by Joselina Cruz and featuring Filipino artists Lani Maestro and Manuel Ocampo.

The Philippine Pavilion was opened to the public from 27 May to 26 November 2017. The pavilion exhibited the visual expression of the evolution of the Filipino worldview, whose origins are marked by the works of Maestro and Ocampo, and framed within the idea of “el demonio de las comparaciones”, a line from Rizal’s novel *Noli Me Tángere*.

Translated as “the spectre of comparisons,” it refers to Crisostomo Ibarra’s futile attempts to avoid comparing his beloved, though imperfect, Manila with Europe, the perceived idyll; thus, comparison cannot be avoided, making it a “demonio”. Jose Rizal’s phrase of “el demonio de las comparaciones” was the spectral pivot.

The Philippine Pavilion was located at the Artiglierie of the Arsenale in Venice, Italy.



*The Philippine Pavilion at the 57th Venice Art Biennale,
27 May 2017, Venice
(Photo credit: NCCA)*



*From left to right: Ambassador Domingo Nolasco, DOT Undersecretary Falconi V. Millar, NCCA
Chairman Virgilio S. Almario, DFA Undersecretary Linglingay F. Lacanlale, Consul General
Marichu Mauro at the Opening of the Philippines Pavilion at the 57th Venice Art Biennale,
27 May 2017, Venice
(Photo credit: NCCA)*

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY ACTIVITIES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS

- “Beauty of Fujian”, a Photo/Painting/Calligraphy Exhibit, in partnership with the Philippine Consulate General in Xiamen, China, was held at the DFA lobby from 30 May to 06 June 2017. The exhibit aimed to enhance the friendship, understanding and cooperation between the Philippines and Fujian.
- Installation of Impy Pilapil’s *FERN* at a park called Square Martial Massiani in the City of Neuilly-sur-Seine, France, done in partnership with the Philippine Embassy in Paris.
- On 24 October 2017, the Department of Foreign Affairs through the Philippine Embassy in London and in cooperation with the Office of Senator Loren Legarda, awarded a grant of £74,700 to the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) in the University of London for the opening of a Center for Philippine Studies. Over the next three years, the grant will cover Philippine-related lectures, workshops, exhibitions, conferences and travel grants for students and academics doing research in the region, and for Philippine students and staff studying at SOAS. This will include an Annual Philippine Studies Workshop and publication, an Annual Postgraduate Conference on Southeast Asian Studies, Philippine film screenings, and the digitization of SOAS Philippine materials.



From left to right: Senator Loren Legarda, Ambassador Antonio Lagdameo and Baroness Valerie Amos at the signing of the Philippine Embassy-SOAS Agreement, 24 October 2017, London
(Photo credit: Philippine Embassy in London)

- A gala performance and concert program was presented by Ballet Manila led by CEO and Artistic Director, the Philippine prima ballerina, Ms. Lisa Macuja-Elizalde; Ms. Bianca Camille Lopez, soprano and alumna of the Philippine Madrigal Singers; and the award-winning Philippine Women's University-Jose Abad Santos Memorial School (PWU-JASMS) Rondalla, led by Maestro Noli DO. Rodriguez in the "Days of PH Culture in Russia" held on 27 and 29 September 2017 in Moscow and St. Petersburg, respectively.

The Days of Philippine Culture in Russia is an event jointly organized by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation (MinKultura) through its implementing arm, Rosconcert, in line with the Protocol on Cooperation between NCCA and MinKultura.



*"The Days of Philippine Culture in Russia" draws hundreds of Russians to its gala performance,
27-29 September 2017, Moscow
(Photo credit: Philippine Embassy in Moscow)*

PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT ON “PHILIPPINES-SPAIN: BUILDING ON SHARED HERITAGE”

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the establishment of PH-Spain diplomatic relations, DFA, in cooperation with the Spanish Embassy in Manila, hosted a photographic exhibit entitled “Philippines-Spain: Building on Shared Heritage” on 02-06 October 2017.

The opening ceremony of the exhibit was held at the DFA lobby and was attended by members of the diplomatic corps, government officials and civil society partners.

In their messages, DFA Undersecretary Linglingay F. Lacanlale, Assistant Secretary Maria Cleofe Natividad and Spanish Ambassador Luis Antonio Castaño Calvo all highlighted the two countries’ shared heritage and their multi-faceted and mutually-beneficial partnership.

The guest speaker, Dr. Rene Escalante, Chairman of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), detailed through events and pronouncements in history the long-standing linkages and cooperation between the two countries.

The exhibit had on display 42 photographs from the photographic library of the Spanish news agency EFE, showcasing some highlights in PH-Spain relations such as exchange of high-level visits, signing of agreements and people-to-people exchanges.

Also on display were the original treaties of friendship signed in 1947 and in 2000, relevant resolutions from both PH and Spanish Congress, and 2017 Friendship Day messages from DFA and the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



*Opening of the Photographic Exhibit on “Philippines-Spain: Building on Shared Heritage”, 02-06 October 2017, Manila
(Photo credit: DFA-OPD)*

EID' L FITR RECEPTION

Secretary Cayetano hosted a diplomatic reception in celebration of the Eid al Fitr on 06 July 2017 at the Samsung Hall of SM Aura in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig with the theme “Building Bridges through Music.”

Secretary Cayetano dedicated the event to “our dear Muslim brothers and sisters and all our friends in the diplomatic corps” to celebrate the important occasion marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

In line with the event’s theme, the evening featured a selection of music pieces from various traditions — Filipino, European, and Middle Eastern. The celebration was organized in cooperation of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCAA) and SM Aura.



From left: Ambassador Mohammed Rida El Fassi of Morocco, Charge d’Affaires Mr. Ahmed Eddeb of Libya, Ambassador Musaed Saleh A M Althwaikh of Kuwait, Ambassador Ahmed Abdelaziz Ezzat of Egypt, Mr. Joseph F. Assad, Honorary Consul of Lebanon, Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter S. Cayetano, Ambassador Hazim Al Yousifi of Iraq, Ambassador Ali Ibrahim A.I. Al-Malkiof Qatar, Ambassador Munther Mahfoodh Salim Al-Mantheri of Oman, and Charge D’Affaires Eisa Abdullah Sultan Al-Samahi of UAE.

06 July 2017, Taguig
(Photo credit: DFA-OPD)



Cultural performances at the Eid' l Fitr Reception, 06 July 2017, Taguig
(Photo credit: DFA-OPD)

UN DAY CELEBRATION

On 24 October 2017, the Government of the Philippines and the United Nations Country Team celebrated UN Day with a program consisting of cultural performances, video presentation and ceremonial lighting of the Filipino Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) cubes. A reception for the diplomatic corps and top PH government officials was held at the Market! Market!.

The program's activities highlighted the 72 years of PH-UN partnership, particularly the ongoing collaboration towards ensuring that Philippine SDG commitments are pursued and achieved by 2030. The programme also featured cultural performances, including song numbers and folk dances depicting Philippine commitments to SDGs, like protecting people, promoting prosperity, preserving the planet, building peace and forging partnerships.

The UN Day event was attended by senior government and UN officials, members of the diplomatic corps and representatives from the academe and the media. It featured performances by UNICEF Ambassador Gary Valenciano, youth organizations from De La Salle University Manila, De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde, Miriam College, and University of the Philippines-Diliman and celebrity host Antoinette Taus.



*From left to right: UN Philippine Resident Coordinator Ola Almgren, DFA-UNIO Assistant Secretary Bayani S. Mercado, DFA Undersecretary Jose Luis G. Montales, TV host and Actress Ms. Antonette Taus, Taguig City Mayor Ma. Laarni Lopez Cayetano, and Taguig City Vice Mayor Ricardo Cruz Jr., 24 October 2017, Taguig
(Photo credit: DFA-OPD)*

PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The Department conducts public diplomacy as a means to effectively communicate in a cohesive manner the implementation of Philippine foreign policy, as well as to shape public perception and opinion to secure both domestic and international support for the foreign policy priorities of the Philippines.

The DFA used traditional media through its press releases, photo releases, statements and advisories, while strengthening its online presence with an improved website and increased interaction with the public through social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and Youtube.



*Secretary Cayetano answers queries from the media,
12 July 2017, Shangri-La at The Fort, Taguig City
(Photo credit: DFA-OPD)*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (FOI) BILL

The Department received its 2017 FOI Certificate of Compliance for complying with Memorandum Circular No. 2017-01, which provides that the FOI Manual shall be uploaded in the Agency Transparency Seal by 01 October 2017.

Throughout 2017, the Department responded to 24 FOI requests, with seven requests categorized as successful or partially successful. The other requests were either “Awaiting Clarification” or “Denied” due to various reasons such as Incomplete Information, Wrong Agency, under Exceptions List, or Invalid Request.

STEPPING UP PRESS ENGAGEMENT

The Department’s Office of Public Diplomacy (OPD), in support of the Office of the Secretary and the Spokesperson of the Department, facilitated the arrangement and conduct of various media events to strengthen the relationship of the DFA with its Press Corps, the Philippine and foreign media.

