



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

PRESS RELEASE NO. 126-2018

Philippine Consulate General in Chicago, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and the Federation of Philippine American Chambers of Commerce (FPACC) Hold Roundtable Business Meeting on Business Opportunities in Subic Bay Freeport

Partnering with SBMA and FPACC, the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago organized and held a *Roundtable Business Meeting on Business Opportunities in Subic Bay Freeport* (Philippines) on 09 November 2018 at Morgan Stanley, 70 West Madison Street, Chicago IL. The guest speaker for the event was Atty. Wilma T. Eisma, SBMA Chairperson and Administrator, who came with Mr. Ronnie Yambao and Ms. Jennifer Pantig, SBMA's Deputy Administrator and Assistant, respectively.

Before participants from various companies, business chambers, Illinois commerce and port officials, trade commissioners, and the academe, Atty. Eisma traced the difficult transition of Subic Bay from being a naval base of the U.S. 7th Fleet to what is now considered as one of the most competitive international gateways in the Asia Pacific region. In her presentation, Atty. Eisma discussed the factors that make Subic Bay a principal hub for trade, logistics, and services in the region that few freeports could match, among which are Subic Bay's strategic location, complete port facilities, generous incentives, and the Philippines' multi-layered free trade agreements.

The SBMA Chairperson and Administrator also briefed the participants about the on-going and planned projects in Subic Bay, inviting them to participate in these projects through the Philippines' Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) Scheme.

Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin opened the Meeting with the information about the Consulate's *YouLead Immersion Program for the Youth*. The travel program, which will run from January 3 to January 9, 2019 is designed for Filipino youth overseas to rediscover their roots and appreciate the richness and diversity of their heritage. The Consul General also announced the holding of the *2019 Very Important Pinoy Tour* or VIP (Ambassadors' Tour) on 14 – 21 July 2019.

END

20 November 2018





Atty. Wilma T. Eisma (right, standing), SBMA Chairperson and Administrator, shows the spatial layout of Subic Bay to the participants of the Hold Roundtable Business Meeting on Business Opportunities in Subic Bay Freeport



Consul General **Gina A. Jamoralin** (1st row center, 4th from R) with Atty. **Wilma T. Eisma** (1st row, 3rd from R), **Cynthia C. Flores**, FPACC Treasurer (1st row, 2nd from R), **Emil Bernardo**, FPACC VP Business Development (2nd row 5th from L), **Jaime Dejuras**, Dejuras Management Group (2nd row 8th from R), **Ronnie Yambao**, SBMA Deputy Administrator (2nd row 6th from L), and **Jan Paul Ferrer**, VP Morgan Stanley, Financial Advisor (2nd row, 3L). With the organizers are members of the FPACC, CEOs, and representatives of various companies.