



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

PRESS RELEASE
No. 19-2019

ILLINOIS TRADE DELEGATION TO WATER PHILIPPINES EXPO WRAPS UP PRODUCTIVE MISSION



The Illinois trade mission, led by Mr. Godfrey Angara (5th from right), conducted a site visit to Maynilad Water Treatment Plant in Putatan, Muntinlupa. (Photo courtesy of Godfrey Angara)

28 March 2019, Chicago - The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago hailed the fruitful and timely trade mission of the State of Illinois to the Water Philippines Expo held on 19-22 March 2019, as water issues hug the headlines. The visit provided an opportunity for Illinois SME firms to present possible solutions to the Philippines' water needs.

The delegation was led by Mr. Godfrey Angara, Assistant Deputy Director of the Office of Trade and Investment at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, and was composed of representatives of six Illinois enterprises engaged in water management, wastewater treatment, municipal drinking water, industrial water, and manufacture of ozone generators for purification, pumps, molds and measurement instruments.

Mr. Angara met with officials of the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), who shared information on the policy work they conduct and were provided details of the trade mission. NWRB also provided Mr. Angara with a background on the local water condition. He in turn shared how the Illinois businesses' products and services could provide solutions to some of the Philippines' water needs.

122 South Michigan Avenue, Suite 1600, Chicago, Illinois 60603, USA
Tel. No. 1(312) 583-0621; Fax No. 1(312) 583-0647
www.chicagopcq.dfa.gov.ph, chicagopcq@att.net





The pavilion of the State of Illinois at the Water Philippines Expo (Photo: Godfrey Angara)

The delegation then participated in an in-country market briefing and networking event with US Embassy officials from the Commercial Service, Commercial Service liaison to the Asian Development Bank, USAID, and a local Philippines Law Firm, PJS Law. Speakers discussed the Philippine market, procurement opportunities, and transactional and legal details of doing business within the country.

Officials from the Local Water Utilities Administration (LWUA) also attended the market briefing, where they discussed the work they conducted outside Metro Manila. According to Mr. Angara, companies found added value in networking with them and learning about how water resources are handled in the various provinces of the country.

The delegation also conducted a site visit to the Maynilad Water Treatment Plant in Putatan, Muntinlupa where they learned how Maynilad processes the drinking water for a significant portion of Metro Manila.

At the Water Philippines 2019 Expo on 20-22 March 2019, the Illinois enterprises exhibited in the State of Illinois Pavilion. According to Mr. Angara, Illinois was the only formal pavilion representing an American delegation. They engaged in pre-arranged business-to-business (B2B) meetings as well as promoted their products to the hundreds of daily expo visitors.

“This experience was fantastic for our six companies to continue to develop business relationships in the Philippine market and pursue opportunities to grow their exports,” Mr. Angara noted.

Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin hailed the success of the trade mission, and hoped that the relationships developed and information shared would contribute to sustainable solutions to the Philippines’ increasing water needs in the light of a booming economy and a growing population. She vowed to continue to pursue efforts to build upon robust relations between the Philippines and the State of Illinois. The Consulate and the Department of Foreign Affairs Office of the Undersecretary for International Economic Relations assisted the delegation in reaching out to officials of the NWRB and the LWUA.

The Water Philippines expo was held at the SMX Convention Center in Pasay City. More than 500 companies and brands, including 10 international and regional pavilions, exhibited the most innovative technologies and solutions. More than 10,000 visitors and professionals from 30 countries participated in the expo. It is the biggest water B2B show in the Philippines designed as an outstanding on-the-spot market of products, connections and opportunities. **END**