

28 January 2010- A bronze statue of Russian Poet Alexander Sergeevich Pushkin will be unveiled on Friday, January 29, 2010, 8:00 a.m. at the Mehan Garden in Manila. The unveiling ceremony is the first activity leading towards the commemoration of the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Russia on June 2, 2011. The bronze statue was donated by Russian sculptor Grigory Pototsky, a member of the International Union of Artists at UNESCO.

The event is being organized by the Manila City Administration, in cooperation with the Senate of the Philippines, the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Philippine Embassy in Moscow. Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim will be present during the ceremony.

Alexander Pushkin is the national poet of Russia and founder of modern Russian literature. Some of his masterpieces are the play *Boris Godunov* and the novel *Eugene Onegin*. He also influenced Russian classical music. END