

Phi Embassy in Israel Holds Independence Day Reception

Tuesday, 19 June 2012 18:42



19 June 2012- Philippine Ambassador to Israel Generoso D.G. Calonge hosted a reception in celebration of the 114th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence last June last June 14.

Close to 200 guests from the members of the diplomatic corps, government officials, business

contacts, members of the Philippine contingent to the United Nations (UN) Disengagement Observer Force in the Golan Heights, and the Filipino community gathered together to witness the simple program.

The evening celebration was highlighted by the singing of the Philippine National Anthem "Lupang Hinirang," followed by the Israeli National Anthem "Hatikva" (Hope) and the toast remarks of the host and the guest of honor.



Ambassador Generoso D.G. Calonge welcomes Guest of Honor MK Orit Noked, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development at the National Day Reception.

The Honorable Orit Noked, a member of Knesset (the Israeli Parliament) and currently serving

as Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, was the guest of honor of the National Day Reception. She was accompanied by Foreign Ministry Deputy Director General Ruth Kahanoff of the Asia and Pacific Division, Director Chaim Choshen of the Southeast Asia Division and Director of Protocol Nitza Raz-Silbiger.

In his remarks, Ambassador Calonge welcomed the guests and expressed his appreciation, on behalf of the Philippine Government, for sharing time with the Embassy in celebrating one of the most important occasions of the country.



(Left photo) Ambassador Calonge highlights Philippines-Israel relations in his toast to a crowd in celebration of the 114th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence.

Ambassador Calonge noted in his speech that this year's celebration also marked a significant milestone in the history of Philippines-Israel relations because the year 2012 is the golden anniversary of the opening of the Embassy in the State of Israel. He emphasized, however, that relations have been existing long before the opening of respective Embassies in each other's capitals.



Ambassador Calonge offers a toast to Minister Orit Noked.

"Even before the establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries, we have had long standing relations with the Jewish community, dating back to the 16th century when Jews, fleeing from Spanish Inquisition, made their way across the Pacific Ocean on board galleons. Upon reaching the Philippines, they established a Jewish community that thrived and contributed to our nation-building efforts in the last few hundred years," the Ambassador said.

On the economic front, Ambassador Calonge informed the guests that Philippines-Israel trade has been on the upswing in the past few years.

"There has been increased mutual interest in the areas of defense and security articles, processed food, marine products, electronics and organic products," the Ambassador pointed out.

He also mentioned that the Philippines remains a credible trade and investment partner of Israel in Asia. "It is one of the biggest consumer markets in the world and offers liberalized investments and incentives policies," the Ambassador added.

The Ambassador also took that opportunity to thank the Israeli government for the projects under the auspices of the Philippines-Israel Center for Agricultural Training (PICAT) which is now on the sixth year of implementation. PICAT has been a channel where Israel shares its expertise and technology in the field of agriculture.

He further mentioned another commendable project, Granot Agrostudies, a project under the Foreign Ministry's MASHAV program that brings in agricultural students from the Philippines to study and learn the best practices of Israel, a country which is known to have turned the curses of the desert into blessings.



The Agriculture Minister expresses Israel's appreciation for the warm friendship and fruitful cooperation over the years.

~~Ministry of Agriculture, Tel Aviv, June 19, 2012. The Agriculture Minister, Dr. Yehuda Kalish, expressed his appreciation for the warm friendship and fruitful cooperation between the Philippines and Israel over the years. He also expressed his appreciation for the warm friendship and fruitful cooperation between the Philippines and Israel over the years.~~



Ambassador Calonge introduces Minister Orit Noked to Mr. Max Weissler, a former Jewish refugee in the Philippines during the Commonwealth era under President Manuel Quezon.

~~On June 19, 2012, the Philippine Embassy in Israel held a reception to commemorate the 66th anniversary of the Philippines' independence from the United States.~~