



PITHAYA



The Official Newsletter of the Embassy of the Philippines in Timor-Leste

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2015 (VOLUME I NO. 1)

PHILIPPINE ENVOY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO TIMOR-LESTE PRESIDENT

Philippine Ambassador to Timor-Leste Evelyn D. Austria-Garcia presented her credentials to H.E. President Taur Matan Ruak on 30 September 2015.

In her brief remarks during the formal ceremony, Ambassador Austria-Garcia extended the warm greetings of Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III to President Ruak and the Timorese people. She also conveyed President Aquino's best wishes for the continued good health of his Timorese counterpart and the prosperity of the Timorese nation.

In a subsequent private meeting with President Ruak, Ambassador Austria-Garcia said that she is committed to work closely with the Timor-Leste Government to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the Philippines and Timor-Leste.

Citing the two countries' many commonalities, such as their shared Catholic heritage and core values, the Ambassador expressed optimism that the already strong bilateral ties between the Philippines and Timor-Leste will continue to grow and flourish.

For his part, President Ruak thanked the Philippine Government and the Filipino people for their generous support and assistance to the nation-building efforts of Timor-Leste, particularly in the area of human resource development and capacity-building. He stressed that "the Philippines has done a lot for Timor-Leste since 1999." He assured Ambassador Austria-Garcia of the Timor-Leste Government's assistance in fulfilling her mandate.

During the meeting, both officials agreed that the two countries should continue their ongoing educational cooperation, including in areas such as tourism and cultural development, which President Ruak identified as needing human resource development and institutional building.

The ceremony for the presentation of credentials ended with Ambassador Austria-Garcia inspecting the Honor Guards.

The Ambassador was accompanied at the ceremony by her husband, Mr. Rico M. Garcia, Third Secretary and Vice Consul Maurice A. Tiempo, Defense and Armed Forces Attaché (DAFA) Col. Emilio T. Hulipas, Attaché and Administrative Officer Reynold D. Banda, and Administrative Assistant to the DAFA MSg Glen A. Paloyo.



Those in attendance at the Timorese side were Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Roberto Sarmiento de Oliveira Soares, Civilian Chief of Staff to the President Dr. Rui Gomes, and Military Chief of Staff to the President Col. José “Trix” da Costa.

Prior to her appointment as the Philippines’ envoy to Timor-Leste, Ambassador Austria-Garcia served as Chief of Protocol at the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Photo Credits: Office of the President and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste



Message from the Ambassador

I am pleased to present to you the maiden issue of *Pithaya*, the official newsletter of the Philippine Embassy in Timor-Leste.



As the title denotes, which is the old Tagalog word for aspiration, the Embassy hopes to use the newsletter as a platform to better explain its mandate of promoting the strategic thrusts of Philippine foreign policy and diplomacy.

Readers will also be acquainted with the ongoing efforts of the Embassy to lay the foundations for the long-term and sustainable bilateral partnership between the Philippines and Timor-Leste.

The newsletter will be a quarterly publication. Subsequent issues will feature articles to help Filipinos in Timor-Leste better understand some relevant laws and regulations of the Philippines and Timor-Leste, as well as rediscover their Filipino cultural roots and identity.

Happy reading!

EVELYN D. AUSTRIA-GARCIA

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THE EDITORIAL STAFF ENCOURAGES FILIPINOS IN TIMOR-LESTE TO USE THIS NEWSLETTER AS A MEDIUM OF COMMUNICATION WITH FELLOW FILIPINOS IN THE COUNTRY.

Timor-Leste at a Glance



Official Name	Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (<i>República Democrática Timor-Leste</i>)
Capital	Dili
Declaration of Independence	28 November 1975
Restoration of Independence	20 May 2002
Land Area	15,007 sq. km
Population	1,066,582 (2010 census)
Predominant Ethnic Group	Majority is of Austronesian (Malayo-Polynesian) and Papuan origin; minorities of Chinese, Arabs and Europeans
Languages	<i>Official Languages</i> - Portuguese and Tetum; <i>Working Languages</i> – English and Bahasa Indonesia, with 15 local dialects
Major Religion	About 90% are Roman Catholics, the rest are Protestants and Muslims
History	<p>Timor-Leste is one of the newest nations in the world.</p> <p>For more than four centuries, Timor-Leste was a Portuguese colony. The colonial power invested little in the territory.</p> <p>Portugal’s 1974 Carnation Revolution was the catalyst for East Timor’s hasty decolonization which culminated in a brief civil war between rival factions, from which a pro-independence party, the <i>Frente Revolucionaria de Timor-Leste Independente</i> (FRETILIN), emerged victorious.</p> <p>The victory, however, was short-lived. In December 1975, Indonesia invaded East Timor and used force to crush popular resistance. The country would eventually become the 27th province of Indonesia.</p> <p>In 1999, the United Nations (UN) administered a referendum putting Timorese independence from Indonesia to a vote. The overwhelming majority of Timorese voted for independence. Mass violence and destruction at the hands of withdrawing Indonesian forces and their proxy militias followed the announcement of results.</p> <p>The international community mobilized a peacekeeping operation to contain the situation. After over two years of UN administration, Timor-Leste obtained its independence on 20 May 2002.</p>