The Department held a series of press briefings and conferences on ASEAN throughout the Philippine Chairmanship of ASEAN in 2017. Interviews were conducted on various topics including Marawi, passport issues, and assistance to nationals.

Secretary Cayetano hosted an end-of-year lunch and conference with the media on 14 December 2017.



Secretary Cayetano and Chinese FM Wang Yi’s Joint Press Conference on the latter’s visit, 25 July 2017, Pasay City
(Photo credit: DFA-OPD)



Secretary Cayetano speaks at a press conference,
26 July 2017, Shangri-La at The Fort, Taguig City
(Photo credit: DFA-OPD)



Secretary Cayetano's answers media queries on International Humanitarian Law Day,
14 August 2017, Pasay City
(Photo credit: DFA-OPD)

STRENGTHENING THE CONDUCT OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

The Department disseminated information to the public through Press Releases, Photo releases, Statements and Advisories using various platforms such as traditional media, the DFA website, Facebook, and Twitter.

GROWING THE DFA VIA ONLINE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Website

The DFA worked to maximize its online presence, implementing design and layout revisions in its website to make it more visually engaging and user friendly.

Social Media –Facebook, Twitter, Youtube

One of the basic improvements made by the DFA was the verification of Facebook accounts used by the different FSPs. This way, the public is guaranteed that the account he is following or consulting is a verified account of the Department's FSP. Related to this, and as part of the branding project undertaken by the Department in the social media realm, was the push towards uniformity in Facebook handles for all FSPs. To date, all FSPs with verified Facebook accounts are using uniform handles thus making it easier for the public to search for an account aside from the added perceived security.

BRINGING REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS TO THE PUBLIC WORLDWIDE, IN “REAL TIME”

With the Philippines hosting ASEAN's golden year, the DFA worked to raise public awareness and deepen public understanding on ASEAN as a regional organization.

The DFA created 479 multimedia collaterals (468 infographics and 11 videos) in the first two months of the year focused on the ASEAN2017 thematic priorities. It created a comprehensive communication and campaign plan to make its efforts in spreading the news about ASEAN more effective.

PROVIDING SUPPORT TO CONSULAR AND OTHER UNITS

To strengthen the Department's frontline services, the DFA embarked on a massive information campaign on its Consular and Assistance to Nationals services by providing information to the public through its digital arm.

The DFA also addressed public sentiments and feedback coursed through the digital media and handled an average of 300-400 queries a day, mostly on consular matters.

ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 2:

Overseas Filipinos Protected and Engaged

The DFA continued to look after the welfare of Overseas Filipinos (OFs) by providing various forms of help to distressed OFs, including legal assistance when necessary. Guidelines on the use of the Assistance to Nationals (ATN) Fund were revised in December 2017 to help provide more effective and efficient assistance through the disbursement of the ATN Fund and the Legal Assistance Fund

The DFA also led efforts in pursuing advocacies that seek to ensure the protection of migrants, such as the fight against trafficking in persons.

The various flashpoints in the Middle East region, where millions of Filipinos have found employment, were constantly monitored to ensure that the political and security situation could be adequately responded to by the Philippine government to ensure minimal impact on OFs. Monitoring was expanded to include mapping missions to Caribbean countries.



*President Duterte with repatriated Filipinos from Saudi Arabia,
17 April 2017, Manila
(Photo credit: PCOO)*

ASSISTANCE-TO-NATIONALS (ATN)

The DFA was at the forefront of providing timely and efficient relief to overseas Filipinos in distress. Notable operations in 2017 include the following:

Libya

On 26 February 2017, the DFA led a delegation to Tripoli, Libya to take custody of nine Filipinos who were held hostage by ISIS militants in Sirte. They were accompanied to Istanbul, Turkey for a debriefing and medical consultation, and eventually repatriated to the Philippines on 05 March 2017.

Saudi Arabia

The DFA led a high-level delegation which visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) on 10 August 2016, to meet the needs of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) who were stranded in the work camps of Saudi Oger, MMG, Saudi bin Laden Group, and their subcontractors in Al Khobar, Riyadh, Jeddah, and nearby areas, due mainly to the drop in the price of oil. The Inter-Agency Composite Team, otherwise known as “Operation Bring Them Home,” worked towards the repatriation of stranded OFWs.

By June 2017, a total of 5,123 Filipinos were repatriated under the “Operation Bring Them Home” program.

Aside from carrying-out the repatriation, the Department also facilitated the processing of the unpaid wages, end-of-service benefits, and other claims of the said OFWs with their respective Arab employers.

Another repatriation program was initiated as a result of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia’s campaign, “A Nation Without Violations,” which allows residency and labor law violators to leave the Kingdom within 90 days, without penalties. The Philippine Government began facilitating the repatriation of Filipinos since the campaign started on 29 March 2017.

An inter-agency team, composed of representatives from the DFA, the Department of Labor and Employment, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, was deployed to the Kingdom to assist Philippine Foreign Service Posts in processing the repatriation of Filipinos under this “90-Day KSA Mass Amnesty Repatriation” program. By June 2017, a total of 5,145 Filipinos had been repatriated to the Philippines under this program.

Meanwhile, four Filipinos on death row in Saudi Arabia were spared from the imposition of the death penalty following the settlement of their cases.

OFWs Paul Miquiabas, Jr., Victorino Gaspas, Jr., and Eduardo Genetiano were repatriated on 06 March 2017, while OFW Eduardo Oblea was repatriated on 13 March 2017.



*Secretary Cayetano thanks Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir for the extension of the amnesty program that would benefit hundreds of undocumented Filipinos stranded in the Kingdom, 24 September 2017, Riyadh
(Photo credit: Philippine Embassy in Riyadh)*

Kuwait

On 07-16 August 2017, care packages for over 378 Overseas Filipinos in Kuwait were distributed by the DFA, as well as cash assistance for the 76 detained overseas Filipinos.

Evacuation of Filipinos who were devastated by Hurricanes Irma and Jose

The DFA facilitated the evacuation and eventual repatriation of 136 Filipinos from the British Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and Sint Maarten on 14-28 September 2017. The DFA provided voucher assistance for the subsistence of an estimated 600 stranded OFs who were caught in the catastrophe brought on by Hurricanes Irma and Jose.

Abu Dhabi

The DFA facilitated the mass repatriation of 101 distressed OFWs from Abu Dhabi on 01 November 2017, most of whom were alleged victims of human trafficking. All were given cash gift assistance through the ATN fund.

UTILIZATION OF ATN FUND AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE FUND (LAF)

The DFA disbursed a total of Php 556,241,298.31 from the Assistance to Nationals (ATN) Fund, and a total of Php 77,453,582.22 from the Legal Assistance Fund (LAF) from January to December 2017. There were a total of 15,282 beneficiaries of the ATN Fund, and 744 beneficiaries of the Legal Assistance Fund for the period.



Secretary Cayetano, with Undersecretaries Sarah Lou Arriola and Jose Luis Montales, present the new guidelines on the use of the ATN Fund, 19 December 2017, Pasay City (Photo credit: DFA-OPD)

MIGRATION GOVERNANCE

The DFA actively participated in Migration and Development initiatives, affirming the Philippines' commitment in maintaining its lead role in migration governance. It articulated and reinforced the Philippine position in migration issues in bilateral, regional, and international fora, with specific focus on the principle of shared responsibility and on the recognition and enforcement of rights of undocumented and inherently vulnerable migrant workers. The DFA participated in the following multilateral and bilateral engagements:

Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration

Foremost among the DFA's engagements is its pursuit of the adoption of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration (GCM) in 2018. The GCM is envisioned as the first comprehensive instrument that will define and shape a multi-year global migration governance framework through voluntary and actionable commitments of various states.

Among the various meetings and conferences that the DFA attended and/or convened are the following:

- 23-24 August 2017: Two-day Experts Workshop on the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration
- 06-08 October 2017: Asia – Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration
- 18-19 October 2017: Multi-Stakeholders meeting on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration
- 02-07 December 2017: Stocktaking Consultation for the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration

The Philippines successfully negotiated the provisions of Objective 6, paragraphs 22 (g) and (h) of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, which make reference to opposition to the khafala system, the infamous employer-sponsored employment scheme widely practiced in the Middle East. The Global Compact will be adopted by States in Morocco in December 2018.

The Philippines, a model country of origin, has sealed a partnership with Bahrain, a GCC model country of destination, in advocating for labor reform in the Middle East.

The Philippines also made headway with the Kingdom of Bahrain as regards reaching into a model labor agreement based on the principles of the Global Compact that will significantly reduce the recruitment costs, protect the rights of Filipino migrant workers, and increase their privileges.

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

The DFA assisted a total of 1,476 alleged victims of trafficking in persons in 2017. Of this number, 726 were trafficked to the Middle East, most of whom ended up as household service workers and who experienced various forms of labor exploitation; 615 were trafficked to the Asia and the Pacific Region, 76 to Europe and 59 to the Americas.

