

die Philippinen

Elections 2016

Election Results among Filipino Voters in Germany: Duterte, Cayetano top choices for President and Vice President

"It was a historic moment for the Philippine Embassy in Berlin, as we managed to break the 2,000 mark for total votes cast here in Germany. The votes cast reflect a turnout of more than 40% of the total land-based registered voters in Germany. I also wish to thank election watcher Jemimah Ferrer as well as the members of the Filipino community who came to observe the conduct of the manual voting at the Embassy chancery." - Ambassador Melita Sta. Maria-Thomeczek.

The Philippine Embassy in Berlin successfully conducted the canvassing of votes in its four precincts on May 9, 2016. A total of 2,906 ballots were received by the Embassy until the closing at 1200h of 9 May 2016. More than 40% of the total registered voters in Germany were able to cast their votes in the recently concluded national elections. Certified Filipino overseas absentee

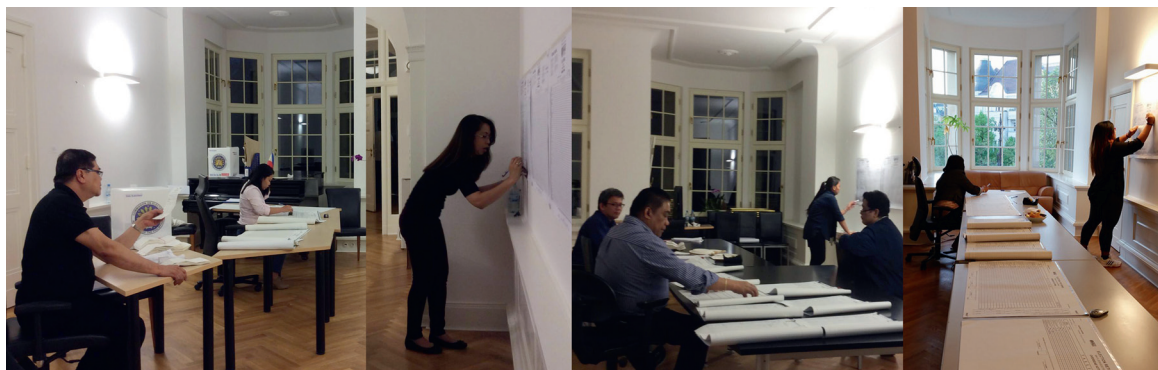


voters (not counting seafarers) in Germany were given the opportunity to cast their vote by mail from 9 April to 9 May 2016.

Ambassador Sta. Maria-Thomeczek said "In spite of returned ballots, we had an impressive voter-turnout. This shows that Filipino overseas voters in Germany want to have a say on who their elected leaders would be. More importantly, it confirms that Filipinos abroad have a strong faith in the electoral process in the Philippines."

The Embassy has employed all means - through email, various social media platforms and word of mouth to inform the Filipino overseas voters to exercise their right to vote.

Observers included members of the Filipino community in Berlin and an accredited poll watcher for PDPLBN.



The four precincts at the Philippine Embassy manually counting votes until the early morning of 10 May 2016.

The Philippine Embassy in Berlin's Special Board of Canvassers (SBOC) released the following results in Germany for the position of President and Vice President, based on the election returns submitted by the four Special Board of Election Inspectors of the Post:

Presidential Candidates	Total Votes Received
Duterte, Rodrigo	1206
Roxas, Manuel III	281
Defensor-Santiago, Miriam	176
Poe-Llamanzares, Mary Grace	174
Binay, Jejomar	63
Seneres, Roy	2

Vice Presidential Candidates	Total Votes Received
Cayetano, Alan Peter	756
Marcos, Bongbong	540
Robredo, Leni	458
Escudero, Chiz	134
Honasan, Gringo	39
Trillanes, Antonio IV	34

Meanwhile, the top 12 Senators and the leading Party-List Groups in Germany are as follows:

Senatorial Candidates	Total Votes Received
Pangilinan, Kiko	1177
Recto, Ralph	1143
Osmena, Sergio III	1139
Gordon, Dick	981
Lacson, Panfilo	945
Dilon, Frank	928
Sotto, Vicente	880
Pacquiao, Manny	840
De Lima, Leila	928
Zubiri, Migz	736
Manzano, Edu	675
Hontiveros, Risa	653

Party-List Rep. (Top 3)	Total Votes Received
YACAP	106
Migrante	92
Senior Citizen	89

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Senator Cynthia Villar, chairperson of the Senate Committee on Food and Agriculture, DTI Undersecretary Manalo, DA Undersecretary Palad, and DTI-EMB Director Perlada highlighted the opportunities offered by EU-GSP+ for doing business in the Philippines.

33RD ANUGA in Cologne

Food Philippines generates strong sales in 33rd ANUGA in Cologne

The Philippines mounted its biggest participation yet in Anuga, the “World Food Market,” from 10-14 October 2015 in Cologne, Germany, with 37 homegrown companies jointly flying the Food Philippines banner and generating US\$66 million worth of initial sales according to preliminary figures from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Traditional exports such as frozen and canned tuna, dried mangoes, banana chips, virgin coconut oil, and other fruit and fish products dominated the Philippine showcase, while Malagos chocolate from Davao, organic muscovado sugar from Negros, and heirloom rice from the Cordilleras were some of the artisanal specialties represented from the different regions.



Frankfurt Book Fair

PH book industry comes together for world's biggest book fair in Frankfurt

Consul Catherine Torres with key players in the Philippine publishing industry who came together to mount the first-ever collective Philippine booth at the world's biggest book fair. Abiva Publishing House, Inc., Adarna House, Anvil Publishing, Inc., Diwa Learning Systems, Inc., Lampara Publishing House, Inc. Precious Pages Corporation, Rex Group of Companies and the University of Santo Tomas Publishing House made a collective

pitch for the Philippines as ‘The Best Source of Content in Asia’ at the 67th Frankfurt Book Fair held on 14-18 October 2015 at the Messe Frankfurt in Frankfurt am Main. The Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP), Philippine Educational Printers Association (PEPA), and the National Book Development Board (NBDB), were instrumental in bringing them together for this collaboration.



Ambassador Sta. Maria-Thomeczek with the speakers and organizers of the seminar, including Ms. Ruby De Guzman of the Department of Energy (DOE) (3rd from left) and Engr. Andres Tuates, Jr. of the Department of Agriculture (DA) (2nd from left), and Mr. Tobias Petersen of the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. (GPCCI) (3rd from right).

Philippine Bioenergy

Seminar spotlights PH bioenergy opportunities for German companies

Around 20 representatives of German companies attended the seminar “Bioenergy in the Philippines” in Frankfurt on 26 January 2016. The program gave an introduction on the Philippines’ use of bioenergy as a renewable energy source, underlying conditions and market opportunities in the country, current practices and challenges, and prospects for financing and other business undertakings.

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi), in cooperation with the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GPCCI) and Eclareon GmbH, a business consultancy focusing on renewable energy, organized the seminar.

Mr. Tobias Petersen, Project Manager for Trade Promotion at GPCCI highlighted the

country’s advantages, such as a large and young population, the wide use of English and good level of education, the rarity of labor strikes, an efficient cost structure, good location within ASEAN and Asian region, excellent infrastructure and incentives in special economic zones, and the country’s GSP+ status, under which it can export a wide array of products to the European Union at zero tariff.

Philippine Ambassador Melita Sta. Maria-Thomeczek invited the representatives from around 20 German companies to take advantage of the opportunities presented by Germany’s Energy Transition, or Energiewende, to bring technology solutions to the Philippines in the area of renewable energies.

