



Filipino pioneers in Ottawa get a taste of why “It’s More Fun in the P”
Gatan delivers his welcome remarks.

21 March 2013 – Philippine Ambassador to Canada Leslie B. Gatan feted vanguards of the Filipino community in Ottawa at the *Parangal sa Pioneers* recognition dinner on March 15 held at his official residence.

Some 40 honorees reminisced about the challenges of being the forerunners of the Filipino community in the 1960s when Canada welcomed the first major influx of Filipino nurses, doctors, office administrators and household staff, long before the opening of a resident Philippine Embassy in Ottawa. Numbering less than 1,800 then, extended families swelled their ranks in the late 1970's under Canada's family reunification program.

Today, the Filipino-Canadian community is over half a million strong.

Ambassador Gatan took the occasion to urge his guests to renew their ties to the motherland by joining the 8th Ambassadors, Consuls General and Tourism Directors Tour (ACGTDT) to the Philippines from July 09 to 12. The honorees listened intently to the Embassy presentation touting the tour as a "one-of-a-kind Philippine homecoming" for Filipinos in North America.

"The special package at discounted rates combined with VIP treatment throughout the tour makes for an exceptional experience," Ambassador Gatan noted.



(Photo above) Filipino pioneers are briefed on the 8th ACGTDT. (Photo below) A pilot demonstration of Virtual Sentro Rizal.



Ambassador Gatan (first row, center) welcomes Filipino pioneers to the official residence.

By Prince of Sulu, Philippines
The Philippine Consulate in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, is proud to host a group of Filipino pioneers who have been instrumental in the development of the Filipino community in Ottawa. The group, led by Ambassador Gatan, is being welcomed to the official residence of the Philippine Consulate in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The group is being welcomed to the official residence of the Philippine Consulate in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. The group is being welcomed to the official residence of the Philippine Consulate in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.