On 11 April 2017, the Philippines and the US signed the Child Protection Compact Partnership (CPC), a four-year plan that aims to help address exploitation of children and child labor trafficking. The US will provide USD 3.5 Million in US foreign assistance to non-governmental or international organizations, while the Philippines, through the Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking, will provide PHP 40 Million to improve the capacity of the government and civil society to prevent online sexual exploitation of children and child labor trafficking from occurring, to provide comprehensive, trauma-informed care for child victims of these crimes, and to prosecute and convict child traffickers.

MAPPING OF OVERSEAS FILIPINOS

The DFA embarks on mapping in order to actively and continually monitor the socio-economic and political conditions that may impact overseas Filipinos.

ATN and Mapping Missions were conducted in the following countries in 2017: Chile, Ecuador, Peru, Aruba, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Turks and Caicos, Guam, Marshall Islands, Saipan, Palau, Germany, Belgium, Poland, and Denmark.

ORGANIZATIONAL OUTCOME 3:

Consular Services Strengthened

In line with the President's directive for government offices to streamline processes and provide better government service, the DFA implemented measures to improve consular services through the drafting of an Executive Order that will enable the opening of additional Consular Offices, working with Congress to extend the validity of the passport, and successfully pursuing ISO 9001 Quality Management System certification for its passport and authentication processes.



Secretary Cayetano visits the Office of Consular Affairs in ASEANA to check on the fifteen data capture machines added to speed up passport processing, 06 June 2017, Parañaque. (Photo credit: DFA-OPD)

REGIONAL CONSULAR OFFICES / SATELLITE OFFICES

Executive Order No. 45, entitled "*Providing for the Reorganization of the Field Offices of the Office of Consular Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs*", was signed by the President on 20 October 2017. The EO was drafted by the DFA in order to put in place a legal basis for the opening of additional Consular Offices (CO) and Passport Personalization Centers. Nine sites are planned to be opened in 2018, with the first two planned for San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte and Santiago, Isabela. Each CO will be set up with 10 Data Capturing Machines, effectively increasing the daily capacity of DFA-OCA by 5,600 once all the sites are operational.

In 2017, the DFA continued to sign agreements which base consular offices in malls in strategic locations. Mall-based consular offices make passport services accessible to the wider public and lessen the expenses (transportation, food, etc.) incurred by applicants in travelling.

- CO Cotabato was transferred to the Mall of ALNOR in January 2017
- On 14 September 2017, the DFA and NorthBeacon Commercial Corporation (NBCC) signed the renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement for the NBCC's continued hosting of the DFA's Consular Office at Marquee Mall in Angeles, Pampanga
- On 08 November 2017, the DFA and the Pacific Mall Corporation (PMC) signed the renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement for the PMC's continued hosting of the DFA's Consular Office in Pacific Mall, Lucena City
- CO Tacloban was transferred to Robinsons Place in North Tacloban in December 2017, in accordance with the 2011 Memorandum of Agreement signed between the DFA and Robinsons Land Corporation (RLC)

PASSPORT SERVICES

Upon the instructions of the President, the DFA worked with the Senate and the House of Representatives on the extension of the validity of the Philippine passport. The bill amending RA 8239 passed both the House of Representatives and the Senate in 2017. January 2018 will be the start of implementation of the 10-year validity of passports.

The DFA also streamlined documentary requirements for passport applicants. The revised Passport Application Form and streamlined requirements were designed to make it easier for applicants to comply with application requirements.

To address the increase in demand, the DFA increased its passport production capacity in 2017. There was a remarkable increase in passport issuance by 602,806 passports (19.38%) from 2016 to 2017. This was achieved despite no significant increase in the number of consular offices and staff.

In 2017 alone, DFA produced a total of 3,712,920 passports, of which 2,923,428 were processed in the Philippines.

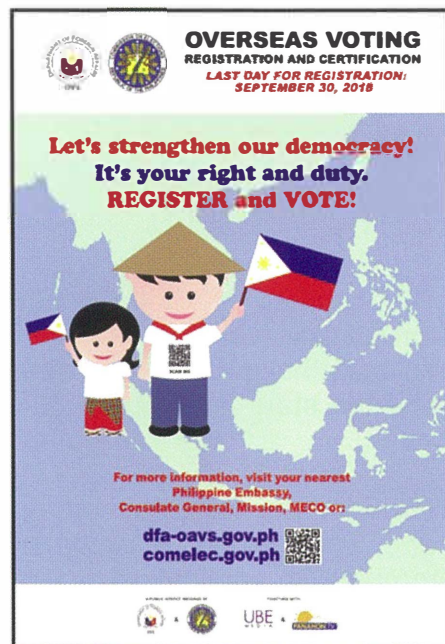
OTHER SERVICES (VISA, AUTHENTICATION, CONSULAR RECORDS)

The DFA issued 935,572 visas in 2017, which was 35.9% higher than the 2017 target of 600,000, and 28.5% more than the 668,801 visas issued in 2016. Philippine Foreign Service Posts in China issued 881,806 visas in 2017, a 27% increase from the 645,526 visas issued in 2016. The increase was mainly due to more tourist arrivals from China resulting from the Philippines' enhanced relations with the country.

On 10 January 2017, the Authentication Cashiering System went "live". The new system is an electronic solution designed to print invoices and track the delivery time of products and services provided by the Authentication Division. With this system, the registration of the client's information, the computation of fees, and the recording of data are automated.

The DFA also worked with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), the Bureau of Immigration (BI), and business groups in the Philippines on the implementation of the APEC Business Travel Card (ABTC) system. The Philippines attended meetings of the APEC Business Mobility Group on 18-21 February 2017 in Vietnam to discuss ways to facilitate the secure and efficient travel of business people of APEC economies.

OVERSEAS VOTING



Overseas Voting (OV) registration for the 2019 National midterm elections for senators and party-list representatives started on 01 December 2016 and will continue until 30 September 2018. Before the start of this registration exercise, the total number of Active Registered Voters were at 1,034,929. This was after COMELEC purged the Certified List of Overseas Voters (CLOV) of those who failed to vote in the last two consecutive elections and those who decided to transfer their registration record back to their Philippine addresses.

From December 2016 to December 2017, the Department's Foreign Service Posts and Local OV Registration Centers processed a total of 404,298 new OV registrants bringing the total active registered OV to 1,439,227, an increase of 39.07%.

In January 2017, the DFA and the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) hosted and organized the signing of the tripartite memoranda of agreement with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), and the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) for the continuing registration and certification of qualified overseas Filipinos for the 2019 elections. The agreements will allow the above-mentioned agencies to jointly establish Pre-Departure Registration Centers for departing overseas Filipinos, providing accessible overseas voter registration facilities.

The DFA and COMELEC then signed a tripartite memorandum of agreement with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) for the continuing registration and certification of qualified overseas Filipinos for the 2019 elections.

In July 2017, the overseas voting campaign conducted by DFA-OVS, COMELEC and ABS-CBN's The Filipino Channel (TFC) #Vote4ASelfieWorthyPH, was presented with the "Award of Excellence" in the 15th Philippine Quill Awards by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) Philippines. The campaign was cited for excellent use of communication in the Corporate Social Responsibility category. Anchored on the selfie phenomenon, it encouraged overseas Filipinos to vote in the 2016 Elections as their vote can make a difference in making the Philippines more "selfie-worthy." Last March 2017, #Vote4ASelfieWorthyPH was also awarded Gold Anvil in the 52nd Anvil awards organized by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP).

Meanwhile, two other election projects of the ABS-CBN, the "Ipanalo ang Pamilyang Pilipino: Championing The Filipino Family in the 2016 Philippine National Elections" and the "#Halalan2016 Digital Project" helped in further creating overseas voter awareness here and abroad. DFA actively partnered with ABS-CBN in these campaigns.

From October to November 2017, the DFA established Overseas Voter Registration Centers (OVRs) at the DFA's Office of Consular Affairs in ASEANA, and at DFA's Satellite Offices in Robinson's Galleria, SM Manila, and Alabang Town Center. These are in addition to existing OVRs at the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA), the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO), the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA), and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

In November and December 2017, DFA-OVS planned and implemented the on-site trainings on the amendments to COMELEC Resolution No. 10167, reboot of iREHISTRO and data privacy policy for overseas voting for purposes of the 2019 elections. The on-site training covered the following regions namely Middle East and Africa (Kuwait), Europe (Athens, Greece and Lisbon, Portugal) and Asia Pacific (Vientiane, Laos), Honolulu, Hawaii) and Taiwan (Taipei, Taiwan). One hundred seventy (170) Officers and staff from different Foreign Service Posts (FSPs) and Manila Cultural Economic Offices (MECOs) who act as Administering Officers and, Voter Registration Machine (VRM) Operators attended and participated in the trainings.



Chapter III

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND INSTITUTION BUILDING

| Human Resources

| Finance

| Systems and Processes

| Infrastructure

| Policy Planning

The DFA continued to review the Department's structure under the Institutional Strengthening and Productivity Improvement (ISPI) Program to ensure that its structure is aligned with its functions and responsibilities, and allows for organizational effectiveness and efficiency.