Internationale Tourismus-Börse (ITB) Berlin 2016

Team Philippines at the Internationale Tourismus-Börse (ITB) Berlin 2016 with Ambassador Millie Sta. Maria-Thomeczek (middle, first row). DOT Undersecretary Benito C. Bengzon Jr. (seated, fifth from right) led the Philippine delegation composed of Department of Tourism (DOT) officials, congressional delegates, and representatives of the exhibiting companies. ITB Berlin is the world’s leading travel trade show held annually in March.



CeBIT 2016

The Philippines, through the Board of Investments, participated in this year's edition of CeBIT (Center for Office Automation, Information Technology and Telecommunication), Global Event for Digital Business, which was held on 14-18 March 2016 and organized by Deutsche Messe.

For its first country participation after a long absence, the BOI focused on the following target sectors for promotion:

- Knowledge Process Outsourcing (data analytics)
- Global in House Center (Finance & Accounting, HR, IT / IT support)
- Software Development
- Healthcare Information Management
- Game Development and Animation
- Voice-based Service
- Electronics Manufacturing Service

The Philippine participation aimed at showcasing the country's capabilities to host the activities mentioned above, either through "outsource" work or establishment of business operations in the Philippines.

The Philippine delegation was comprised of

- 1) Investment Promotions Agencies,
 - 2) ITBPM players in target sub sectors, and
 - 3) support services, such as telecommunications, real estate and human resources.
- The Philippine business delegation was composed of the Aguila Group Companies, Cherry Mobile, Integrated Microelectronics Inc., Megaworld Corporation, Personiv, Pointwest EU- Philippines Business Network, and Shore Solutions. The business delegation met with BITKOM, BITMI, Deutsche Telekom and NGENA.



Commercial Counselor Althea Karen Antonio (seated front left) of the Philippine Trade and Investment Center in Berlin with the Philippine delegation.



#MuniMeetup

The first international #MuniMeetup in collaboration with the Embassy of the Philippines in Berlin and The DO School, "Social Business and Sustainability" event was held on February 25 at The DO School in Berlin. First Secretary and Consul Catherine Rose Torres addressed students, fellows and entrepreneurs on social enterprises in the Philippines that help promote a healthy, more sustainable lifestyle.



AMBIENTE

Ambassador Sta. Maria-Thomeczek, Commercial Counsellor Althea Karen Antonio and Economic Officer Catherine Rose Torres visited the 18 Filipino exhibitors brought in by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM) at Ambiente, Europe's premier consumer goods and lifestyle show, which was held on 12-16 February 2016 in Frankfurt. Another 23 Filipino exhibitors were brought in by Worldwide Exhibitions Linkage Services.

New Production Plant in Batangas

ZAMA, a subsidiary of the Germany company STIHL Group, held the inauguration of its new production plant in Santo Tomas in the Philippines on January 20, 2016. The STIHL Group is a manufacturer of carburetors for small off-road engines. The new production plant with total investment amounting to US \$50 million, covers a total land area of almost 60,000 square meters and offers an estimated 22,000 square meters of production, warehouse and office floor space. STIHL Advisory and Supervisory Chair Nikolas Stihl said the new production plant with a 650-strong workforce is a milestone in the history of STIHL and Zama. It is projected to produce about 2 million carburetors in 2016.



Ambassador Melita Sta. Maria-Thomeczek with former Ambassador to Germany, Delia Albert (3rd from left), German Ambassador to the Philippines, Thomas Ossowski (5th from right), PEZA's Director General, Lilia de Lima (6th from right), Dr. Nikolas Stihl, Chairman and other Officials of STIHL advisory and supervisory boards during the Inauguration at Sto. Tomas, Batangas

GPCCI Inauguration

Parliamentary State Secretary of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy Brigitte Zypries called on Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario during her October 2015 visit to the Philippines. She was accompanied by a high-ranking business delegation from Germany. They witnessed the inauguration of the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GPCCI) as a full-fledged member of the German Chamber Network (AHK).



Information Seminar on Civil Security Industries in the Philippines

28 April 2016, Hamburg. The focus of the seminar was to explore possibilities by which German business could come to the PHL and engage in security technologies. These included finding solutions for critical issues such as disaster mitigation, traffic and transportation systems, protection of infrastructure such as cybernet systems, airports, hospitals, etc. Co-organized by the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy and the German-PHL Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GPCCI), the whole-day event was held at the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce.

It was facilitated by Ms. Dorothea Mertens of Foreign Markets Consulting. Ambassador Sta. Maria-Thomeczek presented the strengths and areas for development in the PHL. Director Allan Tabell of DILG briefed the group on the present disaster mitigation steps being undertaken in the PHL. The experiences of German business in the sector were also shared by German companies already in the PHL. Mr. Peter Kompalla of GPCCI talked about how to do business in the country. The seminar will be followed up by a possible mission to the PHL in late 2016 or early 2017.



PHL IT-Business Process Management Investment Roadshow to Germany

21 March 2016, Berlin. The Ambassador welcomed participants from the German business IT sector to a briefing on the IT-BPM industry in the PHL, and opportunities for investments. She talked briefly of the tremendous economic growth of the country in the last years (6% on the average) and the advantages of a well-educated populace in the IT sector. Commercial Counsellor Althea Antonio moderated the event and proudly announced that the IT-BPM industry was now the fastest growing sector of the PHL economy with a compound annual growth rate of 28 %, plus or minus.

Organized by the PTIC-Berlin (PHL Trade and Investment Center) on 21 March at the Swissotel, the briefing had Director Angelica Cayas of the BOI and Mr. Genny Inocencio-Marcial of the IT and Business Process Association of the PHL (IBPAP) as resource persons.

Testimonials on the Philippines were given by officers of German companies in the PHL with special IT components, namely Mr. Detlev von Ramm of Continental and Mr. Steffen Rittner of Bosch Communications Center.

IT and BPM Germany Forum



26 April, Berlin. The Ambassador was a guest at the Forum and gave an introduction of the IT and BPM (Business Process Management) sector in the Philippines. “The first call center in the PHL was opened in 1992. By 2010, we would be labeled as the world’s business process outsourcing capital.... In the world, we are now no. 1 in voice and no. 2 in non-voice / global in-house center (GICs), next

only to India...” She briefed the audience on PHL advantages which have catapulted the country to this position.

The Forum was well-attended by members of the German Association who were both “buyers” and “providers” in Germany and neighboring countries. It was a good opportunity to present the PHL as an alternative site for European IT companies.



(Left to Right): Mr. Stephan Fricke, CEO and Head of the Advisory Board, German Outsourcing Association, Philippine Ambassador Sta. Maria-Thomeczek and Ms. Althea Antonio, Commercial Counsellor, PHL Trade and Investment Center (PTIC), Berlin at the 26 April 2016 briefing event of PTIC on investment potentials in the IT-BPM sector in the Philippines.



Hannover Fair

27 April 2016, Hannover. The Philippine Ambassador discussed the pillars of the ASEAN Economic Integration and the present PHL strengths in IT and Business Process Management (BPM) during a group discussion titled ASEAN Growth Market for German Business which was held on the sidelines of the Hannover Fair 2016. The group forum was organized by the German International Chamber of Commerce. With an audience of business representatives, Mr. Peter Kompalla, Head of the German-PHL Chamber of Commerce and Industry (left of Ambassador) was also a resource speaker at the forum.

The annual Hannover Fair has been dubbed as the “world’s premier industrial fair” attended by 5,000 exhibitors and an estimated 200,000 visitors. The PHL participated in Hannover Fair 2015.

