CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
CHICAGO

PRESS RELEASE
No. 08-2019

PH CONSUL GENERAL HOSTED AN APPRECIATION EVENT ON ITS 1ST TALAKAYAN SERIES, 2019

Chicago, 19 February 2019 – The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago hosted an appreciation event for the 2018 Paskuhan Planning Committee and the Midwest 2019 YouLead Immersion Program participants during the Consulate’s 1st Talakayan Series, 2019 on 15 February 2019 at the Kalayaan Hall of the Consulate General.

Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin, in her welcome remarks, thanked the Filipino community and expressed her appreciation for the support and active involvement of the community that led to the success of the two milestones in the history of the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago: the 2018 “Paskuhan sa Chicago and Simbang Gabi” on 15 December 2018 and the 2019 Midwest YouLead Immersion Program on 03-09 January 2019. Consul General Jamoralin said, “Since the establishment of the Philippine Consulate in 1948, it has always been the mission of the Consulate to foster unity, camaraderie and community leadership among its Filipino diaspora in the Midwest. I would like to assure you that the Philippine Consulate would continue to pursue another year of greater engagement with the younger generation of Filipino-Americans and the fast-growing Filipino community in the Midwest.”

The first part of the program is a video presentation on the recent Midwest YouLead Immersion Program on 03-09 January 2019 consisting of 12 (twelve) delegates sent by the Philippine Consulate to the Philippines to reconnect with their Filipino identity. Two participants: namely, John Graeme Philipps and Veronica Garrick gave a testimonial and shared their experiences and learnings about the Immersion Program. Philipps, a son of a Greek and a Filipina parents, admitted that he does not look like a Filipino at all but it did not stop him from owning his Filipino identity. Garrick, on the other hand said that “not because I was born outside the Philippines does not make me less of a Filipino.”

It was followed by a video presentation about the Paskuhan event celebrated on 15 December 2018 in Seafood City by more than 250 individuals in attendance. A Certificate of Appreciation was also given to the community organizations with a photo opportunity with the Consul General. Chaired by the Philippine Consulate, the “2019 Paskuhan sa Chicago’s” planning committee was composed of about twenty (20) Filipino community organizations whose objective is to bring together community leaders and members to celebrate Christmas with fun and entertainment the Filipino way.

A fellowship and reception capped the fruitful and productive evening. END
Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin delivers her welcome remarks at the start of the Appreciation Event for the 2018 Paskuhan Planning Committee and the 2019 Midwest YouLead Immersion Program participants held at the Kalayaan Hall on 19 June 2018. *Photo courtesy of Mr. Jason DelaRosa*

John Graeme Philipps and Veronica Garrick, participants of the 2019 Midwest YouLead Immersion Program, sharing their respective experiences and learning on the recent cultural immersion in the Philippines on 03-09, January 2019. *Photo courtesy of Mr. Angelo Santiago*
Presentation of souvenir photo from the 2019 Midwest YouLead participants to Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin (center). (L-R front) John Graeme Philipp, Christopher Garrick, Daphne Constantinides, Veronica Garrick, Nina Mondero, Alyssa Solomon and Everett Icao. *Photo courtesy of Mr. Arnel Santiago*

The audience while enjoying the video presentation of the 2018 "Paskuhan sa Chicago and Simbang Gabi" held at the Market Mix Hall in Seafood City on 15 December 2018. *Photo courtesy of Mr. Arnel Santiago*
Group photo of the 2018 “Paskuhan sa Chicago and Simbang Gabi” Planning committee with Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin. (L-R front) Frank Alvarez, Sol Anderson, Josephine M. Diaz, Suzette Ancheta, Edward Brotonel, Jan Paul Ferrer. (L-R back) Alyssa Solomon, Everett Icao, Ruben Salazar, Mariano Santos and Willy Buhay.  Photo courtesy of Mr. Arnel Santiago