Early in the year, the DFA convened the Global Conference of Heads of Post to provide guidance to its key officials, and ensure that the plans and programs of the Department's various units are aligned with the DFA's Strategic Plan, the national development plan, and the priorities of the Duterte Administration.

Various seminars and workshops were offered to DFA employees throughout the year, with the goals of promoting competence, enhancing capabilities in delivering public service, and ensuring wellness among its personnel. The DFA also initiated projects in the areas of property acquisition and development, improvement of physical infrastructure, enhancing cybersecurity, and upgrading its technological systems.

The Department pursued the goal of ISO 9001 Quality Management System certification for its Passport and Authentication Services, to ensure the delivery of quality consular services. The efforts of the DFA resulted in being granted ISO 9001:2008 certification for Authentication services in early 2017, and third-party auditors recommending that it be given ISO 9001:2015 certification for both Passport and Authentication services by year-end.



HUMAN RESOURCES

WELLNESS PROGRAM

In accordance with the DFA Strategic Plan for 2017-2022, the Department rolled out activities and initiatives aimed at promoting the optimal health and well-being of DFA employees, as well as increasing productivity in the workplace. This included the following lectures and seminars:

- *Lectures on health and stress management*
- *Wellness Seminars for Foreign Service Posts.* This is part of the continuing efforts of the Department to provide psychological support services to personnel on foreign assignment.
- *Reintegration Seminars,* for foreign service personnel who were recalled to the Home Office.
- *Counseling Services for DFA Personnel.* The Department partnered with Better Steps Psychology to hold individual counselling sessions for foreign service personnel and their dependents, especially those coming from hardship posts.
- *Wellness Seminars for OCA and OMWA Personnel,* aimed at building the resilience of frontline personnel
- *Wellness Seminars for RCO Personnel*
- *Financial Literacy Program*
- *Seminars on relationships and parenting*
- *Fitness Classes*



*The participants of the Seminar on Parenting listen to Mr. Herald Cruz, a family psychologist, as he shares his insights on parenting
28 November 2017, Pasay City
(Photo credit: DFA-HRMO)*

PWD ACTIVITIES

In line with the Department's aspiration to build a more inclusive workplace, the Department organized activities that promote the rights and welfare of persons with disabilities, such as the conduct of Basic Sign Language Literacy Course and a Disability Sensitivity Training for DFA personnel.

SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, AND TRAININGS TO IMPROVE COMPETENCIES

The Department's Human Resources Management Office (HRMO) conducted the following seminars, workshops, and trainings in 2017, in line with the Department's commitment to Organizational Development and Institution Building:

- *Customer Service and Handling Exceptional Clients*
- *Coaching and Mentoring Workshop*
- *7 Habits Program for Managers*
- *7 Habits Program for Associates*
- *Scholarship Programs*
- *BAC Procurement Retooling and Planning*
- *Seminar for Career Minister Examinees*
- *QMS Awareness Seminar*



OCA ASEANA personnel perform an activity facilitated by Guthrie-Jensen Consultants, Inc. during the Seminar on Customer Service and Handling Exceptional Clients Batch 9 22-23 July 2017, Manila
(Photo credit: DFA-HRMO)



Personnel from OCA Satellite Office in Novaliches share their experiences on handling difficult clients with their speaker, the Assistant Vice President of Guthrie-Jensen Consultants, Inc. (Philippines Branch) and a specialized consultant in Sales and Customer Service, Ms. TJ Ramos-Guzman during the Seminar on Customer Service and Handling Exceptional Clients, Batch 12 02-03 September 2017, Quezon City
(Photo credit: DFA-HRMO)

SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, AND TRAININGS ON GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT (GAD)

The Department conducted activities aimed at developing responsive and resilient GAD Focal Point Persons here and abroad:

- *Regional Seminar on GAD Analysis, Planning and Budgeting, Coaching and Mentoring, and Psychological First Aid for Foreign Service personnel in the Foreign Service Posts*
- *Inclusion of GAD module in the Global Conference for Heads of Post, 02 February 2017*
- *Gender and Development Assembly for DFA Personnel*



*Participants discuss their group's presentation during the Gender and Development Assembly for GAD Focal Point Officers in the Home Office and Consular Offices, 05-08 September 2017, Pasay City
(Photo credit: DFA-HRMO)*

ASSISTANCE TO HONORARY CONSULAR OFFICERS AND SERVICE ATTACHES

In 2017, the Department completed a review of its guidelines on Honorary Consular Officers, with the aim of creating an environment conducive for Philippine Honorary Consuls to respond to today's modern challenges and realities in the field of consular services, economic diplomacy, and assistance to nationals.

The Department facilitated the appointments of Philippine honorary consular officers in:

- Asia-Pacific, eleven (11): Adelaide, South Australia, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia; Melbourne, Australia; Perth, Australia; Chittagong, Bangladesh; Colombo, Sri Lanka; Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; Lahore, Pakistan; Chennai; India; Mumbai, India; Auckland, New Zealand
- Middle East and Africa, five (5): Casablanca, Morocco; Aleppo, Syria; Suburbs of Damascus and Homs, Syria; Tunis, Tunisia; Sanaa, Yemen
- Europe, eighteen (18): Principality of Andorra, Baku, Azerbaijan, Antwerp, Belgium, Copenhagen, Denmark, Helsinki, Finland, Tbilisi, Georgia, Baden-Wurttemberg, Germany, Dresden, Germany, Hesse, Germany, Munich, Germany, Rhodes, Greece, Reggio Calabria, Italy, Veneto Region, Italy, Rotterdam, Netherlands, Saint Petersburg, Russia, Belgrade, Serbia, Sevilla, Spain, Stockholm, Sweden, Gaziantep, Turkey
- Americas & Canada six (6): Acapulco, Mexico; La Paz, Bolivia; Majuro, Marshall Islands; Port-Au-Prince, Haiti; San Diego, California; Sto. Domingo, Dominican Republic

The Department also facilitated ninety-two (92) accreditations of Partner Agency Representatives to various Foreign Service Posts.

FINANCE

As of 29 December 2017, the DFA's Budget Utilization Rate (BUR) was at 90.98% of its 2017 Allotment of PhP 8.1 Billion and 71.03% of its 2016 Continuing Allotment of PhP 3.0 Billion. Obligations BUR is computed as total obligations excluding Personnel Services (PS) against total appropriate from all services both current and continuing year for FY 2017.

Status of DFA Budget as of 29 December 2017 (in PhP):

	Authorized Appropriation	Obligations	Balance	BUR
REGULAR	8,133,575,000.00	7,400,068,427.60	733,506,572.40	90.98%
CONTINUING	2,975,003,294.88	2,113,106,084.72	861,897,210.16	71.03%

20 out of the 28 DFA offices/units provided with specific budget allotments have posted BURs above 75%.

SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES

Quality Management System

On 06 January 2017, the DFA was granted ISO 9001:2008 Quality Management System (QMS) certification for its authentication services. Authentication, commonly known as “red ribbon”, is the act of establishing or confirming that an official act of a notary public or certifying officer is genuine or authentic, for use as an instrument of evidence in a foreign country.

Throughout 2017, the DFA worked towards expanding the scope of its QMS to include its passport services. It also upgraded its QMS to comply with the new ISO 9001:2015 standards, in its effort towards continual improvement.

Internal Audit

The DFA’s Internal Audit Service advises the Secretary of Foreign Affairs on matters relating to management control and operations audit for the strengthening the Department’s internal control systems, improvement of existing systems and procedures, and promoting transparency and accountability.

The Department conducted Compliance and Management Audits and Operations Audits in five Regional Consular Offices and in seven Foreign Service Posts.

On 27 January 2017, the Department organized the *Seminar on National Guidelines on Internal Control System and Rules on Accountability*, which was attended by 80 Heads of Post and accountable officers in the Home Office.



*IAS Director Giovanni E. Palec conducts an Entry Conference for the Compliance, Management, and Operations Audits to the Philippine Embassy in Kuwait headed by Ambassador Renato Pedro O. Villa, 26 March 2017, Kuwait
(Photo credit: DFA-IAS)*



*IAS Director Giovanni E. Palec conducts an Entry Conference for the Compliance, Management, and Operations Audits to the Philippine Embassy in Doha headed by Ambassador Alan L. Timbayan, 02 April 2017, Doha
(Photo credit: DFA-IAS)*



*IAS Assistant Secretary Jocelyn Batoon-Garcia gives the Opening Remarks in the Seminar on the Internal Control Systems and Rules on Accountability for eighty (80) Heads of Post and Accountable Officers, with Deputy Executive Secretary for Internal Audit Alberto A. Bernardo of the Office of the President as resource person, 22 January 2017, Pasay
(Photo credit: DFA-IAS)*

INFRASTRUCTURE

Building Fund Program

Owning properties abroad to serve as Chanceries and/or Official Residences with upgraded premises and facilities is consistent with the Department's commitment to improve the quality of its services that will redound to the benefit of Filipinos and other clientele overseas.