Sentro Rizal Film Festival

NCCA, Embassy's Sentro Rizal and Filipino Organizations Bring Filipino Films to Cologne and Munich



Left Photo: The Dom Forum filling up to capacity prior to the screening of *K'na, the Dreamweaver*. Right Photo: Members of Filipiniana, e.V., organizers of the Bonifacio film screening, pose in front of the movie theater with Minister and Consul General Donna Rodriguez (standing second to the right)

The Embassy's Sentro Rizal Film Festival made its debut in Germany with Ida del Mundo's period piece, *K'na the Dreamweaver*, at the Dom Forum in the center of Cologne on 28 April 2016. It was followed by simultaneous screenings on 30 April of Jerrold Tarog's *Heneral Luna* at the Film Forum in Cologne and Enzo William's *Bonifacio: Ang Unang Pangulo* in the Rio Film-palast in Munich.

The Film Festival was sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) in cooperation with Artikulo Uno Productions and the Sentro Rizal Berlin of the Philippine Embassy.

Local Filipino organizations promoted and organized the film showing in their cities with

the support of the Philippine Consulates in Bavaria and North Rhine Westphalia.

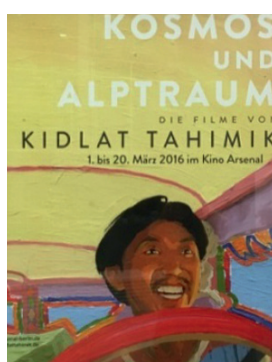
The Katolisches Bildungswerk, Friends e.V., Babaylan Germany e.V. and Philippinische Katolische Gemeinde Köln banded together to bring *K'na the Dreamweaver* to Cologne while the European Network of the Filipino Diaspora (ENFID), Germany Chapter, took the lead with *Heneral Luna*. In Munich, the Filipiniana e.V. München brought together the Filipino community for the screening of the *Bonifacio: Ang Unang Pangulo*.

Special guest at the screening of *Heneral Luna* was Artikulo Uno's Project Associate Celina Peñaflorida who responded to questions about the making of *K'na the Dreamweaver* and *Heneral Luna*.

Consul General Donna Rodriguez was at the Bonifacio screening in Munich while Consul Rona Beth Goce represented the Embassy at the two film showing in Cologne. Ambassador Melita Sta.Maria-Thomeczek also graced the Heneral Luna screening.

Sentro Rizal and its role in promoting Philippine arts, culture and language through their branches in the Philippine Embassies were introduced during the three events.

The showing of *Heneral Luna* on 30 April 2016 attracted a crowd of more than 200 attendees with some coming as far away as the Netherlands. During the post-screening Q&A, one of attendees commented that „Having this film in Germany is important for Filipinos living abroad not to lose track of our history...”



The First-Ever Complete Retrospective of Kidlat Tahimik Films debuts at the Arsenal

“Cosmos and Nightmare,” the first complete retrospective of the works of Filipino film director, writer and actor Eric de Guia's (aka Kidlat Tahimik), successfully opened at the Arsenal Theater in Berlin with the screening of “Perfumed Nightmare,” his debut film which earned him recognition at the Berlin International Film Festival in 1977. Considered to be a cult film of post-colonial cinema, the Perfumed Nightmare enabled him to make more films and paved the way for more travels.

Kidlat Tahimik has been known as the “unrelenting rebel of cinema” whose works do not follow conventional production, and whose post-screening appearances have become legendary.

For twelve straight days, from 1 - 12 March 2016, Kidlat was at hand after every screening to discuss and interact with the audience at the Arsenal Theater in Potsdamer Platz, Berlin.

Creating a context for Kidlat's work, the program was enriched by a mini-retrospective of Philippine cinema, as well as a selection of international films that could be associated with Tahimik's films. Some of the Philippine classics have never been screened in Germany while some were shown in recently-restored versions.

Cosmos and Nightmare: The Films of Kidlat Tahimik was curated by Tilman Baumgärtel and Tobias Hering, with funding support from the Capital Cultural Fund and the Goethe-Institute of Manila.

Berlinale Philippine Entry Wins Silver Bear Alfred Bauer Prize



Director Lav Diaz with Ambassador Melita S. Sta. Maria-Thomeczek

The Philippine entry to the Berlin International Film Festival (11-21 February 2016), Lav Diaz's "Hele sa Hiwagang Hapis" (Lullaby to the Sorrowful Mystery), won this year's Silver Bear Alfred Bauer Award. The award—in memory of the festival's founder—is given to a feature film that opens new perspectives on cinematic art.

Diaz's 8-hour epic which was set during the Philippine revolution (1896-1898) had its world premiere on 18 February at the Berlinale Palast with sold-out screening. Filipino actors Piolo Pascual, John Lloyd Cruz, Bernardo Bernardo, Angel Aquino, Cherrie Gil, Alessandra

di Rossi, Susan Africa, Hazel Orenco and Joel Saracho, as well as producers Paul Soriano and Bianca Balbuena, were in attendance.

The film followed the journey of Gregoria de Jesus' 30-day search for the body of missing hero Andres Bonifacio; it featured encounters with fictional characters from *Noli Me Tángere* and *El Filibusterismo*, two novels of Philippine national hero Jose Rizal.

When festival media partner Radio Eins RBB asked Director Lav regarding the length and format of the film, he pointed out, "The power of cinema, once immersed in this alternative world... time becomes immaterial.

There's no short or long film, there's just cinema. I grew up watching cinema in black and white. It is my habitat, for me, cinema is black and white."

"Hele" was among the 19 films included in this year's main competition. The Golden Bear for best film was awarded to Gianfranco Rosi's "Fuocoammare" (Fire at Sea), a documentary about refugees in the island of Lampedusa.

The Philippine Embassy gave support to the entry through promotion and a special dinner to honor the movie cast, producers and director.

The First Reel

Philippine Film Festival Berlin Packs Kino Movimiento

The first-ever Philippine film festival in Berlin on 18-20, 25-27 November 2015, dubbed "The First Reel: Philippine Film Festival Berlin," was made possible through the close collaboration of the Philippine Embassy with two Filipino community organizations, the Philippine Studies Series Berlin and the Kapisanan ng mga Pilipino sa Aachen, e.V.

The six-day festival showcased four full-length films which included two screenings of Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil's "Boses," Dan Villegas' "English Only Please," Sigrid Andrea Bernardo's "Ang Huling Cha-cha ni Anita," and Jerrold Tarog's "Heneral Luna," as well as an evening of five short films from emerging Filipino filmmakers.

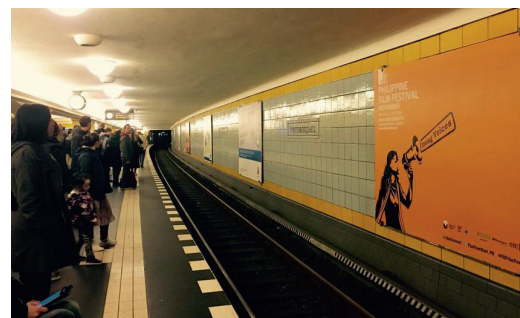
The screenings were followed by panel discussions on the state and prospects of Southeast Asian cinema, language and migration and visual storytelling with producers, film scholars, film enthusiasts and artists as panelists.

Special guests of the Festival were Ricky Davao (Boses) and Jay Bordon (Huling Chacha ni Anita.)

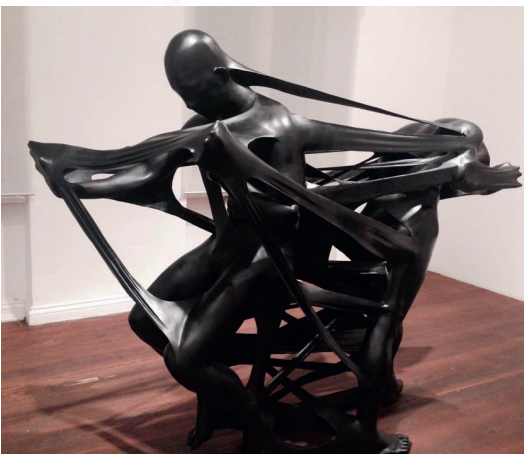
Kino Movimiento, the oldest running cinema in Berlin, was fully packed with German and Filipino audiences during the screenings. The festival was promoted through a radio interview, a billboard advertisement at one of the prime subway stations in Berlin - Hermannplatz (U7), brochures, websites and social media.



Jay Bordon (Huling Chacha ni Anita.)



1st photo: 18/1 Poster of the film festival at the U-Bahn station Hermannplatz. (Sponsored by the Embassy)
2nd photo: Panel discussion in the Kino Movimiento with guest Ricky Davao.



Shadows by Ronald Ventura, 2015

Wasak! Filipino Art Today

Philippine Contemporary Artists Rock the Berlin Art Scene

Filipino Contemporary Art were featured by the Arndt Gallery in a group exhibition, "Wasak! Filipino Art Today," from 5 December 2015 to 31 January 2016 in their two locations in Berlin. Exhibiting Filipino artists included Zean Cabangis, Annie Cabigting, Buen Calubayan, Louie Cordero, Jigger Cruz, Marina Cruz, Kawayan De Guia, Alfredo Esquillo, Ian Fabro, Nona Garcia, Robert Langenegger, Pow Martinez, Manuel Ocampo, Alwin Reamillo, Norberto Roldan, Kaloy Sanchez, José Santos III, Rodel Tapaya, Tatong Torres and Ronald Ventura.

During the opening of the group exhibition on 5 December 2015, a walk through

the exhibition by gallery owner Matthias Arndt and curators Norman Crisologo and Erwin Romulo gave invited guests an overview of the contemporary art landscape in the Philippines. WASAK! offered snapshots of current artistic practices from the Philippines, uniting a selection of its leading protagonists across generational lines, genres, and media.

The Philippine Embassy co-sponsored the exhibit opening and promoted the presence of Filipino artists in the distinguished art gallery.

Mr. Matthias Arndt: An Aficionado of Modern Philippine Art

Matthias Arndt is the founding director of the Arndt Gallery in Berlin. The gallery was established in 1994 as one of the first contemporary art galleries with an international profile in the former East Berlin, and recently in the vibrant art landscapes of Asia - particularly Southeast Asia and the Pacific region.

With over 28 years in the art business, Arndt has established himself as an expert authority in the field of international contemporary art. He was named a "Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres" and inducted as a member of the Order of Arts and Letters by the French Ministry of Culture. He is a member of the Tate Asia Pacific Acquisitions Committee.

Below are his thoughts on Philippine contemporary art:

"I am extremely excited by a new generation of contemporary practitioners from the Philippines working in a variety of styles and media.

Painting is a particularly strong thread in many of the artist's practices. For example in the bold work of Jigger Cruz, Rodel Tapaya, Annie Cabigting, Pow Martinez, Nona Garcia, José Santos III, Ronald Ventura, and Marina Cruz.

The "WASAK! Filipino Art Today" exhibition is a landmark survey exhibition of contemporary Filipino art held in Europe. The underlying motivation of our exhibition in Berlin was to shed light on the fascinating contemporary art landscape in the Philippines. We are extremely excited to be exploring this fresh, new territory that in turn allows us to introduce Western audiences to a multitude of new artistic positions that represent the future of contemporary art in Southeast Asia.

Interestingly, contemporary art from the Philippines is not really perceived as "Asian" so Western audiences can deal with the works better than as they would do with

Chinese or Indonesian art. It seems that the visual language and iconography is closer to the European and western language. Also making the effort to publish an extremely comprehensive publication about Filipino Art and putting the work in a historical and contemporary context pays off. Feedback and press have been excellent and there has been a strong fascination and curiosity for this new generation of Filipino artists."



The installation of a segment of the Berlin Wall at the National Museum in October 2015 was highlighted by a simple program with guests, among others, L-R: DFA Usec Linglingay Lacanlale, Assistant Secretary Cleofe Natividad of the Office of European Affairs, DFA, Mrs. Gretchen del Rosario, Secretary Albert del Rosario,

State Secretary Brigitte Zypries, Amb. Millie Sta. Maria-Thomeczek and Amb. Thomas Ossowski (behind), Mr. Ramon del Rosario, National Museum Trustee, Dr. Ana Labrador and Mr. Jeremy Barnes of the National Museum and Mr. Michael Hasper, Deputy Chief of Mission of the German Embassy.

Berlin Wall at the National Museum in Manila

The piece of the Berlin Wall donated by the Berlin Senate to the city of Manila in the late 90s was finally brought to Manila in July 2015. It has found a temporary home at the National Museum. A segment of the wall - designated as number 22 in a series of 40 sections - was formally installed at the Museum on 22 October 2015, during the visit of State Secretary Brigitte Zypries of the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy in Manila.

Ceremonially accepting the donation were Secretary Albert del Rosario and National Museum officials headed by Director Jeremy Barnes.

"The piece of wall is a sign that democracy, freedom and peace prevail over dicta-

torship. It is a token of friendship between Berlin and Manila," she explained.

Secretary del Rosario noted the significance of the Berlin Wall in relation to the 1986 People Power Movement in the Philippines. Germany's own people power, which led to its reunification followed, suit in 1989-90. The Secretary also acknowledged the support of the German cargo ship Kuhne and Nagel and the German Embassy in Manila for the problem-free shipment of the wall to the Philippines.

There are 7 other Asian countries with a piece of the wall: Australia, Bangladesh, Israel, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan.

Female policymakers, diplomats, and activists in Berlin tackle women's issues

'Women and Poverty' was the subject of a forum held among women members of Parliament, Ambassadors of developing countries, and civil society activists in Germany on 16 February 2016 at the Paul Lobe Haus, Berlin. The idea for the forum was initially broached by Ambassador Melita Sta. Maria-Thomeczek with MP Bärbel Kofler.

The forum was attended by MP Kofler, MP Gabriela Heinrich, parliamentary staff, and the Ambassadors and female officers of the embassies of the Philippines, Botswana, Brazil, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Jamaica, Lesotho, Myanmar, Nicaragua, South Sudan, Thailand, and Zimbabwe.

Presentations about their respective women empowerment initiatives were delivered by Ms. Karin Nordmeyer of UN Women, Professor. Dr. Claudia Warning of Brot für die

Welt, Ms. Renate Bähr of Deutsche Stiftung Weltbevölkerung, and Ms. Bärbel Dieckmann of Welthungerhilfe.

There was agreement on the importance of education and on the importance of involving the men in women empowerment initiatives. "We need to educate, not just legislate" was a key statement during the forum. More women should be placed in leadership and decision-making roles, not only to serve as role models, but more so, to have a greater input in policymaking. The par-

ticipants also highlighted the part played by cultural practices, noting that stereotypes in the depiction of women in art, for example, should be challenged.



Power women - Female Ambassadors with Parliamentarians and key resource persons from invited NGOs gathered at the Paul Lobe Haus for a lecture and discussion on "Developing Women's Potential to Fight Poverty".

Philippine Embassy Celebrates Women's Month with a Vernissage of the Prints of Lenore RS Lim

On the occasion of Women's Month and in celebration of International Women's Day, the Philippine Embassy in Berlin hosted the opening of "Pieces of Dreams," an exhibit featuring the works of Philippine Prints Artist Lenore RS Lim.

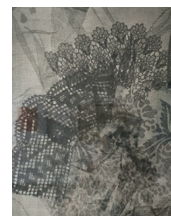
Lim is an acclaimed Filipina printmaker based in Manila, New York and Vancouver.

The Federal Foreign Office's Director for Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific, Ms. Birgit Ory was the guest of honor. She joined Ms. Lim and Ambassador Melita S. Sta. Maria-Thomeczek in the ribbon cutting ceremony to formally open the exhibit on 8 March 2016.

Lim received the Presidential Award (Pamana ng Pilipino Award) for Filipinos overseas, in 2004 and the Outstanding Professional Award for Fine Arts from the University of the Philippines Alumni Association in 2005 for her accomplishments in the arts. She enjoys a growing audience of collectors in the United States, where she was awarded a prestigious Jackson Pollock-Lee Krasner Foundation Grant, among other honors.

Her work is included in the U.S. Library of Congress and the private collection of Agnes Gund, Chairman and President Emerita of The Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan among others.

The "Pieces of Dreams" exhibit was held at the Philippine Embassy from 9 to 22 March 2016.



Top photo: PH Ambassador, the artist Leonore RS Lim and Ms. Birgit Ory of the FFO at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Bottom photos: Prints included in the exhibit "Weeping Willow" (left) and "Vienna 2" (right)



Filipino Community Leaders in Germany Convene for Ugnayan sa Berlin

On 17 October 2015, around 60 community and student leaders from all over Germany attended the Philippine Embassy and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas' (CFO) "Ugnayan sa Berlin: Engagement, Empowerment and Enterprise."

The whole-day event was packed with a full program focusing on CFO's Programs and Services for Overseas Filipinos, Sending of Donations, Presidential Awards for Filipino Individuals and Organizations Overseas, Volunteer/Study Program for Second Generation Filipino Germans, Retiring in the Philippines, Social Security Agreement Between the Philippines and Germany, Financial Literacy, the Fight Against Human Trafficking, Overseas Voting, and the BaLinkBayan Program: a One-Stop Online Portal for Diaspora Engagement.

The Embassy also displayed the "Children of Tacloban: 100 cameras for 100 children" photo exhibit. This was a project of ARD TV's Singapore correspondent Philipp Abresch. While covering the aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan, Mr. Abresch distributed 100 disposable cameras to 100 children in Tacloban to give a voice to young people through photography.

Ambassador Melita Sta. Maria-Thomeczek emphasized the importance of engaging second generation Filipino-Germans to better appreciate their heritage by encouraging them to join CFO's Lakbay Aral program. Attendees were also asked to echo their experiences and insights to other members of their respective organizations.

Kinderhilfe Philippinen e.V. Stages Benefit Concert

On 7 November 2015, Kinderhilfe Philippinen e.V. held the 14th Deutsch-Philippinischer Kulturabend in Saarbruecken for the benefit of the Educational Research and Development Foundation (ERDA), an NGO based in the Philippines. The benefit concert was produced in cooperation with the Regionalverband Saarbrücken and was held at the Schloss Saarbruecken before 100 guests.

Ambassador Melita Sta. Maria-Thomeczek, expressed her heartfelt appreciation to the foundation and her gratitude for the generosity of its patrons. She gave the audience a brief overview of the Philippines and its people and invited them to visit the Philippines.

This year's Kulturabend featured the choral artistry of the Schülerin und Schüler der Musik-AG des Otto-Hahn-Gymnasiums and the Yellow Submarine Project from Saarbruecken. Renditions of solos and duets were presented by Tenor Charles Robin Broad and Filipino talents Mylah Rubio (cultural attaché) and Jose Mari Rubio. The Pilipinas Cultural Dance Troupe regaled the audience with colorful Philippine dances.

The event has grown into a major charity affair in the Saarland cultural calendar since its inception in 1993.

Ambassador's Residence Opens its Doors to Filipino Students in Berlin

On 24 October 2015, thirty Filipino students in Germany were invited for a gathering at the Philippine Ambassador's residence for a brainstorming session on Gender and Development (GAD) projects and plans for collaboration with young Filipinos in the country.

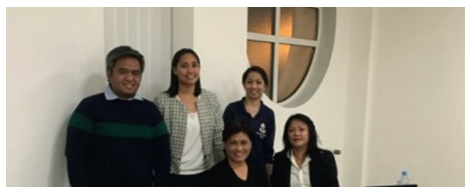


Consular Mobile Outreach in Essen, Hamburg, and Munich

Essen

For the Philippine Embassy's tenth and final consular outreach in 2015, the Embassy met with members of the Filipino community from all over North Rhine-Westphalia on 14 November 2015. The Embassy processed 132 passport renewals and 74 consular-related documents. Venue was the Philippine Consulate General, a.h. in Essen.

Interested applicants were also able to consult with Ms. Wilma M. Ortiz and Mr. Lester Paul S. Mata of the Philippine Social Security System (SSS) Milan Representative Office who joined the Embassy team in reaching out to Filipinos in Essen. The SSS officials answered queries and processed SSS membership contributions during the one-day outreach.



Hamburg

The first Consular Mobile Outreach for 2016 was conducted on 27 February 2016 in Hamburg in cooperation with the Federation of Filipino Organizations in Northern Germany (FFONG) headed by the President, Ms. Conchita Heitmann. The consular outreach was held at Freie Evangelische Gemeinde "Holstenwall" in Hamburg. Piloting the Embassy's online appointment system, a total of 103 services were successfully rendered during the said outreach.

Applicants were also able to process their SSS payments through Ms. Wilma M. Ortiz and

Munich

Almost 200 Filipinos in Bavaria and surrounding areas availed of consular services in Munich during a one-day consular outreach on 19 September 2015. Venue was the Philippine Consulate a.h. in Nussbaumstraße. The team processed a total of 155 passports, 13 civil registry reports, and 18 other consular-related services. Overseas voter registration was also conducted.



Mr. Lester Paul S. Mata of the Philippine Social Security System (SSS) Milan Representa-



Upcoming Consular Outreach Missions Across Germany

25 June 2016 - Bonn

Kath. Pfarrgemeinde St. Winfried
Sträßchensweg 3, 53113 Bonn

02 July 2016 - Frankfurt

5th Floor, Haus A, DEKRA Akademie GmbH
Wächtersbacher Strasse 83, 60386
Frankfurt am Main

23 July 2016 - Schifferstadt

Kath. Pfarrheim St. Jacobs
Kirchenstrasse 10, 67105 Schifferstadt

03 September 2016 - Munich

Munich Philippine Honorary Consulate
Nussbaumstr. 10, 80336 München

17 September 2016 - Essen

Essen Philippine Honorary Consulate
Gildehofstr. 2, 45127 Essen

15 October 2016 - Ulm

Kath. Kirchengemeinde St. Michael
Wengengasse 6, 89073 Ulm

tive Office who once again joined the Philippine Embassy team in Hamburg.

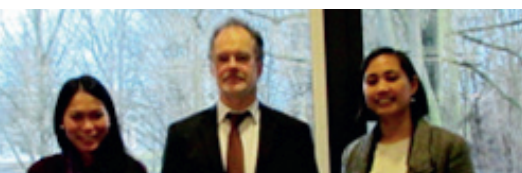


Philippine Delegation Attends the Final Hearings of the Arbitration Case in The Hague

On 23 - 25 November, a PHL delegation attended the final hearings of the "Arbitration before an Arbitral Tribunal constituted under Annex VII to the 1982 United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea between the Republic of the Philippines and the People's Republic of China" at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. The Philippines was represented by lead counsel Paul Reichler who led a group of lawyers and resource persons in the case.

Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert del Rosario and Philippine Solicitor General Florin Hilbay led the PHL delegation. Also attending as observers were the PHL Ambassadors to the UK, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Spain and the Consul General of San Francisco.

In his concluding remarks, Secretary del Rosario stated that "There are those who think the rule of law in international relations does not apply to Great Powers. We reject that view. International law is the great equalizer among States. It allows small countries to stand on an equal footing with more powerful States. Those who think 'might makes right' have it backwards. It is exactly the opposite, in that right makes right."



DAP Explores Academic Cooperation with German Institutions Specializing in Public Administration

In a bid to fast track faculty and student exchanges and expand cooperation, the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) and Philippine Embassy representatives held back-to-back meetings from 8 to 15 February 2016 with German universities and institutions specializing in good governance, public policy and administration and the training of civil servants.

The Embassy coordinated the meetings of Ms. Merliza Makinano, Managing Director of the DAP's International Marketing Center, with current and potential partner institutions across four German Federal States.

Ms. Makinano was assisted by Mr. Ruperto Aparri III, Assistant Director for International Relations and Institutional Strategic Partnerships. Also present was Second Secretary and Consul Rona Beth G. Goce.

Areas of cooperation were mapped out during discussions with university rectors and professors of the German University of

Administrative Sciences Speyer, University of Applied Sciences Kehl, Harz University of Applied Sciences and the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin. The meetings also covered opportunities for scholarships, further training and internships to both countries.

During the meeting with the Director of Berlin's College of Public Administration (VAK), the two sides exchanged ideas on continuing education, executive training and modernization of administration.

The DAP briefed their German counterparts on DAP's current priorities and projects, including developing institutional linkages with international partners. The organization, which is under the Office of the President, aims to strengthen the competitiveness and effectivity of the Philippine public sector through customized courses and programs. It is also the National Productivity Organization of the Philippines.

Starting from the first picture downwards: DAP's Merliza Makinano and Mr. Ruperto Aparri III and Second Secretary and Consul Rona Beth G. Goce met with Prof. Paul Witt, Rector of University of Applied Sciences Kehl and university professors, Prof. Dr. Holger Mühlenkamp, Vice Rector of German University of Administrative Sciences, Speyer, Mr. Wolfgang Schyrocki, Director of the Berlin's College of Public Administration (VAK), Prof. Dr. Georg Westermann, Vice-Rector of Research and International Affairs of the Harz University of Applied Sciences and Prof. Dr. Gerhard Hammerschmid of Hertie School of Governance.

Embassy hosts Retooling Seminar on Gender Sensitivity and HR Management

The Philippine Embassy in Berlin hosted the Regional Seminar on Gender Sensitivity and Human Resources Management from 10 to 14 December 2015. The seminar was attended by thirty-seven GAD focal points from European posts, as well as the Philippine Embassies in Tel Aviv and Beirut.

The participants had lively exchanges especially on Human Trafficking, Assistance to Nationals and Human Resources. The seminar was conducted by the Foreign Service Institute, Human Resources Management Office and Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers Affairs (OUMWA) of the Department of Foreign Affairs.



PHL Delegation Observes Germany's Dual Education System to integrate with K-12

A twenty-person delegation from the Philippines crisscrossed Germany to get an in depth look at Germany's dual education system and to learn which elements of the German model could be successfully incorporated into the Philippine setting. The group visited Frankfurt, Berlin, Bonn and Stuttgart from 12 to 16 October 2015.

Tobias Bolle, Project Director of Dual Training at the German-Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GPCCI), helped organize the Philippine delegation with representatives from the Department of Education, TESDA, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and its local chapters as well as private PHL companies such as TÜV Rheinland Philippines, BAG Electronics and CS Garments Inc.

The study tour was part of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) funded K-12 Plus Project, which is creating pilot models for the vocational education and training track at PHL senior high school levels.



The delegation visited the Federal Institute for Vocational Education and Training in Bonn. Ambassador Melita Thomczek with the Institute's Deputy President Reinhold Weiß, (front, 4th from right) joined the group.

Retiring in the Philippines

Frequently Asked Questions

From the Philippine Retirement Authority....:

1. Can you name the top three retirement destinations in the Philippines?

Where do Germans prefer to stay in the Philippines?

By region, most of the PRA retiree-members are located in NCR, in Makati City predominantly. The next top destination is the CALABARZON Region, with Batanga-Cavite-Tagaytay as the preferred destination. The third top destination is the Central Luzon region with Subic in Zambales as the province with the most PRA retirees. Pampanga, Cebu and Davao are also among the most preferred destinations in the country.

The majority of PRA - member German nationals still prefer to stay in NCR, Cebu, Romblon, Bohol, and Negros Oriental

2. How many Europeans - Germans, in particular - have availed so far of the SRRV?

Do you have a general age-bracket of foreigners that retire in the Philippines?

As of December 2015, PRA has enrolled 610 German retirees, 55 of them are German nationals who were former Filipino citizens. Although the minimum age requirement for the SRRV is 35 years old, most of the PRA retiree-members are between 50-64 years old of age. Thus age group compose 42% of the Authority's total enrollment

3. Why do you think there are more former Filipino citizens who have acquired German citizenship that choose to retire in the Philippines?

German former Filipino citizens prefer to retire in the Philippines because they know that the country will have much to offer them in terms of cost of living & living relatively more comfortably, given a monthly pension of US\$1,000 to US\$1,500.

4. What is the advantage of applying for the SRRV, as compared to the other types of non-immigrant or immigrant visas?

The Special Resident Retiree's Visa relative to other visas is designed to have hassle-free features that could cover different requirements of its holders/retiree-members, such as permanent residency, investment, employment, and education in the Philippines. Which is also inclusive to the retirees' dependents.

5. What benefits do I enjoy as a foreign retiree under the PRA's retirement program?

SRRV is a special non-immigrant, multiple-entry, indefinite-stay visa which allows holders to stay in the Philippines for as long as they wish to stay in the country without giving up their citizenship. Other benefits include:

1. Multiple Entry Privilege - retiree-members are allowed to come in and out of the country anytime & as often as they may want
2. Exemptions from the following:
 - Philippine Bureau of Immigration Annual Certificate of Registration (ACR) / I-Card:
 - Alien Registration (AR);
 - Emigration Clearance Certificate (ECC);
 - Re-entry Permit (RP); and
 - Special Return Certificate (SRC).
 - Customs Duties and Taxes for the importation of household goods and personal effects up to US\$7,000.00
 - Tax on pension and annuities;
 - Travel tax, if stay in the country is less than one year from the last entry date;

- Student Visa/Special Study Permit,
- Work/Employment Visa, and
- Purchasing of a Return Ticket.

3. Access to Greet and Assist Program at the NAIA, Cebu and Davao Airports
4. Free subscription of the PRN (PRA Newsletter)

With the SRRV, retiree-members who decide to pursue further employment in the Philippines only need to secure a work permit from the DOLE, given that the retirement visa is already a valid work visa. They can also establish a business (enter into a partnership or corporation), using other funds, not including the visa deposit required to acquire the SRRV.

6. Can foreign retirees get full health insurance coverage if they retire in the Philippines?

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth) already provided health care coverage/benefits to foreign nationals and former Filipinos who wish to retire in the country through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Philippine Retirement Authority.

7. How can I get more information about the PRA?

For more information, please visit the PRA's website at www.pra.gov.ph. You can also send email to inquiry@pra.gov.ph or clientrelations@pra.gov.ph or call (+632) 848 1412 loc. 150.



Make the Philippines your retirement destination through the Special Resident Retiree's Visa



www.pra.gov.ph
+632.848.1412

Visit the PRA desk at the Philippine Pavilion, Internationale Tourismus Borse (ITB) 2016.

New Philippine Embassy building to rise in Berlin first half of 2018.

The contract to purchase a property and build a Philippine Embassy near the Government center in Berlin was completed through a notarization process on 20 April 2016. The building will rise in a 402 square meter property and will have an estimated total of 1,053.48 square meters of floor space. It will be a 6-storey building with a basement space; location is at the Luisenstrasse / Charitestrasse 7, 10117 Berlin. It is expected to be finished after 18 months of construction period.



The Embassy Team (from left to right) Finance Officer Cecile Estrella, Administrative Officer Milagros Antonio-Kropp, Property Officer Amor del Mundo and the Ambassador pose with the Notary Public, Dr. Marcus Fuhrmann, and property developer Mr. Wilmar Lorenz, President of Zielconcept, GmbH and his team. Behind the Ambassador: Dr. Michal Deja, legal adviser and technical consultant of the Embassy.



Red Constantino, Head of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities, discussed with Filcom and Embassy staff what happened in Paris and, in general terms, the challenges ahead.

UPLIFT

Philippines Embassy's lecture series kicks off with talks on Climate Change, Financial Literacy and Philippine development

Two months after the historic 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris, the Philippine Embassy in Berlin hosted a lecture in February 2016 by one of the members of the NGO Philippine delegation to the conference. Mr. Renato Redentor "Red" Constantino, Head of the Institute for Climate and Sustainable Cities (iCSC), talked about the significance of the Paris accord. In particular, he conveyed the agreement among 195 nations, which the Philippines helped push, to limit global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. He also highlighted the challenges ahead for the country, including the need to embrace more renewable energy sources and move away from coal and other traditional fossil fuels.

In March, Ms. Marivic Mamaradlo, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Senior Economic Development Specialist, gave a presentation to Embassy staff on the various aspects of development planning and policy formulation, and

coordination, evaluation and monitoring of plan implementation. She is in Germany on a training secondment at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and the Federal Ministry for Environment.

For the year's third installment of the UPLIFT (Understanding the Philippines through Lectures and Interviews with Filipinos in Town), the Embassy welcomed the Chairperson of the Philippine National Bank's Board of Directors, Mrs. Florencia G. Tarriela in April 2016. With her wealth of experience in the financial sector, attendees learned about how to maintain the health of their finances as well as basic financial instruments for investments that are currently available in the Philippines.

UPLIFT is the Embassy's continuing education platform for its staff and the Filipino Community. The lecture series hopes to give updates on relevant issues affecting the Philippines. This is done via invitation for Filipino officials visiting Berlin to talk of their expertise or other relevant topics to gatherings hosted by the Embassy.

Team Philippines Consultation Meeting

The Philippine Embassy in Berlin hosted an Annual Consultation with its attached agencies consisting of the Philippine Trade and Investment Center (PTIC), Office of the Agricultural Attaché (OAA), Philippine Department of Tourism (PDOT), as well as with the four Philippine Consulates under its jurisdiction on 24 February 2015.





Following the Footsteps of Rizal in East Germany

The Embassy held its 2015 Team Building Activity in Dresden in November 2015 with the theme, "Enhancing Teamwork and Appreciating the Footsteps of Rizal in Germany: A Berlin PE Staff Development and Cultural Orientation Program."

The Philippine National Hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, left artifacts in Dresden (barong, textiles, knives etc.). Visitors can see these artifacts at the Dresden Museum of Ethnology by appointment. Embassy officers and staff gained a greater appreciation of the activi-

ties and works of Rizal in Germany as they acquired more knowledgeable not only of Rizal's works but also the history of the places where he went.

Rizal spent a significant part of his life in Germany. He studied Ophthalmology in Heidelberg and Wilhelmsfeld and he wrote the final chapters of his novel, "Noli me Tangere" in Berlin. He also travelled extensively within the country. To this day, Rizal serves as a symbolic figure of the deep cultural relations between the Philippines and Germany.



German Class Graduation

The Philippine Embassy celebrated the graduation of Embassy personnel enrolled in the Embassy's in-house German course. All eleven (11) Embassy staff successfully passed the A1 Level and will move on to the A2 Level.

New Personnel



Ms. Margarita Patricia R. Valdes

*Tourism Attaché
DOT-Frankfurt*

Ms. Valdes joined the Philippine Department of Tourism (DOT) last 2012, and handled the multi-awarded global campaign It's More Fun in the Philippines as the Chief Marketing & Promotions Executive in the DOT's Office of the Secretary. Prior to this, she worked as an Account Manager in advertising agency Campaigns & Grey, where she was assigned to multinational clients such as Wyeth Philippines Inc., Boehringer Ingelheim, and GlaxoSmithKline. She was awarded the 8th Top Account Manager in the adobo Creative Rankings 2011 given by adobo magazine, a highly respected advertising industry publication in the Philippines.

She graduated Cum Laude from the Ateneo de Manila University, where she earned a degree in AB Communications.



Mr. Ralph S. Eguia

*Translator, Interpreter
and Consular Assistant*

Mr. Eguia is an International Business Graduate of Maastricht University in the Netherlands. He joined the Philippine Embassy in Berlin as a local hire in September 2015, after having undergone an internship at the Embassy in 2012. During his studies, he also did a traineeship in the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines in Manila.

ASEAN Economic Community



4 December 2015: The seminar “ASEAN Community 2015 and Beyond” which was held at the Federal Foreign Office, discussed the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) to the German public, particularly the business sector. The establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015 is a major milestone in the regional economic integration agenda of

the ASEAN, offering opportunities in the form of a huge market of US\$2.6 trillion and over 622 million people. In 2014, the AEC was collectively the third largest economy in Asia and the seventh largest in the world. The Berlin ASEAN Committee (BAC), composed of ASEAN Ambassadors, co-sponsored the project and actively participated during the seminar.



Photo shows: Mr. Jan Ehlen of the BMW Group (3rd from left) and Mr. Reinhold Strauss of the KfW Development Bank (left). Mr. Rainer Rohdewold (2nd from left) moderated.

OAV ASEAN Expert Groups Final Paper

13 April 2016, Berlin. The ASEAN Expert Group's Final Paper, commissioned by the Ost-Asiatische Verein (OAV) or the German Asia-Pacific Business Association, was ceremoniously turned over to State Secretary Brigitte Zypries of the Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (middle) and State Secretary Hans Joachim Fuchtel of the Ministry for Development Cooperation (second from right), Ambassador Norbert Riedel of the Foreign Office (left) and Ambassador Melita Sta.Maria-Thomeczek, representing the Berlin ASEAN Committee. OAV Member of the Executive Board Timo Prekop (right) did the turnover.

The Study highlighted the importance of German business pursuing a win-win relationship with ASEAN. This will contribute to better cooperation with ASEAN's markets. There was also a need to actively make German business conscious of the market potentials of the region. Cooperation with ASEAN

can be in the areas of education for capacity building (promoting the dual-tech model, internships, etc.) technology partnerships, more dialogues between politics and business on future issues such as green technologies, health, IT, etc.), continuing the European trade strategy (the Trans-Pacific Partnership can be a standard, FTAs, etc.) and contributing to regional connectivity.

