



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

PRESS RELEASE

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CONSULATE GENERAL TO LAUNCH LABOR DAY ACTIVITIES

Chicago, 22 August 2017 – In observance of the upcoming Labor Rights Week in the U.S., the Philippine Consulate General in Chicago will hold activities in cooperation with its partners in the U.S. federal government, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

The kick-off event will be a signing ceremony for the regional Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the EEOC on Friday, August 25, at 10:30 a.m. EEOC Director Julianne Bowman and Consul General Generoso D.G. Calonge will sign the MOU that extends for another two years the arrangement first inked between the two agencies in 2015. It is open to community leaders and the public in general.

Consul General Calonge appreciatively noted the participation in the consular outreach services of EEOC representatives from various regional offices involved in the partnership agreement. More recently, the EEOC Chicago District Office provided basic training to consulate personnel on Article VII of the Civil Rights Act to enhance their capacity to recognize, respond to and refer questions or complaints of workplace discrimination.



File photo: Consul General Generoso D.G. Calonge signing the MOU with EEOC Chicago District Office Director Julianne Bowman at the Philippine Consulate General in 2015.

On August 30 and 31, Wednesday and Thursday, representatives of the NLRB and OSHA offices in Chicago will respectively provide a briefing on their agencies' functions, distribute informational materials and make themselves available for consultation with those who are coming to the consulate from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m.

A short forum will be held at the Kalayaan Hall of the consulate where all the consular applicants will be invited before the start of consular services. A space will be provided for the display and distribution of handouts and other materials as well as consultation.



File photos: Consul General Calonge thanked Ms. Kirsten Walls-Parker of NLRB (left photo) and Mr. Carlos Reynolds of OSHA who participated in the consular outreach at Little Rock, AR in March 2017.

Consul General Calonge said that, under existing working agreements with the three federal agencies, the consulate aims to increase the Filipino community's awareness and understanding of their rights as workers in the U.S., including the protective mechanisms available should they have any grievance. At the same time, the consulate can help guide Filipino business owners and employers in complying with standards set forth under federal laws.

He added that the consulate has started working on a translation project with OSHA so that primers and many other educational materials on important safety and health issues in different working environments may be re-printed and distributed with greater benefit of the Filipino community.

Side by side with its federal partners, the consulate will finally provide special help desks where its Legal Officer can field queries on Philippine legal matters and its Assistance to Nationals (ATN) Officer can attend to specific ATN requests. Coffee and light refreshments will be served. **END**