The Department's Building Fund was utilized for the acquisition of properties in Milan, Nairobi, and Rome, and for the repair, renovation, and refurbishment of government-owned properties in Berlin, Berne, New York, Ottawa, Paris, Sydney, Singapore, Tokyo, Washington D.C., and Wellington, among others.

Car Re-fleeting Program for Foreign Service Posts

The Program aims to improve the current vehicle inventory of Foreign Service Posts, which is essential to the efficient delivery of services and fulfillment of official duties and functions.

In 2017, the Department procured nineteen vehicles for its Foreign Service Posts.

Cybersecurity

With the implementation of the DFA Advance Cybersecurity Solution, the Department was able to monitor and mitigate external and internal threats and attacks to its ICT assets.

Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERPS)

The DFA continued and renewed the implementation of the Enterprise Resource Planning System (ERPS) — Enterprise Content Management System (ECMS) to its four (4) pilot Administrative offices.

The DFA also procured and implemented three (3) additional Information Systems namely, the Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS), the Payroll and Benefits Management Information System (PBMtS), and the Property and Inventory Management Information System (PIMIS). These Information Systems aim to streamline and facilitate Administrative functions / operations and ensure that personnel data and relevant information are sourced from single database.

POLICY PLANNING

Global Conference of Heads of Post

At the beginning of his presidency, President Duterte committed to institute changes in the country's governance, including the elimination of the drug menace and criminality, rooting out corruption in government, pursuing the peace process, and enhancing the country's security by forging friendly relations and closer engagement with its non-traditional allies with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of Filipinos. The DFA plays an important and multi-faceted role in the realization of these commitments, as its Foreign Service Posts serve as the country's primary agents in bringing the Philippine agenda forward in the international arena.

In order for the Department and the Foreign Service Posts to effectively respond to the needs of the government, it is imperative that the government's policy directions and thrusts are substantially communicated and understood. For this purpose, the DFA convened the Global Conference of Heads of Post from 30 January to 02 February 2017 in Makati City, only the second activity of its kind since the first Conference held in March 2007. The Conference adopted as its theme the Department's vision of "A resilient foreign service for a strong Philippines." Heads of Philippine Foreign Service Posts, heads and key officers of the Department, and officials from partner agencies attended the four-day event.

Briefings on specific segments were led by the Department's Undersecretaries and officials as well as officials of concerned agencies particularly the National Economic Development Authority, the National Security Council, the Office of the Cabinet Secretary, and Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. The program revolved around the DFA Strategic Plan which was approved by the Secretary on 15 August 2016 and submitted to the President on 15 September 2016. The Strategic Plan sessions were divided into the following segments on national security, economic security, civilian security, cultural diplomacy, assistance to nationals, consular services, public diplomacy, and organizational development. With the Philippines as chair of ASEAN in 2017, a module on how the Department could use ASEAN to leverage Philippine national interests was also conducted.

The conference participants also met with their respective geographic offices to discuss their respective roles and concerns related to the implementation of the DFA Strategic Plan, and to come up with their regional plans, which were presented to the plenary.



*Then Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto R. Yasay, Jr. reminds the Heads of Post to maintain a steadfast commitment to the pursuit of an independent foreign policy, 30 January 2017, Makati
(Photo credit: DFA-OPD)*



*Then Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto R. Yasay, Jr. is joined by the Department's Undersecretaries, 30 January 2017, Makati
(Photo credit: DFA-OPD)*



Then Foreign Affairs Secretary Perfecto R. Yasay, Jr. and the Undersecretaries pose with the participants of the Global Conference of Heads of Post, 30 January 2017, Makati (Photo credit: DFA-OPD)



The participants of the Global Conference of Heads of Post in plenary, 30 January 2017, Makati (Photo credit: DFA-OPD)



ANNEXES

Annex A: Foreign Trips of the President and Incoming High Level Visits

Foreign Trips of the President		
19-20 March	State Visit to Myanmar	President Duterte undertook a state visit to the Union of Myanmar and met with President U Htin Kyaw, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, and Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar. The two Leaders witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Food Security and Agricultural Cooperation.
20-22 March	Official Visit to the Kingdom of Thailand	President Duterte met with Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, and witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation on science and technology, and an implementing program on tourism and agriculture.
10-12 April	State Visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia	President Duterte met with Saudi Arabian King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, at the latter's private residence and witnessed the signing of three agreements on labor cooperation, political consultations, and cooperation between the PH's Foreign Service Institute and Saudi Arabia's Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies.
13-14 April	State Visit to Bahrain	President Duterte met with His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, and the leaders witnessed the signing of four agreements on the establishment of a High Joint Commission that is aimed at enhancing economic and political cooperation, training of diplomats, air services, and avoidance of double taxation
15-16 April	State Visit to Qatar	President Duterte met with Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, and witnessed the signing of four agreements in the areas of culture, health, technical and vocational education and training, and investment promotion and protection.
10-11 May	World Economic Forum for Asia, Phnom Penh, Cambodia	President Duterte attended the ASEAN at World Economic Forum and in his speech during the plenary session, promoted 'Inclusive, Innovation-led Growth', extensive support for MSMEs, the pursuance of the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025, and investment on human capital and youth empowerment.

12-13 May	Official Visit to Hong Kong SAR	President Duterte visited Hong Kong SAR and met with the Filipino community, where he acknowledged the role of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in national development.
13-16 May	The Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, Beijing, China	President Duterte attended the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing. President Duterte met with President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan of Turkey on the sidelines of the forum.
23-24 May	Official Visit to the Russian Federation	President Duterte met with Russian President Vladimir Putin. During the visit, eleven agreements were signed in the fields of defense cooperation, tourism, agriculture, trade and industry, energy, transportation, and culture and the arts.
05-06 October	Official Visit to Brunei Darussalam	President Duterte visited Brunei Darussalam to attend the Royal Banquet on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the Accession to the Throne of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam.
29-31 October	Official Visit to Japan	<p>President Duterte met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during his official visit. An exchange of notes on the provision of a yen loan for the Cavite Industrial Area Flood Risk Management Project (loan provision of up to 15.928 billion yen) was signed by Secretary Cayetano and Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono in the presence of both leaders.</p> <p>The President also met with His Majesty Emperor Akihito and Her Majesty Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo.</p>
08-11 November	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Meeting in Da Nang, Vietnam	<p>President Duterte attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders Meeting where he had a bilateral meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines.</p> <p>President Duterte also met with Prime Minister Peter O'Neill of Papua New Guinea on 09 November, and with Chinese President Xi Jinping on 11 November, both on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting (AELM) in Da Nang, Vietnam.</p>

Incoming High Level Visits		
12-13 January	Official Visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan	<p>Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was welcomed and hosted to a State Banquet by President Duterte in Manila during the first day, and invited by the President to his private residence in Davao City on the second day.</p> <p>The Prime Minister was also honored with the privilege of adopting a Philippine eagle, the Philippines' national bird, which was named "Sakura".</p>
26-29 April	30 th ASEAN Summit	<p>President Duterte met with leaders on the sidelines of the 30th ASEAN Summit:</p> <p>Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen paid a courtesy call on President Duterte, and took the opportunity to personally invite President Duterte to the World Economic Forum for Asia in Cambodia in May 2017, which he accepted;</p> <p>Lao Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith called on President Duterte and discussed the good trajectory of bilateral relations between the Philippines and Laos;</p> <p>Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of Viet Nam held a bilateral meeting with President Duterte, where they discussed Viet Nam's commitment to provide long-term supply of rice to PH and progress on the ASEAN-China Code of Conduct (CoC) in the South China Sea.</p>
27 April	State Visit of H.M. Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam	<p>President Duterte and H.M. Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei discussed ways to strengthen the political, economic and people-to-people ties between the Philippines and Brunei, and witnessed the signing of two agreements: (1) Agreement on Cultural Cooperation and (2) MOU on Halal Industry and Halal Export Development and Promotion.</p>
28 April	State Visit of President Joko Widodo of the Republic of Indonesia	<p>President Duterte and Indonesian President Joko Widodo discussed the possible convening of the next Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC), the review of the 1975 Border Agreements, increased cooperation in the fight against illegal drugs, maritime security cooperation and transnational crime. The leaders witnessed the signing of two agreements: (1) MOU on Agricultural Cooperation, and (2) Joint Declaration on the Establishment of Sea Connectivity between Davao/General Santos, Southern Mindanao and Bitung, North Sulawesi.</p>

