



CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CHICAGO

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KANSAS GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY RECEIVES CONSUL GENERAL JAMORALIN



Kansas Governor Laura Kelly (left) with Consul General Gina Jamoralin in Topeka

Chicago, 08 August 2019 – At the historic Kansas State Capitol in Topeka, Governor Laura Kelly on Monday morning received Consul General Gina A. Jamoralin, who just came from a consular outreach service around 140 miles away in Wichita.

The first meeting of Consul General Jamoralin and Governor Kelly, a former State Senator who won the gubernatorial election last November, initiated a serious look into possible expansion of the relations between the State of Kansas and the Philippines.

With over 10,000 Filipinos and Filipino-Americans calling Kansas their new home while maintaining connections with their country of origin, as well as increasing overall trade in the past years reaching its peak at \$146.1 million last year, Consul General Jamoralin shared her optimism with the governor in expanding relations to investments in infrastructure and academic and research exchanges.

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Kansas is a leader in aviation industry supported by cutting-edge innovation research at Wichita State University. The governor also informed the Consul General about the center for plant and animal safety with agro and biodefense facility at the Kansas State University, considered as the “Silicon Valley for biodefense.”

The Consul General also broached the possibility of establishing a sister state or province partnership between Kansas and a Philippine province as a springboard for enhanced academic, cultural and official exchanges. She hoped that visits of business delegations can soon be worked out to take advantage of existing economic opportunities and complementarities between Kansas and the Philippines.



Consul General Jamoralin (right) pushing for ways to advance cooperation between the Philippines and the Midwest by constantly engaging local, state and federal officials

She further encouraged closer contact between the Filipino community in Kansas, initially through the Filipino American Association of Greater Wichita (FAAGW), and Kansas state officials and political leaders. With the coming celebration of Filipino American History Month in October, she hoped that there would be greater awareness and appreciation of Filipino Americans’ contribution to the diversity and strength of Kansas.

Aside from opening a vista into the future and a good sense of how to chart a path forward, the wide-ranging discussion between Governor Kelly and Consul General Jamoralin also touched on historical ties between the Philippines and the U.S.

Joined by Deputy Consul General Romulo Victor Israel Jr. and Legislative Director Cory V. Sheedy, the two officials marked their first meeting with an exchange of tokens to augur the start of a closer and more productive collaboration. **END**