<i>GOVERNMENT</i>	
Type of Government	Parliamentary Republic
Head of State	President Taur Matan Ruak (since 20 May 2012)
Head of Government	Dr. Rui Maria de Araújo (sworn in on 16 February 2015 after Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão resigned as Prime Minister)
Foreign Minister	Dr. Hernani F. Coêlho da Silva (since 16 February 2015)
Legislative Branch	National Parliament (<i>unicameral body</i>)
Judicial Branch	Court of Appeal
Administrative Division	13 districts; 67 sub-districts
<i>ECONOMY</i>	
Currency	1 US dollar = 100 cents
GDP (purchasing power parity)	US\$ 6.066 billion
GDP (official exchange rate)	US\$ 4.478 billion
GDP – real growth rate	6.6%
GDP – per capita	US\$ 4,900
Estimated total value of exports	US\$ 53.28 million (2013 estimate)
Estimated total value of imports	US\$ 528.82 million (2013 estimate)
Main export commodities	Coffee, teak wood, candlenut, sandalwood, aluminum (2013)
Top import commodities	1.) Mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of distillation; 2.) Vehicles, other than railway or tramway rolling stock, and parts and accessories; 3.) Electrical machinery and equipment and parts thereof; 4.) Nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery and mechanical appliances; 5.) Textiles, worn clothing and worn textile articles; 6.) Cereals; 7.) Beverage, spirits and vinegar; 8.) Iron or steel articles; 9.) Salt, earth, stone, plastering material, lime and cement; 10.) Furniture, bedding, mattresses, mattresses support, cushions and similar stuffed furnishing, lamps and lightings (2013)

History of the Embassy

As an expression of the Philippine Government’s recognition of Asia’s newest democracy, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo designated Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning Dante B. Canlas as her special envoy to the Independence Day celebration of Timor-Leste on 20 May 2002. During this visit, Secretary Canlas and Dr. José Ramos-Horta, Senior Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste, signed a Joint Communiqué establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Timor-Leste’s Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri visited the Philippines to sign a country agreement with the Asian Development Bank on 15-18 August 2002. On 16 August 2002, a bilateral meeting was arranged between him and then Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas F. Ople. During the meeting, Prime Minister Alkatiri conveyed that the Timor-Leste Government was amenable to the request of the Philippine Government to concurrently accredit the Philippine Embassy in Jakarta to Dili.

On 08 May 2003, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste granted agrément to the nomination of Ambassador Rafael E. Seguis as the Philippine Government’s non-resident Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Timor-Leste with residence in Jakarta. Consequently, Ambassador Seguis presented his credentials to President Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão at the Palace of the Ashes on 04 August 2003.

Preparation for the opening of the resident Embassy was undertaken by First Secretary Edsel P. Barba upon his arrival in Dili in May 2004. On 17 May 2004, Ambassador Farita Aguilucho-Ong presented her credentials to President Gusmão as the first resident Philippine Ambassador to Timor-Leste. She was followed by Ambassador Leoncio R. Cardenas who assumed the post on 11 February 2008.

Ms. María Aileen H. Bugarín served as Ambassador from July 2009 to July 2015.

The Embassy is currently headed by Ambassador Evelyn D. Austria-Garcia.



POLITICAL DIPLOMACY

PHL FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY DEL ROSARIO AND TIMOR-LESTE FOREIGN MINISTER COELHO DISCUSS DEEPENING OF PHILIPPINES-TIMOR-LESTE RELATIONS*



Secretary Albert F. del Rosario met with his counterpart, His Excellency Hernani Coelho Da Silva, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste on December 17. The visit reaffirmed the strong partnership between the Philippines and Timor-Leste, which was established in May 2002.

The two Ministers discussed enhancing cooperation in the areas of defense, economic relations, education, health, and technical/capacity building, among others. They also discussed the strong people-to-people linkages between the two countries. They likewise agreed to enhance economic cooperation, and continue their efforts to deepen Philippines-Timor-Leste relations through the Philippines-Timor-Leste Policy Consultations mechanism, the first meeting of which was held in Manila in 2014. Secretary Del Rosario affirmed that “the Policy Consultations will continue to serve as a vehicle to facilitate matters of mutual interest in the years to come.”

Secretary Del Rosario encouraged as well his counterpart to continue sending Timor-Leste diplomats to the Philippines to participate in training courses offered by the Foreign Service Institute (FSI). The Secretary hoped that the training program will significantly contribute to “the professional development of the participants and forge greater people-to-people linkages between the government of the Philippines and Timor Leste.”

Secretary Del Rosario reaffirmed Philippine support for Timor Leste’s application to ASEAN as the 11th member state. He reiterated that “Timor Leste belongs to Southeast Asia and should be granted its rightful place within the ASEAN community.”

This is the first official visit of Minister Coelho to the Philippines.



PHL AMBASSADOR CALLS ON TIMOR-LESTE FOREIGN MINISTER



Philippine Ambassador to Timor-Leste Evelyn D. Austria-Garcia called on Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MFAC) of Timor-Leste Hernani F. Coelho da Silva on 12 November 2015.

During the meeting, both officials had a fruitful discussion and exchange of views on how to further strengthen the bilateral relations between the Philippines and Timor-Leste. Ambassador Austria-Garcia took the opportunity to brief Minister Coelho on pending bilateral initiatives in the areas of defense, health and teacher training that both sides could pursue together.

The Ambassador reaffirmed the Philippine Government's full support for Timor-Leste's accession to ASEAN. She also thanked the Timor-Leste Government for its generous support for Philippine candidatures in international organizations and bodies.

The Ambassador likewise apprised the Foreign Minister on the developments in the West Philippine Sea (WPS), particularly on the commencement of the arbitration case filed by the Philippines against China in The Hague. She underscored the

Philippines' position that the decision of the arbitration tribunal will resolve conflicting claims on the WPS.

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

Mr. Hernani Coelho, the current Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste (RTDL) was sworn into Office on February 16, 2015. Prior to this ministerial post he served as Timor-Leste's Ambassador to Australia, Republic of Korea and New Zealand. He was also the Deputy Chief of Staff for the President of the Republic from 2010 to 2012 and Chairman of the Institute of Diplomatic Studies of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Timor-Leste from 2012 to 2013, before taking up his post as Ambassador to the Republic of Korea.

Minister Coelho joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2005 as the Interim Director of Bilateral Affairs.

Mr. Coelho enjoys martial arts, travel, Ancient culture, Hiking, Tracking, Research activities and Politics which is demonstrated by his active role as a member of the Central Committee of the FRETELIN party.

He is married and has one daughter.

ENHANCING DEFENSE RELATIONS

Established in 2010, the Office of the Philippine Defense and Armed Forces Attaché (ODAF) of the Philippines is mandated to strengthen defense and military cooperation between the Philippines and Timor-Leste.

In accordance with the one country team approach, the ODAFA reports to and coordinates with the Embassy on developments in Timor-Leste that may be relevant to Philippine defense and security interests.

DAFA HOLDS BRIEFING FOR MILITARY HOUSE

Philippine Defense and Armed Forces Attaché (DAFA) Col. Emilio T. Hulipas held a briefing for the officers and staff of the Military House of the Office of the President (OP) of Timor-Leste on 6 November 2015.

Upon the request of OP, Col. Hulipas updated the Timorese participants on the status of the defense and military cooperation between the Philippines and Timor-Leste. He also explained the roadmap drafted by the Philippine Government to pave the way for the transformation of the Philippine army into a “world-class army.” The concepts discussed were meant to help the OP formulate a strategic military work plan.

Upon instructions of the Philippine Ambassador, Col. Hulipas took the opportunity to apprise the Timorese military officials on developments with regard to the Philippine position on the West Philippine Sea issue.

Col. Jose “Trix” da Costa Soares, Chief of OP’s Military House, led the Timorese participants in the said briefing.



ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

2nd REGIONAL SEARCA FELLOWS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE OPENS IN DILI



The Philippine Embassy in Dili led by Ambassador Evelyn D. Austria-Garcia attended the opening ceremonies of the 2nd Regional SEARCA Fellows Association Conference on Food Security, Poverty Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation. The event was held at Hotel Timor in Dili from 8 to 9 October 2015.

The conference was organized by Timorese nationals who completed their graduate studies in agriculture, forestry, and related fields under the sponsorship of the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA). Some of the Timorese scholars studied in the University of the Philippines Los Baños, and are now holding key positions in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Timor-Leste and other local institutions.



State Minister, Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, and Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries Estanislau Alexio da Silva was the keynote speaker of the conference. He called for a more integrated approach in addressing agriculture and food security issues in the country.

DILI INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY RECTOR CALLS ON PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR

Dr. Manuel Vong, Rector of the Dili Institute of Technology (DIT), called on Philippine Ambassador to Timor-Leste Evelyn D. Austria-Garcia last November 3.

During the meeting, Dr. Vong conveyed DIT's strong interest to link up with other Philippine universities and institutes of higher learning. He also disclosed his plans to send DIT faculty members to pursue graduate studies in the Philippines.

For her part, Ambassador Austria-Garcia thanked DIT for seriously considering the Philippines as a destination for further education and training of its teaching staff. She assured Dr. Vong of the Embassy's willingness to help the school attain its capacity-building objectives.

Established in 2002, DIT is a private, non-profit and accredited institute of higher education in Timor-Leste.



CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR MEETS TIMORESE ALUMNI OF PHILIPPINE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES



As part of its continuing efforts to strengthen the people-to-people linkages between the Philippines and Timor-Leste, the Philippine Embassy in Dili hosted an informal get-together last October 16 for the Timorese alumni who studied in Philippine universities and other institutes of higher learning.

Newly-arrived Philippine Ambassador to Timor-Leste Evelyn D. Austria-Garcia was delighted to formally introduce herself to the alumni.

“I am pleased to note that the Timorese alumni has described their stay in the Philippines as very enriching

and productive,” she said.

Ambassador Austria-Garcia also encouraged the alumni “to channel back to Timor-Leste the positive outcome of their experiences in the Philippines to enhance and invigorate the political, economic and socio-cultural platforms of their country.”

Education is a major pillar of the bilateral partnership between the Philippines and Timor-Leste. The two countries signed in 2008 a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on Academic Cooperation which has enabled the Philippines to help Timor-Leste in its human resource development efforts. Since 2009, the Timor-Leste Government has begun deploying scholars to pursue tertiary studies in the Philippines.



PHILIPPINE EMBASSY COMMEMORATES BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT ELPIDIO QUIRINO

The Philippine Embassy in Dili formally unveiled a mini-exhibit depicting the illustrious life and career of the late Philippine President Elpidio R. Quirino to commemorate his 125th birth anniversary.



The event was held at the grounds of Maharlika International School (MIS) on 16 November 2015. Established in 2008, MIS has been granted provisional accreditation by the Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) to operate as a Philippine School Overseas (PSO) in Timor-Leste. It currently offers primary education until Grade 9 to both Filipino and Timorese children.

In attendance were 180 students and faculty members of the MIS. Also present were National Parliament Vice President Aderito Hugo da Costa and other senior ranking Timorese officials who have children studying in MIS.

A video presentation of the life and legacy of President Quirino was featured immediately after the ceremonial opening of the mini-exhibit. Selected MIS students also performed Igorot and Tagala dances.

In her remarks, Ambassador Evelyn D. Austria-Garcia highlighted the sacrifices that the late President Quirino made for the good of the Philippines and for the promotion of global peace.

Ambassador Austria-Garcia particularly recalled the tragic demise of Quirino’s wife and two children during the Japanese occupation. Despite the atrocity experienced by his family under the hands of the Japanese soldiers, President Quirino granted amnesty to the Japanese prisoners of war so that peace may prosper after the war and in the world.

“Let us be inspired by the sense of nationalism and foresight of President Quirino and other great Filipinos heroes and leaders,” the Ambassador told the students.

The program ended with the traditional Filipino *salo-salo* of puto, kutsinta and other native delicacies.

President Quirino served as the sixth President of the Republic of the Philippines. He finished the remaining term of Manuel Roxas when the latter died in office in 1948. Quirino was then elected and served as President from 30 December 1949 to 30 December 1953.



Sports Diplomacy

FILIPINO BOXER PARTICIPATES IN XANANA GOLDEN BELT 2015



The Philippine Embassy in Dili reported that a Filipino boxer participated in the 2015 Xanana Gusmão Golden Belt held at the GMT Stadium in Dili, Timor-Leste last October 10.

Mr. Roldan Aldea, a 21-year old native of Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental, competed in the super featherweight division.

Named after one of Timor-Leste’s founding fathers, the Xanana Gusmão Golden Belt is an annual boxing competition organized by the Secretariat of State for Youth and Sports of Timor-Leste. The activity is part of the ongoing efforts of the Timor-Leste Government to develop its youth through sports.

Reflecting on the event, Philippine Ambassador to Timor-Leste Evelyn D. Austria-Garcia said, “Apart from their common Catholic heritage, the Filipino and Timorese people both share the love and passion for boxing. I am happy to note that a Filipino boxer participated in a boxing event that was well received by Timorese boxing fans and enthusiasts.”

The Embassy’s Attaché and Administrative Officer, Mr. Reynold D. Banda, was at the event to witness Mr. Aldea’s boxing match.

FILIPINOS TRIUMPH IN MOUNTAIN BIKE CHALLENGE



Filipino cyclists emerged triumphant in the 1st Timor-Leste International Mountain Bike Challenge (TLIMBC) held in Dili, Timor-Leste on 14 and 15 November 2015.

The TLIMBC is also the fourth and final leg of the 2015 ASEAN Mountain Bike Cup.

Jun Duron, who hails from Talisay, Cebu, was declared second placer for the entire series. He earlier bagged a silver medal for the Master A category of the men’s cross country olympic (XCO) race.

Meanwhile, 19-year old Ariana Thea Patrice Dormitorio settled for the silver medal in the Elite category of the women’s XCO race. She was eventually crowned as the overall champion of the series after adding up all the results of the other legs.

The Philippine Embassy in Dili was represented by Mr. Reynold D. Banda, Attaché and Administrative Officer. A biking enthusiast, he competed in the Category B of the men’s XCO race and won third place.

Philippine Embassy personnel in Dili attended the event to cheer on and give moral support to the Filipino cyclists. The Embassy also hosted a dinner for the Filipinos who helped the Timorese side organize the TLIMBC.

Congratulations to the organizers and to the winners!



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR MEETS WITH THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN TIMOR-LESTE



Hours after presenting her credentials, Philippine Ambassador to Timor-Leste Evelyn D. Austria-Garcia met and interacted with community leaders and other members of the Filipino community in Dili at the Philippine Embassy grounds last September 30.

In her introductory remarks to the community, Ambassador Austria-Garcia underscored the Embassy's commitment to further strengthen the bilateral ties between the Philippines and Timor-Leste, and advance the interests of the Philippine Government and the Filipino people in Timor-Leste.

The Ambassador shared with the Filipinos present the message conveyed to her by Timor-Leste President Taur Matan Ruak during their subsequent private meeting after she presented her credentials. The Timorese head of state said that Timor-Leste is very thankful for the generous support and assistance it has continued to receive from the Philippine Government and the Filipino people since 1999.

Taking note of President Ruak's message, Ambassador Austria-Garcia strongly encouraged the Filipino community to continue helping the Embassy maintain, if not further enhance, the Timorese people's positive image of the Philippines and the Filipino people.

The Ambassador also expressed her hope for an even stronger collaboration between the Embassy and the community during her term.

In line with its unwavering commitment to provide more efficient frontline services, the Embassy took the opportunity to apprise the Filipinos on the new consular regulations that will be implemented starting October 1. These include a "no lunch break" policy and the upgrading of the Embassy's consular facilities.

The Embassy also requested the leaders' support in echoing to other Filipinos the looming deadline for the overseas voting registration on the 31st of October 2015.

The simple but intimate event ended on a positive note, with the usual Filipino *salo-salo*.

PHILIPPINE EMBASSY PARTICIPATES IN FILIPINO SPORTSFEST IN DILI



In solidarity with the Filipino community in Timor-Leste, Embassy officials led by Ambassador Evelyn D. Austria-Garcia attended the closing ceremonies of the Filipino Sports Fest organized by the Association of Filipinos in East Timor (AFET) last October 4 at the Gymnasium of the Secretariat of State for Youth and Sports.

In her remarks, Ambassador Austria-Garcia congratulated and commended the officers and members of AFET for their hard work and perseverance in holding the four-month weekend event. She stressed that the Embassy will continue to support projects and initiatives that promote greater camaraderie and esprit de corps among the members of the growing Filipino community in Timor-Leste.

Embassy officials assisted in handing out the trophies and medals to the winners for both team and individual tournaments in basketball, volleyball, badminton and table tennis.

Ambassador Austria-Garcia also inducted the newly elected Vice President and Auditor of AFET.

In keeping with its thrust to deliver more client-oriented and efficient consular services to the Filipinos in Timor-Leste, the Embassy took the opportunity to inform the community of the new consular regulations that it has implemented since October 1. These regulations include a “no lunch break” policy and the upgrading of the Embassy’s consular facilities.

The Embassy likewise appealed to the Filipinos present to register for the 2016 National Elections so that they could take part in shaping the country’s future.



CHRISTMAS PARTY HELD FOR FILIPINOS IN TIMOR-LESTE

The inaugural Filipino Christmas party in Dili was successfully held at the Philippine Embassy grounds in the evening of 11 December 2015. More than 300 Filipinos in Timor-Leste, representing the various sectors of the vibrant community, attended the event.

The activity began with a Christmas Mass officiated by Rev. Fr. Joseph Raymond Patrick Sanchez, a Filipino Jesuit priest. Shortly after the Mass, Pastor Gilbert Naron of the Every Nation Ministry was requested to lead the ecumenical prayer.

In her Christmas message for the community, Ambassador Evelyn D. Austria-Garcia wished everyone a happy and festive season. She underscored that the Embassy hosted the party to bring Christmas cheer to Filipinos in Timor-Leste. She also called on the members of the Filipino community to spread the spiritual message of love, peace and hope of the Christmas season by being positive agents of goodwill to the young nation of Timor-Leste.



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In typical *Pinoy* fashion, the celebration was made more memorable with the song and dance numbers of talented members of the community. Mr. Angelo Salazar, a volunteer of the Every Nation Ministry, impressed the crowd with his flawless rendition of Holy Night and *Tuloy na Tuloy pa rin ang Pasko*. The Association of Filipinos in East Timor (AFET), Maharlika International School, St. Jude Thaddeus School and the St. Joseph Aimutin Choir each rendered a medley of popular Christmas songs. Faculty members of the St. Mary Development Center livened up the party with their energetic dance performance.



Filipino guests likewise enjoyed the sumptuous food served by the Embassy for the special occasion.

Adding excitement to the night was the raffle draw. Embassy personnel pooled together their personal funds to raise the cash prizes.

With the Christmas party, the Embassy hoped that Filipinos in Timor-Leste were able to foster links with each other and develop a stronger sense of community.



CONSULAR PAGE



Third Secretary and Vice Consul Maurice A. Tiempo calls on Chief of Becora Prison



CONSULAR HOURS:

Effective 01 October 2015, The Consular Section of the Embassy of the Philippines will be open to the public from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm (no lunch break), Monday to Friday, except on Philippine and Timorese non-working holiday.

For any inquiry on consular services, you may reach the Embassy through the following contact details:

- +670-3310407 (trunkline)
- +670-77928092 (24/7 Hotline for Filipinos)
- dili.pe@dfa.gov.ph (official email address)

Clients and visitors are strongly encouraged to be in proper office attire.

CONSULAR'S SCHEDULE OF FEES

ePASSPORT PROCESSING:

Regular Processing	:	US\$60.00
Replace of Fee for Lost Passport	:	US\$90.00 (if lost passport is either manual or machine readable)
	:	US\$ 150.00 (if lost passport is electronic)

VISA

Regular Processing Fee (after 2 working days)	
Temporary Visitor's Visa	: US\$40.00
Student/Missionary Visa	: US\$250.00
Non-immigrant Visa	: US\$150.00

NOTARIALS

Regular Processing Fee (after 2 working days)	:	US\$25.00
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LEGALIZATION OF DOCUMENTS

Regular Processing Fee (after 2 working days)	:	US\$25.00
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CIVIL REGISTRATION (BIRTH, MARRIAGE, DEATH)

Regular Processing Fee (after 2 working days)	:	US\$25.00
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SOLEMNIZATION OF MARRIAGE (MARRIAGE LICENSE)

Processing Fee	:	US\$60.00
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AFFIDAVITS

Processing Fee	:	US\$25.00
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PASSPORT CERTIFICATION

Regular Processing Fee (after 2 working days):	US\$25.00
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TRAVEL DOCUMENT

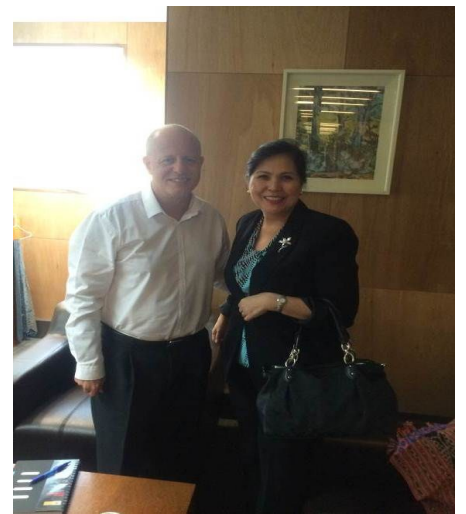
Regular Processing Fee (after 2 working days):	US\$30.00
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EXPDITE FEES (ALL DOCUMENTS EXCEPT FOR EPASSPORT)

Same day release	:	additional
US\$30.00		
Next day release	:	additional
US\$20.00		

DIPLOMATIC LINKAGES

Ambassador Evelyn D. Austria-Garcia called on the resident heads of diplomatic missions in Timor-Leste to discuss and exchange views with them on developments in the country



Good News Philippines

PHILIPPINES IMPROVES COMPETITIVENESS RANKING

October 2015 - The Philippines has significantly improved its global competitiveness standing, five notches higher compared to in 2014, as it landed on the 47th spot in the 2015-2016 Global Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum (WEF). This was an improvement from the country's 52nd place last year. The Philippines has consistently risen in the Global Competitiveness Index, going up 28 notches since 2010 during the start of the Aquino administration.

The Philippines ranked 5th out of the 10 countries in Southeast Asia, following Singapore (#2), Malaysia (#18), Thailand (#32), and Indonesia (#37).

The Philippines is also among the Top 5 "Emerging and Developing" countries in Asia, next to Malaysia, China (#28), Thailand, and Indonesia. The Philippines is ahead of India in said category.

The Global Competitiveness Report's competitiveness ranking is based on the Global Competitiveness Index (GCI), which was introduced by the World Economic Forum in 2004. Defining competitiveness as the set of institutions, policies and factors that determine the level of productivity of a country, GCI scores are calculated by drawing together country-level data covering 12 categories, otherwise known as the "pillars of competitiveness," that together make up a comprehensive picture of a country's competitiveness.

The 12 pillars are: institutions; infrastructure; macroeconomic environment; health and primary education; higher education and training; goods market efficiency; labor market efficiency; financial market development; technological readiness; market size; business sophistication; and innovation.

Source: DFA – Office of the Undersecretary for International Economic Relations

PHILIPPINES ELECTED FOR FOURTH TERM IN UN HUMAN RIGHTS BODY

29 October 2015 – The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) elected the Philippines for a fourth term to serve in the UN Human Rights Council, the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations in New York reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The UNGA held elections on the morning of October 28 to elect 18 members to the Human Rights Council to serve from 2016 to 2018.

"The Philippines' victory in the UN Human Rights Council, for a fourth term, is a clear and strong manifestation of the international community's recognition of the Philippines' steady progress in fulfilling international human rights obligations," Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario said.

Among the 15 Member States elected, only the Philippines and the Republic of Korea were elected for a fourth term, after serving in the Council in previous years.

The Council is an inter-governmental body within the UN responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. It addresses situations of human rights violations and makes recommendations on them.

Consisting of 47 UN Member States elected by the UNGA, the Council is based at the UN Office in Geneva, Switzerland where it discusses thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year.

Belgium, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Panama, Slovenia, Switzerland, Togo, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela were also elected as members of the Council.

The members of the Council shall serve for a period of three years and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election after two consecutive terms.

Source: DFA Official Website

UNITED NATIONS AFFIRMS APPOINTMENT OF FILIPINO AUDITOR AS UN OVERSIGHT CHIEF



13 October 2015—The United Nations General Assembly today unanimously approved the appointment by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon of COA Commissioner Heidi S. Mendoza as Undersecretary General of the UN’s Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS).

Ms. Mendoza is the first Filipino ever to be appointed as Undersecretary General in the UN Secretariat.

Ambassador Lourdes O. Yparraguire, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the UN, welcomed the appointment and thanked the regional groups of the UN for their endorsement and the Member States for their affirmation of the appointment. Under UN rules, the appointment by the Secretary General is submitted to the General Assembly for approval,

Ambassador Yparraguire said, “It is a great honor for the Philippines that a highly-qualified woman from the developing world was chosen to serve in a senior position in the United Nations.” She added that Commissioner Mendoza’s “qualifications and wealth of experience, coupled with her commitment to excellence and integrity, make her a wise choice for the job. Her qualifications are crucial at this juncture in the history of the UN which is celebrating its 70th anniversary, moving forward with an ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and pursuing a platform of reforms in various fields of UN work.”

She also stressed that “good governance, rule of law, and effective, accountable and transparent institutions within the UN itself are necessary for ensuring that the UN continues to be a credible champion in the global fight against corruption and achieves its lofty goals.”

The United States and the Nordic countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden also hailed the appointment. Speaking on behalf of the United States, Ambassador Isobel Coleman, Ambassador for UN Management and Reform, said that they “look forward to working with Ms. Mendoza” and are “committed to ensuring a strong OIOS to carry out robust audits and effective investigations to ferret out waste, fraud and corruption.” In a similar vein, Sweden, speaking for the Nordic countries, said they “are confident that Ms. Mendoza will lead the OIOS effectively and efficiently” and noted that “an operationally independent OIOS is key to ... rebuilding the confidence among the Member States that the office can play its role in protecting the integrity of the United Nations and promoting accountability within the organization.”

Earlier, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert F. del Rosario hailed the announcement of the UN Secretary General’s intention to appoint Ms. Mendoza, saying that “the appointment of Ms. Heidi Mendoza as UN Undersecretary General of an important office that aims to be an agent of change to promote responsible, accountable, and transparent administration of UN resources, is true testament of her skills and integrity as public accountant.

Ms. Mendoza is expected to begin her term on 15 November 2015. As per UN regulations, her appointment is for a fixed term of five years without renewal. As the UN’s Undersecretary General for Internal Oversight, she will be responsible over the resources and staff of the organization through internal audit, monitoring, inspection, evaluation and investigation services.

PHILIPPINE ELECTIONS 2016

Overseas Voting

ANNOUNCEMENT ON OVERSEAS VOTING REGISTRANTS ID

Please see the list of voters who may now claim their voter IDs at the Embassy of the Philippines in Dili.

Requirements in claiming Voter IDs after verifying that name is included in the list:

IDs may be claimed personally or thru an authorized representative.

To claim the ID personally, please prepare a valid identification card. You may bring your Philippine passport or any valid ID such as SSS ID, GSIS ID and driver's license.

To claim thru an authorized representative, the representative must bring the following:

- Authorization letter
- Copy of ID of the voter
- ID of the authorized representative

Schedule for the release of voter IDs:

Monday to Friday, except non-working holidays, 9:00 am-3:00 pm

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Aban, Josamin Ong | Antiquina, Alber Martinez | Batchi, Danny Gesgesuang |
| Abao, Arlet Sampang | Arago, Jekelyn Tan | Baterna, Rolesa Morcillos |
| Abao, Cyde Yanson | Arciana, Rodrigo Sison | Batiancila, Russel Paran |
| Abao, May Yanson | Arellano, Andrew Duga | Bautista, Rogelio Velez Jr |
| Abjilina, Ricardo Ibo | Arguncillo, Renante Villaceran | Bautista, Vida Marie Velez |
| Acedillo, Medarda Regaña | Arino, Avelina Villa Jr. | Benedicio, Teresita Cantela |
| Acido, Jason Samonte | Aso, Dionick Campo | Berba, Ruben Campo |
| Agan, Rene Rupinta | Atim, Francisco Ongcal | Bernaldez, Ana Marie Bandrang |
| Agregado, Don Iry Amurao | Aton, Herculano Diaz | Bigno, Benjamin Pialago |
| Agustin, Efren Flores | Auguis, Rogelio Artizuel | Biluno, Ermin Base |
| Alabar, Jose Marciales | Aunzo, Remedios Dandan | Bondoc, Alan Gozo |
| Alad-ad, Ronalyn Sabate | Auxtero, Ely Colong | Borabien, Gilbert Tizon |
| Alba, Vilhuda Nas | Azaña, Erick Cardenas | Boston, Rodolfo Quiñones |
| Alegria, Eduardo Aguason | Azurin, Sylvia Balisi | Briones, Edgardo Balingit Jr. |
| Alegria, Marlon Aguason | Bacus, Antonio Sombreno | Briones, Joy Valenzuela |
| Alfaro, Regina Tiru | Bagaypo, Elsie Anayron | Bruan, Bobby Cruz |
| Alicio, Tirso Basas | Balancar, Benedict Barrios | Bruan, Rizalito Balolong |
| Amar, Eddie Cadagat | Balancar, Jocelyn Barrios | Buan, Randy Laquindanum |
| Amar, Eufracia Urboda | Baliao, Jay Bading | Bunao, Joebert Galvez |
| Amoguis, Wensan Aguiton | Ballesteros, Armando Jovero | Buot, Epeneto Pisao |
| Añana, Hara Tesa Logroño | Bandrang, Camar Quirante | Cabalo, Randolph Barbosa |
| Anaya, Joventino Ora | Bangayan, Joan Alvarez | Cabayacruz, Cesar Arcillas |
| Andalucia, Gil Toledo Jr | Bangguiyac, Cyril Gumatay | Cadenas, Jonas Sedero |
| Andrew, David Tripoli Jr | Banzon, Christopher Victor Ortea | Cafe, Jaleth Alderite |
| Ang, Johnson Tee | Barbo, Alvar Alonzo | Caiwan, Gina Piol |
| Angkaw, Liliosa Ortea | Barimbao, Leonita Jumawan | Calzada, German Bonifacio |
| Añonuevo, Juan Binamira | Baruc, Regino Pastor | Candol, Felix Saya-ang |
| Añonuevo, Myrna Bendo | Basilio, Carlos Salvador | Cantos, Alexander De Chavez |

