



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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CONSULATE HOLDS POST-ARRIVAL ORIENTATION FOR FILIPINO TEACHERS OF CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Chicago, 23 August 2019 – The Philippine Consulate General organized a special briefing at the Kalayaan Hall on Monday to welcome and provide an orientation seminar to 27 Filipino teachers who recently arrived in Chicago.

Coming from different parts of the Philippines, the teachers will be undergoing an Exchange Visitor Program with the Chicago Public Schools for three to five years.

Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin gave her welcome remarks to the teachers emphasizing the importance reliable and first-hand information as tool for navigating their new environment and making the most of the privilege of participating in the EVP with CPS.

Labor Attache Angela Librado-Trinidad, who is based at the Philippine Embassy in Washington D.C., discussed the various functions of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (POLO) centered on the protection of the rights of Filipino workers overseas.

A host of other speakers delivered presentations on a number of related topics, including the services of the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago, programs of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and Social Security Administration (SSA).

Further on the protection of the welfare and rights of workers, officials from the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Office of Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul addressed the Filipino teachers and provided informational materials. Federal officials included NLRB Region 13 Director Peter Sung Ohr, Mr. Shawn Hayes, Senior Investigator from EEOC, and Mr. Andres Saldaña, Regional Safety and Health Manager from OSHA, while the State AG was represented by Ms. Nettie Lasko.

Personal security and safety, collaboration with the Filipino American community on cultural exchange and promotion as well as effective interpersonal and working relations within the CPS system were the subjects tackled by Ms. Josephine Mascarenas-Diaz, Illinois Professional Emergency Manager, Ruben Salazar of the Philippine American Cultural Foundation (PACF) and Ms. Vivien Cajigas, an Early Childhood Educator at CPS.

According to CPS, this is the first time they admitted teachers from the Philippines who are all highly trained and experienced in Special Education.

Consul General Jamoralin, Labor Attache Trinidad and DCG RV Israel Jr. met separately with CPS officials Ms. Christine Murphy-Judson, Director of CPS Talent Acquisition Office, and Mr. Luis Miguel Zarco, to discuss potential cooperation. **END**





Above: Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin delivering her welcome remarks to the Filipino teachers who will be participating in an Exchange Visitor Program with the Chicago Public Schools. **Below left:** Labor Attache Angela Librado-Trinidad makes a presentation on the functions of the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Washington D.C. which covers Chicago and the Midwest; **Below right:** Filipino teachers attending the Post-Arrival Orientation Seminar at the Kalayaan Hall of the Consulate General.





Above: NLRB Regional Director Peter Sung Ohr sharing his insights on the core of federal protective laws for workers to freely and collectively express their concerns. **Below:** Speakers at the first Post-Arrival Orientation Seminar at the Consulate General after the event. Front row, left-right: Ms. Nettie Lasko from the Illinois Attorney General's Office; Labor Attache Angela Librado-Trinidad; Ms. Vivien Cajigas, Early Childhood Educator from CPS; Consul General Jamoralin; Ms. Josephine Mascarenas-Diaz, IPEM; and Ms. Maria del Carmen Rodriguez, USCIS Community Relations Officer. Second row, left-right: Mr. Andres Saldaña, OSHA Regional Safety and Health Manager; Mr. Shuwn Hayes, EEOC Senior Investigator; Ms. Brenda Rivera, SSA Customer Service Representative; Ms. Christine Murphy-Judson, Director of CPS Talent Acquisition; Mr. Ruben Salazar of PACF; and DCG RV Israel Jr.





Consul General Jamoralin and CPS Director Murphy-Judson pose with some of the Filipino teachers before the start of their orientation seminar at the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago