PHILIPPINE CONSULATE PARTICIPATES IN HUSKER HARVEST DAYS, MEETS NEBRASKA GOVERNOR AND SECRETARY OF STATE

17 September 2019 – The Philippine Consulate General in Chicago, through Consul Ryan Gener, participated in the Husker Harvest Days and met Governor Pete Ricketts and State Secretary Bob Evnen in Nebraska on 11-12 September 2019.

The mission comes at an opportune time as Nebraska is opening its doors wider to international economic engagement, and as two-way trade between the Philippines and Nebraska has skyrocketed in the past two years. The Chicago International Trade Commissioners’ Association (CITCA) delegation was composed of consular officials and trade commissioners from Argentina, Belgium (Flanders and Wallonia), Brazil, Bulgaria, Denmark, Korea, Philippines, Poland, Spain, and Ukraine.

On 11 September, the delegates met with Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts at the Husker Harvest Days International Visitor Center at Wood River, Nebraska, and subsequently at a reception for international guests. He welcomed international guests and pitched Nebraska as a source of high quality agricultural products and a business-friendly location for investors.

On 11 September 2019, the delegation also met Nebraska State Secretary Bob Evnen at the Husker Harvest Days International Visitor Center. On 12 September, the delegation called on him in his office at the State Capitol in Lincoln. He expressed openness to work with the participating countries to expand mutually beneficial trade and investment opportunities.

Consul Gener also met with other state officials, chamber officers and executives of Nebraska-based firms to explore ways to further enhance economic and trade engagement between Nebraska and the Philippines.

Total trade between the Philippines and Nebraska increased by 48.1% from $44.8 million in 2017 to $66.4 million in 2018. Total trade in the first seven months of 2019 alone has surpassed the trade value for the whole of 2018, increasing by 39.5% from $66.4 million to $92.6 million. Of the $65.7 million exported by the Philippines in the first seven months of the year, $60.0 million are revolution/production counters, making up 91% of total exports. A four-fold increase in imports of animal vaccines from Nebraska has been observed in the first seven months of 2019, with a value of $12.7 million compared to only $3.2 million for the whole of 2018. The Philippines is the 3rd largest market for wheat ($13.8 million in 2017), 5th largest for pork ($19.2 million), 5th largest for ethanol ($14 million), and 6th largest for soybeans and soybean products ($60.7 million). END
Consul Gener (left) poses with Nebraska Secretary of State Bob Evnen (7th from left) and other members of the trade delegation at the State Capitol in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Consul Gener (left) poses with Nebraska Secretary of State Bob Evnen (7th from left) and other members of the trade delegation at the Husker Harvest Days in Wood River (near Grand Island), Nebraska.