





(Photo above, from left) Mr. Ohad Horsandi, South East Asia Department of Ambassador Avraham Nir, MFA Asia Pacific Department; Mr. Chaim Choshen, Ruth Kahanoff, MFA Deputy Director General of the Asia Pacific Division and Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs and Head of Philippine Delegation, Philippines; DFA Assistant Secretary for Middle East and Africa Petronila P. Garcia; Affairs Pamela Durian-Bailon; Second Secretary and Consul Greg Marie C. Merriam Cuasay. (Left photo below) Deputy Director General Ruth Kahanoff, to South East Asia Department, opens the working lunch session of the 7<sup>th</sup> Phili-  
Korea Business Council (Middle photo below) Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, Philippines, and Consul Greg Marie C. Merriam Cuasay.



(Left photo) DDG Ruth Kahanoff expresses Israel's appreciation for the Philippines' role in the northern border and hopes for more vibrant Philippines-Israel relations in the year ahead. She outlines Philippine interests during the 7<sup>th</sup> Philippines-Israel Joint Commission Meeting.





Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio and the rest of the Philippine Delegation with Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak and General Rafael Barak.

~~For information, the Philippine Delegation is composed of Undersecretary Erlinda F. Basilio, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and General Rafael Barak, Chief of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The Israeli Delegation is headed by Defense Minister Ehud Barak and includes General Rafael Barak, Chief of the Israel Defense Forces, and General Amir Ben-David, Chief of the Israel Defense Forces Reserve. The meeting is part of a series of bilateral talks between the two countries, aimed at strengthening relations and cooperation in various fields, including defense, trade, and culture. The Philippine Delegation is also expected to discuss the proposed Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the Philippines and Israel, which is currently under review by the Philippine government. The Israeli Delegation will also discuss the proposed FTA with the Philippine Delegation. The meeting is expected to last for several days, with the Philippine Delegation departing for Israel on March 18, 2013.~~

