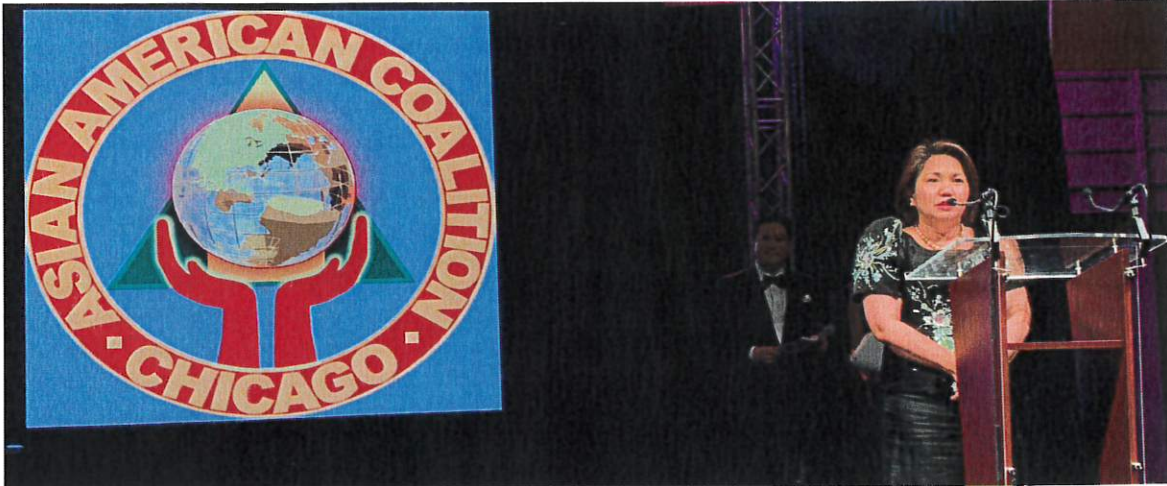




## CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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### FILIPINO COMMUNITY HOSTS 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN COALITION OF CHICAGO



*Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin delivering her remarks at the Annual Lunar New Year Celebration of the Asian American Coalition of Chicago.*

Chicago, 26 February 2019 – The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago, through Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin, participated in *the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Lunar New Year Celebration* of the Asian American Coalition of Chicago held at Hyatt Regency O'Hare on 22 February 2019.

Consul General Jamoralin was one of the distinguished guests of honor of the annual black-tie gala, which attracted hundreds of attendees from the Asian American community, as well as high-level government officials and heads of consulates of Asian countries. This year, the Filipino American community, led by the efforts of Gala Chair Ms. Aurora Astriaco, hosted the event with the theme, "One World, One Vision."

In her remarks, Consul General Jamoralin lauded the achievements of contributions of the Asian-American community in Chicago. She noted the diversity and inclusivity of the Coalition working together for mutual benefit and common good. She underscored that more than 20 million Asian Americans serve as an important pillar of US economic resilience and growth. She encouraged the Asian community to continue to provide mutual support for its members to empower them and to nurture their civic consciousness and community leadership. She also reminded the community to exercise their right to vote and make a difference in the city elections.

Consul General Jamoralin – together with the Filipino-American President of DePaul University, Dr. Amado Gabriel Esteban and Illinois Senator Laura Murphy – presented plaques to the awardees. Among the awardees divided into the professional and youth categories were Filipino-Americans Dr. Nida Blankas-Hernaez (Professional category), pediatrician and specialist in adolescent medicine, and Ms. Jade Mosquera (Youth category), belonging to the top 1% of her class and elite volleyball athlete at DePaul College Prep. The coalition also recognized Ms. Marie Cuning, president of the Federation of Philippine American Chambers of Commerce (FPACC).



*Illinois officials led by (from left) Congresswoman Robin Kelly, Congressman Sean Casten, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, Congresswoman Jan Schakowski, Illinois Treasurer Mike Frerichs, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkel, and members of the Joint Asian American Leaders Caucus of Illinois.*

The event's main awardees were Ms Tina Tchen, former First Lady Michelle Obama's chief of staff, and ABC7 Chicago television network for its significant contribution to the Asian American community.



*Consul General Jamoralin with Congresswoman Jan Schakowski and husband Mr. Robert Creamer*

During the gala, Consul General Jamoralin also had the opportunity to speak with Illinois government officials, including Congresswoman Jan Schakowski (keynote speaker and member of the US-Philippines Friendship Caucus), Congresswoman Robin Kelly, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, State Senator Laura Murphy and Illinois Treasurer Mike Frerichs. She also mingled with the Filipino community during and after the event.



*Kapit Bayan Dance Group performing Badjao dance*

The food for the gala was prepared by Mr. Rico Carpio, Filipino-American assistant executive chef at Hyatt Regency O'Hare. Niles North High School "Kapit Bayan" Dance Group performed a traditional Badjao dance of courtship. **END**

