



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

PRESS RELEASE

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Chicago PCG's 22nd *Pagkikita sa Konsulado* Features Knights of Rizal's (KOR) Forum on the Proposed Federalism in the Philippines

The Knights of Rizal (KOR) Central USA Chicago Area and the Ladies for Rizal, in partnership with the Consulate General of the Philippines, hosted a forum titled "Rizal and the Proposed Federalism in the Philippines" during the "Ika-22 *Pagkikita sa Konsulado*" on 16 February 2017. The *Pagkikita* coincided with the 145th Commemoration of the Martyrdom of GOMBURZA (secular priests Mariano Gomez, Jose Burgos and Jacinto Zamora) and their role in the Philippines' fight for independence.

Consul General Generoso DG Calonge, in his opening remarks, thanked everyone for their presence especially the members of KOR and Ladies for Rizal who have been steady partners of the Consulate General in promoting Filipino culture in the Midwest through Rizal's teachings and written work. Lady Carmen Estacio, Head of the Ladies for Rizal, presented a brief history of the Ladies for Rizal and its accomplishments in the past years.

Sir Randy Famacion and Consul Melchor P. Lalunio, Jr. served as panelists of the Forum, which was moderated by Sir Mariano Santos, KOR Commander - Central USA Chicago Area. The discussion on the proposed federal system for the Philippines is also this year's theme for the KOR's 21st International Assembly which will be held in Davao on 23 to 25 February 2017.

The announcement of the upcoming activities of the Consulate General by Consul Ericka Anna Abad was followed by the closing remarks of Deputy Consul General Romulo Victor M. Israel, Jr. Photo opportunities, fellowship, and a light reception concluded the evening's very productive event.

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122 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1600, Chicago, Illinois 60603, USA

Tel. No. 1(312) 583-0621; Fax No. 1(312) 583-0647

www.chicagopcg.dfa.gov.ph, chicagopcg@att.net



Consul General Generoso DG Calonge delivers his welcome remarks at the start of the forum “Rizal and the Proposed Federalism in the Philippines.” The forum was held at the Kalayaan Hall on 19 January 2017. *Photo courtesy of Mr. Arneil D. Torres.*



From left to right: Consul Ericka Anna T. Abad, Consul Melchor P. Lalunio, Jr., Deputy Consul General Romulo Victor M. Israel, Jr., Consul General Generoso DG Calonge, Ms. Carmen Estacio of the Ladies for Rizal, together with staff members of the Consulate General and members of the KOR, Ladies for Rizal and the Filipino community. *Photo courtesy of Mr. Arneil D. Torres*