10-14 November 2017	31 st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits	<p>President Duterte met with leaders on the sidelines of the 31st ASEAN Summit and Related Summits:</p> <p>President Duterte and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi witnessed the exchange of four recently signed agreements on foreign service institutes, MSME, agriculture, and defense industry and logistics;</p> <p>Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held a meeting with President Duterte to discuss bilateral and regional matters, and witnessed the signing of five agreements and exchanges of notes on infrastructure and defense projects;</p> <p>President Duterte and Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern of New Zealand discussed trade relations and possible exchanges in science and technology;</p> <p>Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev met with President Duterte, where they witnessed the signing of nine agreements in the areas of security, energy, mass communication, intellectual property, and education;</p> <p>President Duterte and US President Trump had a bilateral meeting where they discussed the full range of PH-US relations and reaffirmed the long-standing PH-US alliance. They also discussed the ongoing PH campaign against criminality and drugs and committed to share best practices in addressing illicit drug use.</p>
15-16 November 2017	Official Visit of Premier Li Keqiang of the State Council of the People's Republic of China	<p>President Duterte and Premier Li Keqiang witnessed the signing of fourteen (14) agreements and memoranda of understanding on various fields of cooperation including on finance, economic and technical cooperation, infrastructure projects, climate change, intellectual property, youth, industrial parks development, production capacity, and defense industry cooperation.</p>

Annex B: Official Travels of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs in 2017

SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PERFECTO R. YASAY, JR.	
17-20 January	Official travel to Rome and Milan, Italy
21 January	Official travel to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
22 January	Official travel to Cairo, Egypt.
23-26 January	Official travel to Dubai, UAE and Manama, Bahrain
9-12 February	Meeting with Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., USN, Commander of the US Pacific Command, Honolulu, HI, USA
12-17 February	25 th Session of the General Conference of OPANAL (Agency for the Protection of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean), Mexico City, Mexico
25-28 February	High Level Segment of the 34 th Session of the Human Rights Council Council and Bilateral Meetings with Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter of Switzerland, Foreign Minister Sameh Hassan Shourkry of Egypt, and Foreign Minister Hugo Martinez Bonilia of El Salvador, Geneva and Berne, Switzerland
28 February	Official Visit to Madrid, Spain
01-03 March	Official Visit to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
19-20 March	Official visit of President Duterte to Myanmar.
21-22 March	Official visit of President Duterte to Thailand.
10-16 April	State visits of President Duterte to Kingdom Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar
ACTING SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ENRIQUE A. MANALO	
2-8 May	Special ASEAN-US Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Washington DC, USA
12-13 May and 13-16 May	Working Visit of President Duterte to Hong Kong and participation in the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing, China

SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ALAN PETER S. CAYETANO	
23-28 May	Official Visits of President Duterte to Russia and UAE
5-7 June	23 rd Nikkei International Conference on "The Future of Asia" Tokyo, Japan
28 June – 03 July	Official visits to Beijing, China and Hong Kong SAR
21-23 July	Official visit to Osaka, Japan
25-27 & 30-31 August	Closing and Turn-over Ceremonies of the Southeast Asian Games, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
29 August & 04 September	2017 International Conference on ASEAN-ROK Partnership Seoul, ROK and 8 th FEALAC (Forum for East Asia-Latin America Cooperation) Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Opening of the ASEAN Culture House and meetings with Officials of the Government of ROK, including Prime Minister Lee Nakyeon, Seoul and Busan, Republic of Korea
15 September- 15 October	72 nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), and UN and ASEAN Related Meetings and official meetings in New York and Washington DC, USA
25-27 October	Royal Cremation Ceremony for the late His Majesty Bhumibol Adulyadej, Bangkok, Thailand
29-31 October	Working visit of President Duterte to Tokyo, Japan
7-11 November	APEC Economic Leaders' Week, Da Nang, Vietnam
29 November – 03 December	Opening of the Art Exhibit by the University of Hong Kong, call on Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam and Opening Ceremony of the Inaugural Belt and Road Fest in Hong Kong; and Paskong Pinoy 2017 in Macau

Annex C: Agreements

	AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	OFFICE
1.	Philippines-Italy Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Establishment of a Bilateral Consultation Mechanism	1 January 2017	OEA
2.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on a Joint Committee for Cooperation between the Republic of the Philippines and the United Arab Emirates	9 January 2017	OMEAA
3.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Foreign Service Institute of the Republic of the Philippines and the Institute for Diplomatic Studies of the Republic of Djibouti	10 January 2017	OMEAA
4.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Bilateral Consultations between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Djibouti	11 January 2017	OMEAA
5.	Memorandum of Cooperation for Joint Crediting Mechanism between Japan and the Republic of the Philippines	12 January 2017	ASPAC
6.	Memorandum of Cooperation between the Japan Coast Guard and the Philippine Coast Guard	12 January 2017	ASPAC
7.	Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan and the Presidential Communications Operations Office of the Philippines and People's Television Network, Inc. (PTV)	12 January 2017	ASPAC
8.	Loan Agreement and Guarantee Letter between Japan and the Republic of the Philippines for Harnessing Agribusiness Opportunities through Robust and Vibrant Entrepreneurship Supportive of Peaceful Transformation (HARVEST)	12 January 2017	ASPAC
9.	Exchange of Notes (EN) on the Grant Aid Economic and Social Development Programme (Fast Crafts)	12 January 2017	ASPAC
10.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the Establishment of a Bilateral Consultation Mechanism between the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Italy	18 January 2017	OEA

	AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	OFFICE
11.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Foreign Service Institute of the Republic of the Philippines and the Institute for Diplomatic Studies of Arab Republic of Egypt	22 January 2017	OMEAA
12.	Paris Climate Change Agreement	28 February 2017 (President's ratification) 14 March 2017 (Senate's concurrence)	UNIO
13.	Six-Year Development Program (SYDP) for Trade and Economic Cooperation between the Government of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China	17 March 2017	ASPAC
14.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Food Security and Agricultural Cooperation between the Department of Agriculture of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation of the Union of Myanmar	20 March 2017	ASPAC
15.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand For Cooperation in the Field of Science and Technology	22 March 2017	ASPAC
16.	Implementing Program of Tourism Cooperation 2017-2022 between the Department of Tourism of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Tourism and Sports of the Kingdom of Thailand	22 March 2017	ASPAC
17.	Implementing Arrangement on Specific Areas of Cooperation between the Philippine Carabao Center of the Department of Agriculture of the Republic of the Philippines and Department of Livestock Development of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of the Kingdom of Thailand on Swamp and Dairy Buffalo Production	22 March 2017	ASPAC
18.	Implementation Arrangement on Specific Areas of Cooperation between the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources of the Department of Agriculture of the Republic of the Philippines and the Department of Fisheries of the Kingdom of Thailand	22 March 2017	ASPAC

	AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	OFFICE
19.	Exchange-of-Notes between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Japan for the Consolidated Rehabilitation of Illegal Drug Users (CARE) Program	23 March 2017	ASPAC
20.	Exchange-of-Notes between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Japan for the Economic and Social Development Programme	23 March 2017	ASPAC
21.	Exchange-of-Notes between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Japan for the Project for Improvement of Equipment for Power Distribution in Bangsamoro	23 March 2017	ASPAC
22.	MOU on the Sending and Receiving of Workers to ROK under the Employment Permit System	24 March 2017	ASPAC
23.	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of the Philippines and the Institute of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary	27 March 2017	OEA
24.	Cultural Cooperation Programme between the National Commission for Culture and the Arts of the Philippines and the Ministry of Human Capacities of Hungary	27-28 March 2017	OEA
25.	Memorandum of Understanding Between the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Hungarian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	28 March 2017	OEA
26.	Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Hungary on Economic Cooperation	28 March 2017	OEA
27.	Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC) of the Government of Japan and Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines in the Field of Information and Communication Technology	31 March 2017	ASPAC
28.	Visa Waiver Agreement for Diplomatic, Official and Service Passport Holders between the Philippines and Burkina Faso	07 April 2017	OMEAA

	AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	OFFICE
29.	Cooperation Program Between the Foreign Service Institute of the Republic of the Philippines and Prince Saud Al Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies of Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	10 April 2017	OMEAA
30.	Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Political Consultations between the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.	10 April 2017	OMEAA
31.	PH-US Child Protection Compact Partnership	11 April 2017	OAA
32.	Agreement on Labor Cooperation for General Workers Recruitment and Employment between the Department of Labor and Employment of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Labor and Social Development of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.	11 April 2017	OMEAA
33.	Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of a High Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain	13 April 2017	OMEAA
34.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Foreign Service Institute of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Diplomatic Institute of the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain	13 April 2017	OMEAA
35.	Protocol to Amend and Supplement the Air Services Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain	13 April 2017	OMEAA
36.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation in the Field of Culture between the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Ministry of Culture and Sports of the State of Qatar	16 April 2017	OMEAA
37.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and Government of the State of Qatar for the Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investments	16 April 2017	OMEAA

	AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	OFFICE
38.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Cooperation in the Field of Technical Vocational Education and Training between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the State of Qatar	16 April 2017	OMEAA
39.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation in the Field of Health between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the State of Qatar	16 April 2017	OMEAA
40.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Trade and Industry of the Republic of the Philippines and the Energy and Industry Department at the Prime Minister's Office of Brunei Darussalam on Halal Industry and Halal Export Development and Promotion	27 April 2017	ASPAC
41.	Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on Cultural Cooperation	27 April 2017	ASPAC
42.	Joint Declaration by the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on the Establishment of Sea Connectivity between Davao/General Santos, southern Mindanao and Bitung, North Sulawesi	28 April 2017	ASPAC
43.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Agricultural Cooperation between the Department of Agriculture of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia	28 April 2017	ASPAC
44.	Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China	15 May 2017	ASPAC
45.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation in Human Resource Development between the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China	15 May 2017	ASPAC

	AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	OFFICE
46.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Energy Cooperation between the Department of Energy (DOE) of the Republic of the Philippines and the National Energy Administration of the People's Republic of China	15 May 2017	ASPAC
47.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on News and Publishing between the Presidential Communications Operations Office (PCOO) of the Republic of the Philippines and China International Publishing Group of the People's Republic of China	15 May 2017	ASPAC
48.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Defense Logistics Cooperation between the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines and Poly Technologies, Inc. of the People's Republic of China	15 May 2017	ASPAC
49.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in the Field of Security between the National Security Council Secretariat and the Security Council of the Russian Federation on Cooperation	23 May 2017	OEA
50.	Agreement on Defense Cooperation between the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation	24 May 2017	OEA
51.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation in the Use of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes between the Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of the Philippines and the State Atomic Energy Corporation "ROSATOM" (Russian Federation)	24 May 2017	OEA
52.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Department of Agriculture of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation	24 May 2017	OEA
53.	Memorandum of Intent (MOI) between the Department of Trade and Industry of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation	24 May 2017	OEA
54.	Protocol on Cooperation between the National Commission for Culture and the Arts of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation for 2017-2019	24 May 2017	OEA

	AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	OFFICE
55.	Joint Action Program for the period of 2017-2019 on Cooperation in the Field of Tourism between the Department of Tourism of the Republic of the Philippines and the Federal Agency for Tourism of the Russian Federation	24 May 2017	OEA
56.	Memorandum of Intent (MOI) on Cooperation in the Field of Transport between the Department of Transportation of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation	24 May 2017	OEA
57.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Cooperation in Industry Development between the Department of Trade and Industry of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation	24 May 2017	OEA
58.	Plan of Consultations between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation and the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines in 2017-2019	24 May 2017	OEA
59.	MOU between DepEd-PH and the Embassy of Republic of Korea to teach Korean language in Public Schools	21 June 2017	ASPAC
60.	Exchange of Notes (E/N) on the Japanese Human Resource Development Scholarship (JDS) Project	22 June 2017	ASPAC
61.	Agreement between the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of National Defense of the People's Republic of China on China's Provision of Military Assistance Gratis to the Philippines	23 June 2017	ASPAC
62.	Agreement between the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of National Defense of the People's Republic of China on China's Provision of Urgent Military Assistance Gratis to the Philippines	23 June 2017	ASPAC
63.	Joint Communique on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the Philippines and Burundi	30 June 2017	OMEAA
64.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Academic Cooperation on Higher Education between the Philippine Commission on Higher Education and the Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports of the Lao People's Democratic Republic	13 July 2017	ASPAC

	AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	OFFICE
65.	Terms of Reference (TOR) between the Philippine Air Force (PAF) and the Republic of Korea Air Force (ROKAF) on Airman-to-Airman Talks	20-22 July 2017	ASPAC
66.	PH-Seychelles Air Services Agreement	23 August 2017	OMEAA
67.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Philippines' Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and Uruguay's Artigas Institute	23 August 2017	OAA
68.	Fifth Amendment to the 2011 PHL-US Letter of Agreement on Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement (ALOA)	08 September 2017	OAA
69.	Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of the Government of Japan (MIC), the Presidential Communications Operations Office of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (PCOO), and the People's Television Network Inc. (PTV) under the supervision of the PCOO for the Delivery of Disaster Information through Emergency Warning Broadcasting System and Data Broadcasting of Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting	09 September 2017	ASPAC
70.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Royal Thai Police and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency on Cooperation in Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, and Controlled Precursor and Essential Chemicals	19 September 2017	ASPAC
71.	Educational and Scientific Exchange Programme for the years 2018-2020 Between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of Hungary	22 September 2017	OEA
72.	Agreement on Cultural Cooperation between the Philippines and Burkina Faso	05 October 2017	OMEAA
73.	Memorandum of Understanding between Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) and State Bank of Pakistan (SBP)	27 October 2017	ASPAC
74.	Exchange of Notes on the Cavite Industrial Area Flood Risk Management Project	30 October 2017	ASPAC
75.	MOU between the Commission on Higher Education of the Republic of the Philippines and the Institute for Information & Communications Technology Promotion of the Republic of Korea on Cooperation in Information and Communications Technology Human Resource Development	02 November 2017	ASPAC

	AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	OFFICE
76.	Confidential MOU between the Aeronautical Authorities of the Republic of the Philippines and the Republic of Korea	08 November 2017	ASPAC
77.	Amendment to the Arrangement between the Philippines and New Zealand on Geothermal Energy Cooperation	13 November 2017	ASPAC
78.	Loan Agreement on Cavite Industrial Area Flood Risk Management Project	13 November 2017	ASPAC
79.	Amended Letter of Arrangement on the Transfer of Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Trainer Aircraft TC-90s	13 November 2017	ASPAC
80.	Exchange of Notes (E/N) on the Economic and Social Development Programme for the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and Philippine Coast Guard (PCG)	13 November 2017	ASPAC
81.	Exchange of Notes (E/N) on the Arterial Road Bypass Project (Phase III)	13 November 2017	ASPAC
82.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of India on Cooperation in Agriculture and Related Fields	13 November 2017	ASPAC
83.	Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Industry and Logistics Cooperation between the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India	13 November 2017	ASPAC
84.	MOU on Cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute (FSI) and the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA)	13 November 2017	ASPAC
85.	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) between the Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development of the Philippines and the National Small Industries Corporation of India	13 November 2017	ASPAC
86.	Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Republic of the Philippines and the Russian Federation	13 November 2017	OEA
87.	Treaty on Extradition between the Republic of the Philippines and the Russian Federation	13 November 2017	OEA
88.	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Department of Energy and the State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom" of the Russian Federation	13 November 2017	OEA

	AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	OFFICE
89.	Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Mass Communications between the Republic of the Philippines and the Russian Federation	13 November 2017	OEA
90.	Memorandum of Understanding on the Development of Cooperation in Transport Education between the Republic of the Philippines and the Russian Federation	13 November 2017	OEA
91.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Commission on Higher Education of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation	13 November 2017	OEA
92.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines and the Federal Service for Intellectual Property of the Russian Federation	13 November 2017	OEA
93.	Agreement on Cooperation between the Commission on Audit of the Republic of the Philippines and the Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation	13 November 2017	OEA
94.	Business-to-Business Agreement of Cooperation and Partnership between Philippine company Vi Holding LLC and Russian company Global Ferronickel Holdings Inc	13 November 2017	OEA
95.	Memorandum of Cooperation on Qualifications Recognition between the Philippine Commission on Higher Education and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority	14 November 2017	ASPAC
96.	Amended Memorandum of Arrangement between the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines and the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Ministry of Defence of New Zealand and the New Zealand Defence Force Concerning Defense Cooperation	14 November 2017	ASPAC
97.	Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation Between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China	15 November 2017	ASPAC
98.	Memorandum of Understanding on Jointly Promoting the Second Basket of Key Infrastructure Projects Cooperation between the Department of Finance of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Commerce of the Government of the People's Republic of China	15 November 2017	ASPAC

	AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	OFFICE
99.	Exchange of Letters on Project of Dangerous Drugs Abuse Treatment and Rehabilitation Centers	15 November 2017	ASPAC
100.	Exchange of Letters on Project of Two Bridges across Pasig River	15 November 2017	ASPAC
101.	Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation on Industrial Parks Development between the Department of Trade and Industry of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China	15 November 2017	ASPAC
102.	Memorandum of Understanding on Jointly Promoting the Philippine National Railways South Long Hall Project Cooperation between Department of Transportation of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China	15 November 2017	ASPAC
103.	Implementation Framework for the Memorandum of Understanding and Development of Project List for Cooperation in Production Capacity and Investment between the National Economic and Development Authority of the Republic of the Philippines and the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China	15 November 2017	ASPAC
104.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Environment and Natural Resources of the Republic of the Philippines and the National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China Concerning the Provision of Goods for Addressing Climate Change	15 November 2017	ASPAC
105.	Memorandum of Understanding on Defense Industry Cooperation between the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines and the State Administration of Science Technology Industry of National Defense of the People's Republic of China	15 November 2017	ASPAC
106.	Memorandum of Understanding between the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines and the State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation in the Field of Intellectual Property	15 November 2017	ASPAC
107.	Memorandum of Understanding between the National Youth Commission and the All-China Youth Federation on Strengthening Youth Cooperation	15 November 2017	ASPAC

