



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

PRESS RELEASE No. 69-2019

ELITE CHESS GRANDMASTER WESLEY SO CALLS ON PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN CHICAGO

Chicago, 23 July 2019 –Deputy Consul General Romulo Victor M. Israel, Jr. received chess grandmaster Wesley Barbasa So for a courtesy call at the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago.

Mr. Wesley So is a chess prodigy who in 2008 earned the Grandmaster title at the age of 14 years, 1 month and 28 days, the youngest GM in the world at that time. He also holds the distinction of being the Philippines' youngest ever International Master, youngest ever Grandmaster and the youngest ever National Champion.



Seated: (L-R) Deputy Consul General Romulo Victor M. Israel, Jr., GM Wesley Barbasa So, Lotis Key-Cabigting, Standing (L-R) Mr. Ragan Maning, Mr. Fritz John De Jesus, Mr. Alvar Rosales, Mr. Ceasar Balarbar, Mr. Cornelio Santiago, Ms. Wenilyn Capote, Ms. Radegunda Dela Cruz and Mr. Jose Erandio. (Photo credit: Mr. Noly Dulay)

A native of Bacoor, Cavite, Mr. So was only six when he started playing chess in his neighborhood. Since moving to the U.S. to play for the U.S. Chess Federation, So has reached a peak of being second-highest ranked player in the world in 2017. He is currently the 6th highest-ranked rapid chess player in the world, according to the World Chess Federation.

He now lives in Minnesota with his adoptive parents Mr. Renato “Bambi” Kabigting and former actress Ms. Lotis Key. As his manager, Ms. Key proudly explained that, as a way of giving back to his homeland, Mr. So has made arrangements for ChessKid.com, a learning platform designed for kids, available to Filipino children at the lowest possible cost of \$5 per year for gold membership. **END**

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