



(Left photo) Visitors to the "Mirth of the Islands" Photo Exhibit are impressed by Overseas Photographers in Beijing (POP-Beijing). (Right photo) Charge d'Affaires, Luis and Ms. Liu Yang – for their outstanding musical performances.

21 June 2012 - In celebration of the 114th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine independence, the Philippine Embassy in Beijing hosted the soft launch of a photo exhibit entitled *"Mirth of the Islands,"* last June 15.

Featuring a collection of 30 photographs taken in Samar and Leyte by seven members of the Philippine Overseas Photographers in Beijing (POP-Beijing), the exhibit highlighted the *joie de vivre* of the Filipino people and dovetailed with the new campaign of the Department of Tourism "It's

More Fun in the Philippines."

Over a hundred people from the Filipino and expatriate community came to view the exhibit. Members of the diplomatic corps and officials of the Chinese government were also in attendance.

"If a picture paints a thousand words, we hope that what our Chinese friends will learn this afternoon about the Filipinos are that we are a warm and friendly people, optimistic about the future, always greeting life with laughter, ready to extend a hand of friendship. The pictures also highlight the value that the Filipinos and Chinese share: harmony with family, community and nature," said Mr. Alex Chua, the Embassy's Charge d' Affaires.

Mr. Chua added that this photo exhibit will travel across China in 2012 and 2013, which have been declared by President Benigno S. Aquino III and President Hu Jintao as Philippines-China Years of Friendly Exchanges.

An interesting additional attraction during the soft launch of the exhibit were the performances of two unique artists, Ms. Annie Luis, a Filipino scholar studying Peking Opera, and Ms. Liu Yang, a Chinese violinist who recently completed her masteral studies in musicology with a special focus on Philippine music.

Ms. Liu Yang played "Sarong Banggi" and "Itik-Itik" to the delight of the *Pinoys* in the crowd. Ms. Luis, on the other hand, enthralled the audience with Filipino traditional songs like "Sa Kabukiran" and "Ikaw ang Minamahal Ko" as well as the patriotic song "Bayan Ko," to which Filipinos in the audience sang along.

The visitors of the exhibit were treated to some Filipino dishes, such as *pansit*, *embotido*, and *lumpiang shanghai*, and had the opportunity to win two round-trip tickets to Manila, courtesy of Cebu Pacific Air.



(Left photo) Visitors of the exhibit are treated to some Filipino dishes like pansit, luncheonette food, and other delicacies. The official of the DPRK Embassy types in his best wishes in the electronic message board.

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Officers and staff of the Philippine Embassy in Beijing, led by Charge d'Affaires, sing the Philippine national anthem during the flag-raising ceremony on 12 June 2012.