	AGREEMENT	DATE SIGNED	OFFICE
108.	The Financing Cooperation Agreement on Chico River Pump Irrigation Project and New Centennial Water Source-Kaliwa Dam Project between the government of the Republic of the Philippines represented by the Department of Finance and the Export-Import Bank of China	15 November 2017	ASPAC
109.	The Republic of the Philippines 2017 Renminbi Bond Issuance Underwriting Agreement	15 November 2017	ASPAC
110.	Memorandum of Understanding between Bases Conversion and Development Authority and China Development Bank	15 November 2017	ASPAC
111.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Defense Cooperation between the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines and the Ministry of Defence of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	04 December 2017	OEA
112.	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Defense Cooperation between the Ministry of National Defense of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Department of National Defense of the Republic of the Philippines	06 December 2017	ASPAC
113.	Agreement between the Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines on Prevention of Looting and Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Property	06 December 2017	ASPAC
114.	Memorandum of Cooperation on Information Communication and Broadcasting between the Ministry of Information of the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Presidential Communications Operations Office of the Republic of the Philippines	15 December 2017	ASPAC

Annex D: Consular Data and Statistics

TABLE 1: 2017 PASSPORT ISSUANCES

Passport Issuing Site	NUMBER OF PASSPORT ISSUED
DFA OCA Manila (ASEANA)	666,158
DFA Consular Offices (COs) (EO 45 dated 20 October 2017 renamed 6 Satellite Offices (NCR) and 27 Regional Consular Offices to DFA COs)	2,257,270
Foreign Service Posts	789,492
TOTAL	3,712,920

TABLE 2: 2017 VISA ISSUANCES – LOCAL

CLASSIFICATION			NUMBER OF VISAS ISSUED
Non-Immigrant	Temporary Visitor – Restricted Nationals	9(a)	
	Foreign Government Officials	9(e)	3,533
	Student Visa	9(f)	
	Pre-Arranged employment	9(g)	
Special Non-Immigrant		47(a)(2)	
TOTAL			3,533
APEC Business Travel Cards (ABTC)			
ABTC Card Issued			633
ABTC Online Applications Approved			115,377

TABLE 3: 2017 VISA ISSUANCES – FOREIGN SERVICE POSTS

CLASSIFICATION	TOTAL
Non – Immigrant Visa	
Temporary Visitor's Visa 9(a)	936,246
Transit Visa 9(b)	151
Seaman / Airline Crew 9(c)	1,984
Treaty / Trader Investor 9(d)	2
Foreign Government Official 9(e)	4,488
Student Visa 9(f)	759
Pre – Arranged Employee 9(g)	63
Special Category	
SRRV	392
Special Non – Immigrant	
Special Non – Immigrant 47a(2)	227
TOTAL NON – IMMIGRANT VISAS ISSUED	943,712
Immigrant Visa	
13(a)	182
13(g)	5
TOTAL IMMIGRANT VISA ISSUED	187
GRAND TOTAL	943,899

TABLE 4: 2017 AUTHENTICATED DOCUMENTS

PERIOD	DFA OCA (ASEANA)	DFA CO East	DFA CO Northeast	DFA CO South	DFA CO West	DFA CO Pampanga
January	39,574	4,948	8,492	1,251	9,052	3,299
February	34,393	4,933	8,057	1,232	9,275	3,011
March	38,975	5,501	9,348	1,524	9,066	3,444
April	27,067	3,647	6,591	1,080	6,971	2,683
May	38,474	5,130	9,507	1,359	10,882	2,774
June	32,399	4,071	8,111	1,383	8,116	1,330
July	32,442	4,306	8,522	1,348	7,978	2,483
August	34,076	4,747	8,183	1,513	9,275	2,932
September	29,072	4,581	7,144	1,272	8,614	2,638
October	29,664	4,455	7,400	1,422	9,453	2,680
November	27,059	3,902	6,806	1,382	9,139	2,424
December	25,219	3,589	6,104	1,163	7,696	2,446
Sub-Total	388,414	53,810	94,265	15,929	105,517	32,144
Total	690,079					
Total Authenticated Documents						
690,079						

TABLE 5: 2017 CIVIL REGISTRY SERVICES

RECEIVED FROM POSTS: TRANSMITTED TO PSA	TOTAL
Birth	26,105
Marriage	17,073
Death	2,467
Petition for Correction of Clerical Error (RA 9048)	894
Conversion to Islam	11
Renunciation	235
Legal Instruments	1,827
Total Number of Reports received from FSPs	48,612

LOCAL MOBILE PASSPORT SERVICES

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Expected Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
07 January 2017	Calamba, Laguna	600	566
07 January 2017	Carmona, Cavite	500	468
14 January 2017	Muñoz, Nueva Ecija	600	506
14 January 2017	Silang, Cavite	500	473
21 January 2017	Malolos, Bulacan	600	654
21 January 2017	Bustos, Bulacan	500	474
28 January 2017	Pateros, Metro Manila	600	548
28 January 2017	Plaridel, Bulacan	600	533

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Expected Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
04 February 2017	Calapan City	600	535
04 February 2017	Rosario, Cavite	500	425
11 February 2017	Valenzuela City	650	598
11 February 2017	Pandi, Bulacan	500	388
18 February 2017	Meycauayan, Bulacan	750	640
18 February 2017	San Rafael, Bulacan	700	564
25 February 2017	Santa Cruz, Laguna	650	515
25 February 2017	Basco, Batanes	550	457
04 March 2017	Hagonoy, Bulacan	800	710
04 March 2017	Marikina City	550	468
11 March 2017	Odiongan, Romblon	700	638
18 March 2017	Parañaque City	700	622
18 March 2017	Calapan City	650	599
25 March 2017	San Ildefonso, Bulacan	650	579
25 March 2017	Pila, Laguna	650	559
01 April 2017	Llanera, Nueva Ecija	600	477
01 April 2017	Bongabon, Nueva Ecija	650	614
08 April 2017	Masbate, Masbate	600	520
22 April 2017	Sta. Maria, Bulacan	600	554
22 April 2017	Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija	700	623
29 April 2017	Alaminos, Pangasinan	750	698
29 April 2017	ABS-CBN, Quezon City	500	384
6 May 2017	Tagbilaran City	1,300	1,229
6 May 2017	Balagtas, Bulacan	650	599
13 May 2017	San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	650	574
13 May 2017	San Marcelino, Zambales	650	599
20 May 2017	Baler, Aurora	600	478
20 May 2017	Navotas City	650	558
25 May 2017	House of Representatives	800	706

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Expected Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
27 May 2017	Virac, Catanduanes	650	498
01 June 2017	Marikina City	650	618
01 June 2017	Talavera, Nueva Ecija	800	760
10 June 2017	Vigan, Ilocos Sur	900	806
17 June 2017	Bulakan, Bulacan	600	551
17 June 2017	San Juan City	600	509
24 June 2017	Los Baños, Laguna	650	574
24 June 2017	San Jose Del Monte City	600	498
01 July 2017	GMA Network	650	553
01 July 2017	Paombong, Bulacan	550	436
08 July 2017	Mandaluyong City	550	506
08 July 2017	Calumpit, Bulacan	550	488
15 July 2017	San Miguel, Bulacan	650	613
15 July 2017	Bocaue, Bulacan	600	552
22 July 2017	Caloocan City	700	574
22 July 2017	Department of Agriculture	700	457
29 July 2017	Mabini, Batangas	1,200	1,046
29 July 2017	PNP, Camp Crame, Quezon City	650	530
05 August 2017	Limay, Bataan	600	525
05 August 2017	Quezon City	600	533
12 August 2017	Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija	700	627
12 August 2017	Antipolo City	700	602
19 August 2017	Guimba, Nueva Ecija	700	600
26 August 2017	United Laboratories	700	587
26 August 2017	Laoag City, Ilocos Norte	2,000	1,729
02 September 2017	General Tinio, Nueva Ecija	900	735
02 September 2017	Baliwag, Bulacan	1,000	882
09 September 2017	Jaen, Nueva Ecija	750	667
09 September 2017	Malolos, Bulacan	750	635

Date	Venue of MPS	Number of Expected Applicants	Number of Actual Passport Issuance
16 September 2017	Sta. Cruz, Laguna	650	576
16 September 2017	Rodriguez, Rizal	650	525
23 September 2017	Valenzuela City	700	616
23 September 2017	Antipolo City	650	571
07 October 2017	Taguig City	700	635
07 October 2017	Marilao, Bulacan	700	600
13-14 October 2017	Tagbilaran City	1,400	1,315
14 October 2017	Tanza, Cavite	700	623
21 October 2017	Masinloc, Zambales	950	807
21 October 2017	Imus, Cavite	850	750
28 October 2017	Binangonan, Rizal	680	570
28 October 2017	Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro	500	402
04 November 2017	Tanay, Rizal	850	757
04 November 2017	Dasmariñas, Cavite	650	538
11 November 2017	Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro	700	630
11 November 2017	General Trias, Cavite	600	520
18 November 2017	Amadeo, Cavite	550	425
18 November 2017	Lagawe, Ifugao	800	725
25 November 2017	Balanga, Bataan	800	756
25 November 2017	Guiguinto, Bulacan	800	725
09 December 2017	Palayan, Nueva Ecija	750	667
09 December 2017	Dingalan, Aurora	500	328
	88 sites	61580	53884



DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS