



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

PRESS RELEASE

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Chicago PCG Hosts Back-to-Back Celebration of Lupang Hinirang Series by Mr. Paul Balan and National Women's Month

The Consulate General of the Philippines in Chicago held an opening reception for the Art Exhibit by Mr. Paul Balan titled "*Lupang Hinirang Series*" in Chicago PCG's Kalayaan Hall on 16 March 2017 as part of Post's 23rd *Pagkikita sa Konsulado*.

Lupang Hinirang Series is the first ever visual representation of the lyrics of the Philippine National Anthem. The artist, Mr. Balan, hails from the town of Paete, a town known for its sculptors, painters, musicians and poets.

In his opening remarks, Consul General Generoso D.G. Calonge paid tribute to Mr. Balan's world class talent as a painter and sculptor which is a source of immense pride not just to the Consulate General but also to the Filipino-American community in the Midwest.

The Consulate General, in partnership with Mr. Balan, will host the exhibit from 16 to 23 March 2017 in celebration of the National Arts Month.

The 23rd *Pagkikita* also included a celebration of the National Women's Month, the highlight of which was a brief remark by Post's GAD Focal Point, Consul Ericka Anna Abad, on the importance of the celebration and significant developments on gender equality under the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte.

To cap the event, Consul Melchor Lalunio announced the upcoming events of Chicago PCG while Deputy Consul General Romulo Victor M. Israel, Jr. delivered the closing remarks. A fellowship reception ended the fruitful and productive evening. **END**

Chicago, 20 March 2017





The ribbon cutting held at the Kalayaan Hall of the Consulate General on 16 March 2017. From left: Ms. Marra Balan and kids, Mr. Paul C. Balan and Consul General Generoso DG Calonge. (Photo courtesy of Mr. Arneil Torres)



Mr. Paul C. Balan, a Filipino-American painter and sculptor from Paete, is a recipient of numerous national and international awards. (Photo courtesy of Mr. Arneil Torres)



Photo op with the artist Mr. Paul C. Balan, his family and guests with (seated from left) Consul Ericka Anna T. Abad, Deputy Consul General Romulo Victor M. Israel, Jr., Consul General Generoso DG Calonge, Consul Melchor P. Lalunio, Jr. and staff members of the Consulate General. (Photo courtesy of Mr. Arneil Torres)