



16 July 2012- The Philippine Embassy in Singapore led the Filipino community in Singapore in celebrating the 114th anniversary of the proclamation of Philippine Independence with a week-long extravaganza showcasing Filipino cuisine, music, dance, fashion and crafts, and Philippine destinations.

On June 11, Conrad Centennial Singapore launched Savour Philippines, a food festival at their award-winning restaurant Oscar's featuring classic and modern interpretations of Filipino dishes by M Café's chef Karel Chan.

The festival commenced with a fashion show, in which volunteer models from the community donned colourful Filipiniana attire created by Filipino designer Cora Manimbo.

The show was livened up by dance numbers by Kultura Performing Arts, including lively renditions of Jota de Manila and the *tinikling*. An exhibit of photos of Philippine scenery captured by members of Pinoygraphers@SG rounded off the evening's festivities.

A flag-raising ceremony attended by Embassy officers and staff and representatives of the Filipino community touched off the commemorative events on June 12.

Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Minda Calaguian-Cruz delivered the President's message to the Filipino community, followed by Minister Alan Deniega, who read out Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario's message, and Commercial Counsellor Glenn Peñaranda and Labor Attaché Vicente Cabe, who respectively imparted the messages of the Trade and Labor Secretaries to the assembly.

A simple but sumptuous *salu-salo* followed featuring traditional Filipino breakfast fare.

Later in the evening, the Embassy hosted a reception at the Mandarin Orchard, which was attended by 400 guests from the host government and the diplomatic, business, cultural and academic communities in Singapore.

Minister for the Environment and Water Resources Vivian Balakrishnan graced the occasion as the guest-of-honor, accompanied by Ministers of Parliament Zaqy Mohamed and Ellen Lee. They were serenaded by PsalmiDeo Chorale, a choir composed of Filipino professionals working in Singapore, and Sari-Sari Philippine Kulintang Ensemble, while Kultura Performing Arts drew loud applause with their *singkil* performance.



The Filipino community in Singapore celebrated Independence Week with a series of events, including a cultural performance by the Filipino community group, the Filipino Cultural Center, and the Filipino Cultural Center.



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