



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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PHL Consulate General in Chicago Holds 8th Consular Outreach for 2019 in Maplewood, Minnesota

Upon the request and in partnership with the *Fil-Minnesotan Association (FMA)*, Chicago PCG conducted a consular outreach on 24 August 2019 at Maplewood, Minnesota. The outreach, which was held at FMA's Philippine Center, 1380 Frost Avenue, attended to 313 applicants for e-passport, civil registration, and notarization and authentication of documents. The consular mission team also processed 93 applications for dual citizenship and provided information and advice on various issues related to correcting entries in civil records, adoption, retirement to the Philippines, and settlement of estate.

Led by FMA's President Vicente "Jun" Nacionales, Jr. and Mr. Emmanuel Torres, the Association's leaders and members served as volunteers, providing much-needed logistics and keeping the lines and flow of applicants pleasantly in order. A number of applicants came as far as North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

The consular mission team headed by *Melchor Lalunio, Jr.* was composed of *Joseph Alcantara, Sheridan Sabeniano, Cornelio Santiago, Radeconda Velasco Dela Cruz, and Wenilyn Capote.*

The Consulate and FMA arranged a formal program on the sidelines of the outreach, which featured short presentations on issues that directly affect the lives and livelihood of all Filipinos in Minnesota. Ms. Charlotte Czarnecki, a staff of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (Minneapolis, Minnesota) touched on the subject of discrimination at the workplace while Ms. Chinyere Ohaeri, Field Attorney of Region 18's National Labor Relations Board gave an overview on workers' rights.

An IACAT video about human trafficking was shown during the program while Consul Lalunio gave a short overview about the initiatives that are currently being implemented by the government (in partnership with civil society organizations) to combat this scourge.

The Consulate's *Youth Leaders in Diaspora (YouLEAD) Immersion Program II*, scheduled on 3-9 January 2020 in the Philippines, was also launched during the Outreach. YouLEAD is designed to help young Fil-Ams trace their roots, discover their heritage, and realize their potential as up-and-coming leaders in the community through a better understanding and appreciation of their ethnicity. *US Midwest YouLEAD II* is a follow up to the First US Midwest *YouLEAD* that was successfully completed on January 3-9, 2019 in the Philippines. 12 Fil-Am youths participated in the previous event.

END

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The Philippine Consulate General's Consular Outreach Mission Team with the leaders and members of the Fil-Minnesotan Association (FMA). A non-profit organization that was formed in 1952, the 66-year old FMA continues to promote and share Philippine heritage and culture. Through its many academic, medical, and charity-related projects, the organization continues to proactively serve over 14,000 Filipino Minnesotans.



Consul Melchor P. Lalunio, Jr. (5th from left, in white *polo barong*) with the new dual citizens. The Consular Mission processed 93 dual citizenship applications during the Outreach—by far, the biggest number of applications that were processed in a single day.



Ms. Charlotte Czarnecki, Staff Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC-Minneapolis, Minnesota) talks about the various forms of discrimination at the workplace that the law prohibits.



Ms. Chinyere Ohaeri, a Field Attorney of the National Labor Relations, Region 18 (NLR-18) reminds the public about workers' rights and how NLRB could assist in situations where workers rights are being violated.