



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

Press Release 52-15

Ambassador Cuisia Graces Monthly FilCom Meeting

The Consulate General of the Philippines in Chicago hosted a community meeting with Philippine Ambassador to the United States H.E. Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. and Madame Maria Victoria Cuisia as honored guests, coinciding with the Ambassador's visit to Chicago, on 30 October 2015, 5:30 PM, at the Kalayaan Hall of the Consulate General.

The meeting, which served as the 12th "*Pagkikita sa Konsulado*" slated for the month of October, drew a strong attendance from the community. Artists who are taking part in a special project and exhibition at the Field Museum and other VIP guests from the Philippines also took the opportunity to hear the Ambassador's message.

Ambassador Cuisia briefed the Filipino community about the recent speaking tour in the U.S. of Senior Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Antonio T. Carpio and the latter's highly scholarly and comprehensive presentation on the Philippines' case against China on maritime entitlements filed with the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague. The packed hall burst into applause upon hearing from the Ambassador about the favorable ruling of the PCA issued just last Thursday acquiring jurisdiction over some of the complaints or submissions of the Philippines.

The Ambassador also kept the audience abreast with positive developments in the Philippine economy brought in through an investment roadshow conducted lately by a team led by Dr. Bernie Villegas. In gist, the outlook remains bright for the country considering the steady flow of remittances from OFWs, the fast-growing information technology and business process management (IT-BPM) sector and planned infrastructure investments of the government reaching up to 5% of the GDP.

Ambassador Cuisia, finally, highlighted the importance of existing laws on re-acquisition and retention of Philippine citizenship and Overseas Voting that enable Filipino Americans to help their Motherland by way of electing a good leader needed to sustain the hard-earned gains and growth of the Philippines in the coming years.

A lively open forum ensued where the Ambassador and Consul General Generoso D.G. Calonge fielded questions from the community leaders and members of the local media. In the tradition of Filipino community gatherings, photo ops and a light reception capped the evening's event. **END**





Consul General Generoso D.G. Calonge delivers the opening remarks at the 12th "Pagkikita sa Konsulado" of the Filipino-American community with Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr., together with Madame Maria Victoria Cuisia, as special guests.



Ms. Divine Aleonar, Global Pinoy Singing Idol 2012 USA Champion, renders a couple of OPM songs to welcome Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. and warm up the audience.



Ambassador Jose L. Cuisia, Jr. updates the Filipino American community in Chicago on important political and socio-economic developments in the Philippines and urges them to take a more active role in sustaining the country's growth.



Artists from the Philippines for the "Art and Anthropology: Portrait of the Object as Filipino" Project at the Field Museum (fourth from left: Emmanuel Garibay, Leonardo Aguinaldo, Othoniel Neri, Jason Moss and Florentino Impas, Jr.) with Dr. Almira Gilles (third from left), Project Director and Field Museum Research Associate with Ambassador Jose Cuisia, Jr. (center) and Consul General Generoso DG Calonge.