



Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario (right) with Hon. Peter McGovern, Ambassador and Chief Trade Negotiator for the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, during Deputy Minister McGovern's courtesy call to the Secretary at the DFA Main Building, February 4, 2013.

4 February 2013 - A Canadian delegation, headed by the Hon. Peter McGovern, Assistant Deputy Minister for Asia and Chief Trade Negotiator for the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT-Canada), arrived in the Philippines for the inaugural meeting of the Philippines-Canada Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation (PHL-CA JCBC) on Tuesday, February 5.

The JCBC was created in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert F. del Rosario for the Philippines, and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade John Baird for Canada in June 2012.

Within the ambit of the JCBC, the Philippines and Canada will work to promote initiatives to strengthen bilateral cooperation in economic, political, security, education, labor and other aspects of PHL-Canada relations.

Assistant Deputy Minister Peter McGovern called on Secretary del Rosario on February 4. He was accompanied by Ambassador of Canada to the Philippines Christopher Thornley, and officials from the DFAIT and the Embassy of Canada in the Philippines.

The latest in a series of high-level exchange visits between the two nations in the past twelve months, Mr. McGovern noted that this is proof of Canada's engagement in Asia, and in the Philippines in particular, following the visit of Prime Minister Harper this past November. END