PITHAYA

Cayago, Marjorie Salvador
Cirilo, Edgar Toledo
Constantino, Zenaida Ortea
Consulta, Celso Cobilla
Cortez, Angelina Viray
Cortez, Ronald Infante
Costa, Melencio Baybay
Cotiyam, Oliver Molintas
Cristobal, Oswaldo Solis
Cruz, Manuel Francisco Cruz
Cuan, Jose Beldad
Dacot, Cherrymie Rolida
Dalde, Domingo Torren
Dasalla, Arlene Quijon
Dava, Conrada Imperial
De Guzman Remigio Domingo
De Jesus, Joel Gabriel
De La Cruz, Michael Descallar
De La Cruz, Rodelio Malgapo
De La Rosa, Raul Palero
De Los Santos, Erwin Docusin
De Roxas, Lucila Dimailig
Defensor, Martin Echavez Jr.
Delafuente, Ricardo Amparado Jr.
Delloro, Antonio Tilaon
Delloro, Salvador Tilaon Jr.
Delos Santos, Ricardo Magbitang
Demapiles, Alan Gonzales
Dimzon, Agustin Bautista II
Divinagracia, Jelyn Manalili
Dupal-ag, Juanito Dugenio Jr.
Echaluze, Noe Rey Vergara
Eguia, Arnold Antiquina
Encabo, Pamela Aurelie Acas
Encinares, Marissa Espedillon
Enduma, Elmer Fallurin
Ernesto, Gladys Baes
Escobar, Rudy Estolonio
Escudero, Julian Bansales II
Fabreag, Faith Mores
Fajardo, Frederick Franco
Faller, Marvin Jay Acedillo
Faller, Melanie Acedillo
Fernandez, Carmencita Carosos
Fernandez, Gerwin Delos Reyes
Fernandez, Josiah Nel Opilas
Fernandez, Jovan Reyes
Fernandez, Nelson Romero
Fernandez, Rowena Opilas
Ferrer, Benjo Diaz
Ferrer, Cesar Payumo
Flores, Cristina Lerona
Francisco, Dominador Chavez
Francisco, Honorio Pilanga
Gabriel, Deodelyn Alegrea
Galvez, Mario Remotigado
Gapas, Antonio Fernandez
Gellecanao, Cherrypen Gayares
Gepitan, Digno Geografo
Gerilla, Erik John Jumalon
Gerundio, Rolando Villar Jr.
Granada, Marycar Sale
Grutas, Rene Alcovendas
Gruy, Luzviminda Florano
Guarte, Jose Maurial
Hatimil, Munib Hatibbon
Hernando, Felix Malaubang
Inclan, Vidal Enriquez Jr.
Inocencio, Reynaldo Vicencio
Jacinto, Alfredo Domingo Kiwan Jr.
Jamaybay, Emerson Nobleza
Jeruz, Pedro Latuza
Kiamco, Arturo Piamonte
Labaya, Jeniebeth Ann Amar
Labrador, Crisanto Edrote
Ladaga, Maria Rowena Ondangan
Lagarde, Joelito Ladia
Lagrisola, Timoteo Embalsado
Lanite, Joselyn Garcia
Laylay, Gilbert Ilagan
Leonar, Eduardo Mahusay
Leonar, Roseminda Suan
Leonardo, Gonzalo Perez
Linda, George Gambala
Linda, Jesus Gambala
Lizaso, Amador Toledana Jr.
Llanos, Jean Oporto
Lledo, Lyra Lovell Calamba
Lobitana, Petrus Garces
Lontayao, Antonio Angot Jr.
Lopez, Jerrie Misa
Lorico, Jonathan Rey Laudato
Lozada, Maribel Padilla
Lucido, Tereso Puma
Macorol, Carmela Faune
Madriaga, Reynaldo Dorado Jr.
Madrigal, Ma. Jerlinda Ladrangan
Magalong, Norman Lopez
Maglangit, Windesa Amar
Magtangob, Michelle Cristobal
Mamalayan, Sotero Onate
Manalo, Roel Payat
Manalo, Sherlyn Gigante
Maramara, Joseph Lester Calamayo
Marbebe, Lusofico Sadia
Martin, Annelo De Jaico
Matusalem, Ernesto Santiago
Mejos, Regina Anoba
Melendez, Merlita Melendez
Metz, Penelope Nava
Militar, Rex Berche
Mohammad Amin, Murcidy Timpao
Monderondo, David
Montecillo, Jennybeth Cabang
Naoyad, Henry Killy
Naron, Gilbert Caro
Naron, Shirley Rebullido
Narzabal, Rudini Subebe
Neri, Bonito Ingcog
Nillo, Agustito Niño Jr
Nuñez, Marites Mabitado
Ocampo, Rogelio Buhay
Ochon, Karen Imperial
Oling, Beatriz Palacio
Ortea, Jonathan Casauran
Pagador, Ma. Teresita Layar
Pagao, Marilou Nano
Palabay, Alpee Jiao
Palingca, Flordelis Garcia
Panghulan, Edwin Leviste
Pantaleon Jhon Chris Moradilla
Paraiso, Ameriza Lyn Sarra
Parena, Roy Bardelosa
Paris, Manuel Velasquez
Paris, Mario Aguason
Paris, Michael Sanchez
Paris, Norman Abalos
Paris, Raul Sanchez
Pascual, Adeline Lucas
Patron, Regina Lledo
Payadon, Robert, E-ing
Paz, Leah Madronal
Peñaflor, Renante Enayo
Pentinio, Zandro Dela Cruz
Pepito, Thena Marie Olitres
Pinkyhan, Alfonso Arcillas Jr
Porrás, Felipe Neri Diocampo

