



Philippine Ambassador to Norway Bayani S. Mercado (second from right) together with C. Duarte and special guest, Secretary Imelda M. Nicolas of CFO (second from left) at the Embassy's Rizal Reading Room to commemorate the Philippine National Hero. Other guests included Mr. Eivind Hoffman, Head of Statistics & Analysis Division.

22 June 2012 - To commemorate the 151<sup>st</sup> birthday of Philippine national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, the Philippine Embassy in Oslo, headed by Ambassador Bayani S. Mercado, together with special guest Secretary Imelda M. Nicolas of the Commission on Filipinos Overseas, formally launched the Embassy's Rizal Reading Room on June 19.

Dr. Rizal's revered and famous twin masterpieces, *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo*, can be viewed and read in Rizal's original handwriting in Spanish. A collection of Rizal's other works and his biography are also available at the Embassy's newly launched Reading Room.

Aside from Rizal's literary works, other *Filipiniana* books and coffee table books about the Philippines, among other reference materials, can be read in the Chancery upon request.

The Rizal Reading Room is an on-going project and the Embassy enjoins everyone, especially Filipinos in Norway, Denmark, and Iceland, to donate other *Filipiniana* books to the Reading Room to enrich the collection and proudly display the Philippines' rich literary heritage to the Embassy's many international visitors and guests. END