



(From left) Swedish Ambassador to the Philippines Klas Molin, Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DFA Assistant Secretary for European Affairs Elizabeth L. Arroyo, and Ambassador-designate to Sweden Bayani Mercado.

19 February 2013 – The Philippines and Sweden successfully concluded their second bilateral consultations on February 18 in Manila.

The meeting was co-chaired by Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) Assistant Secretary for European Affairs Elizabeth P. Buensuceso for the Philippine side and Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director-General for Trade Eva Walder for the Swedish side.

Since holding their first bilateral consultations last year in Stockholm, the Philippines and Sweden have been working together to forge stronger people-to-people links and expand bilateral business opportunities by focusing their discussion on areas of cooperation such as, trade and investment, tourism, renewable energy, water and waste management, sustainable urban development, labor migration and education/cultural exchanges. Both sides agreed to move forward the proposals taken up during this consultation that would lead to further expansion of cooperation between them.

As agreed during the first bilateral consultations, Sweden, through Business Sweden (formerly known as the Swedish Trade Council), brought in a business delegation composed of 12 Swedish companies composed of around 20 businessmen to provide the much-needed boost to jumpstart the bilateral trade relations between the two countries. These companies represent both old companies already doing business in the Philippines and new companies that are possible new entrants into the Philippine investment market, which signify the best of what Sweden has to offer in terms of knowledge, technology, products and services. They are Atlas Copco, Celemi, Clean Motion, Comex Intl., Electrolux, Ericsson, Handelsbanken, Ikano, Swedish Foreign Trade Association, SEK, Tetrapak and Volvo.



The 2<sup>nd</sup> Philippines-Sweden Bilateral Consultations was held on 18 Feb 2013 in Manila with DFA Assistant Secretary Elizabeth Buensuceso as head of the Philippine side and Swedish Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Director General for Trade Eva Walder as head of the Swedish side.

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The Philippine and Swedish delegations during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Philippines-Sweden bilateral consultations on 18 February 2013 in Manila.