



## CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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### CHICAGO PCG CONDUCTS OUTREACH SERVICE IN DES MOINES, IOWA

The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago conducted its ninth consular outreach service for the year in Des Moines, Iowa to serve Filipinos in the Hawkeye State's capital and its surrounding areas.

From as far as neighboring Nebraska, a group of Filipinos came to avail themselves of the services offered by the consular team composed of Deputy Consul General Romulo Victor Israel Jr., Elizabeth G. Villa, Arneil D. Torres, Anna Liza F. Alcantara, Christina D. Aquino, and Jerwin I. Mamalateo.

To former Filipinos who came to re-acquire and retain their Philippine citizenship under R.A. 9225, DCG Israel remarked that they would not only regain the rights and privileges, but also assume the duties, of citizens of the Philippines, and so he encouraged them to register later on as overseas voters. He also mentioned the importance for Filipino Americans of participating in the electoral processes in the United States, noting that early voting has begun in Iowa on September 29.

Ms. Sanjita Pradhan, Executive Officer of the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs of the Iowa Department of Human Rights, gave a talk on how her state agency supports and trains up-and-coming members of the different Asian American communities to apply to and actively engage in various local boards and commissions as a way of empowering their communities. She emphasized the need for Asian Americans to increase their civic engagement so that political leaders and policymakers would pay attention and direct resources to address their specific needs and concerns.

Mr. Roel Campos of the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA) Iowa coordinated with the Consulate General for the consular outreach to be held at the World Financial Group premises in Des Moines.

At the end of the day, the consular team rendered a total of 166 services, including 99 e-passport applications, 32 dual citizenship applications and 35 civil registration and notarial services. **END**





***Out of many, one...*** Applicants for the reacquisition and retention of Philippine citizenship eagerly rise as they are each called according to their place of birth by DCG Romulo Victor Israel Jr. before taking the oath of allegiance to the Philippines during the consular outreach in Des Moines, IA on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>.



***Consular Team and Volunteers in Action...*** Stephen Molito of the World Financial Group (left), volunteered to facilitate foot traffic in the processing area, while Christina Aquino (right) of the Consular Team made sure that the documents of dual citizenship applicants were complete and in order.



***In with the new...*** The Chicago PCG Consular Team brought with them for the first time the new system for the encoding of e-passport applications. Anna Liza Alcantara, seated in front of DCG Israel, and Jerwin Mamalateo are seen in this photo using the new laptop computers, scanners and peripherals provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs (all photos courtesy of Arneil Torres, Consular Team member).