Porras, Oligario Diocampo
 Puno, Jojo Sampilo
 Quesada, Roger Larozo
 Quiapo, Mel Rose Quimada
 Quibote, Ruben Agustin
 Rabago, Wally Alejon
 Ragos, Generoso Jayan
 Ramos, Paquito Arquiza
 Ramos, Rowel Arquiza
 Ravina, Ferryquin Garcia
 Rebadajo, Remedios Bocatot
 Requito, Fortunato Bugtong Jr
 Resuena, Ferdinand Dacanay
 Revuelta, George Miralpes
 Reyes, Sherwin Sedoriosa
 Rivera, Roberto Exequiel Nuñez
 Roa, Tifarah Portia Roa
 Roble, Joseph Comcom
 Rodriguez, Ma Kristina Santiago
 Rodriguez, Rober Anthony
 Rubino, Allan Tunog
 Sacramento, Myrna Bobadilla
 Sagun, Sherry Ann Ampilo
 Salamate, Luz Estrella
 Salavador, Bernadette Yap
 Salcedo, Nanette Seriaña
 Saldo, Dionibong Rillera
 Sale, Asian Nava
 Salem, Catherine Merzo
 Salibo, Osmundo Dupagan
 Salinas, Guillermo Balatero Jr
 Sanchez, Joseph Raymund Patrick Sanchez
 Sanico, Charita Jiao
 Santamina, Mary Luz Juntilla
 Santos, Meynard Pagtalunan
 Sarmiento, Noriel Campos
 Sarmiento, Ronito Cura
 Sastrillo, Adelina Atayde
 Sayuma, Carlos De La Peña
 Sebandal, Ercie Collantes
 Semblante, Adrienne Christel Melencion
 Serrano, Christian Esteban
 Servacio, Junjilito Polinas
 Soliven, Dolores Sagun
 Soliven, Leonardo Marzan
 Solomon, Jasmin Sangalang
 Soriano, Elmalyn Reyes
 Soriano, Roel Reyes
 Sotelo, Evangeline Caminero

Sta. Ines, Jelyn Cruz
 Suplido, Maria Lourdes Belardo
 Tan, Jeslie Paguican
 Tapalla, Eugene Tianero
 Tecson, Marian Angel Pantanosas
 Tesoro, Edna Siringan
 Tibay, Vilma Raniag
 Tobias, Rodney Villar
 Tolentino, Josephine Hilario
 Torres, Emedino Ramillano
 Torres, Evelyn Cristobal
 Torres, Ramon Cordino
 Trasmonte, Edna Embalsado
 Trilles, Roy Montano
 Trobada, Rita Perez
 Tuazon, Fernan Simbillo
 Turingan, Leonita Baquiran
 Valencia, Jonathan Ortega
 Vallido, Demetrio Heyres Jr
 Veranga, Hiedie Mariano
 Veranga, John Ric Mariano
 Veranga, Ricarte Marasigan
 Villanueva, Napoleon Balaba Jr.
 Villanueva, Rachel Carabio
 Villareal, Loreli Villaflores
 Villariza, Faith Fedillaga
 Yang, Mercy Cabriana
 Yap, Johnson Divino



PHILIPPINE NATIONAL ELECTIONS 2016

Kagawaran ng Ugnayang Panlabas



Department of Foreign Affairs

OVERSEAS VOTING SECRETARIAT

MESSAGE

Minamahal kong Kababayan,

Warm Greetings from the Department of Foreign Affairs-Overseas Voting Secretariat!

I am writing to you to request your invaluable support, for our nation building efforts in strengthening Philippine democracy, by encouraging overseas Filipinos to vote in the upcoming 2016 Philippine national elections.



As you may very well know, the voting period for registered overseas Filipino voters is from 09 April to 09 May 2016, 1700H (Philippine Time). Our Kababayans abroad will once again have the opportunity to participate in choosing the leaders that will manage their invaluable economic contribution to the country and our people. Thus, having a say in which direction we will be heading to in the years to come.

For information on the candidates, mode of voting in your area, where and how to vote, please visit the website of the Philippine Embassy or Consulate that is nearest to you, or go to www.comelec.gov.ph or www.dfa-oavs.gov.ph.

To complement the information drive and efforts of our Philippine Embassies and Consulates General, we request your support by undertaking an information campaign about Overseas Voting aimed at members of your family or community, and Filipinos in your areas of residence or employment, and encourage our countrymen to vote.

You may wish to disseminate this information during your meetings, events or other activities, or convey information in your newsletters or in the form you deem appropriate.

In addition, you may consider the use of appropriate social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Viber, etc. and other available Internet-based technologies. The use of the social networking sites would establish or enhance connectivity with your family, association or community with its members and would also facilitate communication of important and current events as well as other relevant developments in our country.

We count on your invaluable support to make our political exercise more meaningful, credible, and effective, by ensuring the widest participation of Filipinos overseas.

Thank you very much for lending a hand in this important undertaking for our country and our people and for the future.

Let us move forward with our battle cry: VOTE IN 2016!

MARAMING SALAMAT PO! MABUHAY!

RAFAEL E. SEGUIS
Chairman, Overseas Voting Secretariat and
Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs

Pasay City, 02 March 2016