The turn-over ceremony was followed by a short panel discussion on ASEAN as a Growth Region: Perspectives and Challenges. Ambassador Sta.Maria-Thomeczek talked of the potentials which ASEAN can now take on - given the ASEAN Economic Integration. However, she emphasized, the individual characteristics of each ASEAN country should always be taken into account. The German members of the panel talked of the challenges facing German business and the need to identify strengths to develop a long-term strategy in ASEAN.

Brandenburg Water Academy Visit

4 April 2016: ASEAN Ambassadors visited the Brandenburg Water Academy and the Berlin-Brandenburg Airport and were briefed about water system technologies in the State of Brandenburg and the construction of the new international airport in Berlin.





12 November 2015: Berlin ASEAN Committee (BAC) meeting with Minister-President of Saxony Stanislaw Tillich at the State Chancellery of Saxony.



18 February 2016: ASEAN Ambassadors at the German parliament for a breakfast meeting with the ASEAN Parliamentary Group, hosted by MP Dr. Thomas Gambke (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen). Issues of concerns to ASEAN were discussed.



26 February 2016. The Philippine Ambassador signing the Guest Book of the City of Bremen along with other Asian Ambassadors at the 115th Anniversary of the East Asia Association of Bremen.



11 April 2016: Member of Parliament Iris Eberl (CDU/CSU) and staff Mr. Johannes Ortel visited the Embassy to discuss various issues and possible areas of cooperation in her region in Bavaria.

Statement of the Department of Foreign Affairs On the G7 Summit Declaration

The Philippines has taken note of the G7 Ise-Shima Leaders' Declaration issued following the G7 Summit in Ise-Shima, Japan on 26-27 May 2016.

The Declaration addressed major global economic and political challenges, including maritime security. The Philippines welcomes the statement as it underlines the G7's abiding commitment to support efforts to peacefully manage and settle the disputes in the South China Sea in accordance with the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, through mechanisms recognized by international law, including legal procedures such as arbitration. The Philippines reiterates that it will fully respect the outcome of the tribunal process in good faith.

We consider the G7's position to be of critical significance as the international community awaits the outcome of the arbitral process that was initiated in 2013 with respect to the South China Sea. The G7's consistent and firm position on this matter reflects the international community's understanding and support for the Philippines' principled and rules-based approach for addressing disputes in the South China Sea. - [Released on May 30, 2016]

* The Group of 7 (G7) consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The European Union is also represented within the G7.



4 November 2015: Member of Parliament Sabine Weiss (CDU/CSU) and staff Mr. Alexander Pieske with Ambassador Sta. Maria-Thomeczek at the German Parliament. Ms. Weiss has humanitarian projects in the Philippines.



13 April 2016: Secretary General of the Amnesty International Germany, Ms. Selmin Çalışkan, submitted to the Ambassador petitions for the Philippine government on pertinent issues.



For the 2nd time in a row, Conde Nast Traveler readers voted Palawan as the best island in the world in 2015.

Tourism in the Philippines

How many tourists visit the Philippines every year?

A total of 5,360,682 tourists visited the Philippines in 2015, registering a growth of 10.91% compared to the arrivals in 2014. The top 5 nationalities that visit the country come from Korea, the United States of America, Japan, China, and Australia.

In 2015, these visitors contributed a total of PhP 227.62 Billion in tourism receipts, which is an indication of how big a business the tourism industry is. This registered a growth of 5.92% compared to 2014, which gives further evidence of the continuous development of the Philippine tourism industry.

Can you tell us more about the German market?

The German market is consistently one of the top contributors in tourism receipts for the Philippines. They had the highest per capita spending in December 2015, at roughly €1,355 per person, per visit. They also tend to stay in the Philippines for a long period of time, averaging 18.17 nights per visit. Around 48% of the German tourists are found to be repeat visitors, proof that a trip to the Philippines is always a fun experience worth doing again and again.

What is the German's travel behavior?

Traveling is a regular part of a German's life. They tend to travel twice a year, and at

least once to long-haul destinations such as Asia. As frequent travelers, they tend to be more open to new experiences and adventures, and don't mind getting out of their comfort zones for something different. They prefer spending time with communities, and getting to know a country's culture and traditions through the locals.

What are their most visited places?

Top Philippine destinations for the German market include Cebu, Boracay, Banaue, Palawan, and Metro Manila. Considering that most spend an extended period of time in the country, they are usually able to explore places such as Bohol, Pampanga, and Tagaytay as well.

What is the Department of Tourism's vision and target for Philippine tourism in the next years?

In the next few years, the DOT-Frankfurt Office aims to increasingly give the German market opportunities to get to know more of the country's tourism offerings and destinations. Part of the DOT's thrust is to help ensure that the income generated from tourism activities is spread throughout the country; hence, it is crucial that the German market also gets to know and visit places like Camiguin, Siquijor, Cagayan de Oro, and Batanes, all of which have breathtaking sites and fun experiences to offer.

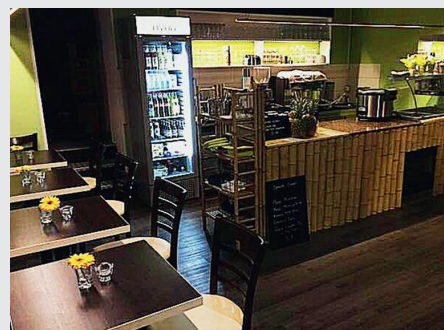
Where to find Filipino Food in Berlin



Pan Restaurant
Marienburger Str.38
10405 Berlin
Tel. 030 89392217



PINOY Philippinische Spezialitäten
Dankelmannstr. 49
14059 Berlin
Tel. 01577 2561083



AYAN Filipino Street Food
Potsdamer Straße 69
10785 Berlin
Tel. 030 23913657

Secretary Baldoz visits Germany, highlights need for sustainable labor cooperation

Philippine Labor Secretary Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz visited Germany in March 2016 together with Assistant Administrator Liberty Casco and Director Nimfa de Guzman of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to promote Philippine-German labor cooperation under the Triple Win Program (TWP).

The visit also celebrated the third anniversary of the signing of the "Agreement Concerning the Placement of Filipino Health Care Professionals in Employment Positions in the Federal Republic of Germany," also known as the Triple Win Project.

The Secretary visited the University Hospital Tübingen, one of the biggest employers of Filipino nurses under the TWP, with 21 Filipino nurses hired so far.

Honorary Consul General Prof. Gerhard Zeidler labeled the nurses as Ambassadors of Goodwill for the program. "Through your work ethics and values, you can convince other hospitals of the worth of Filipino nurses," he said.

In Berlin, Parliamentary State Secretary Thorben Albrecht received Secretary Baldoz for discussions after her brief meeting Federal Minister for Labor and Social Affairs Andrea Nahles.

With its aging population and the high demand for nursing care (one benefit covered by Germany's health insurance system) and with existing nurses retiring, Germany will be needing about 200,000 nurses by 2030. The numbers will fill up not only hospitals but also nursing homes and home care.

Secretary Baldoz and State Secretary Albrecht agreed that apart from government agencies, the private sector would play an important role in implementing such sustainability measures.

The Secretary pushed for stronger cooperation in the area of healthcare human resources development (HRD), including the provision of specialized training for Filipino nurses in such areas as geriatric care.

The Embassy also organized the Secretary's meetings with the TWP partners: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the International Placement Services (ZAV), Vereinte Dienstleistungsgewerkschaft - United Services Trade Union (ver.di), representatives of the private sector, including the Federal Association of Private Social Service (BPA) and Care.com Europe. The discussions centered on the recently issued POEA guidelines for private sector participation in the recruitment of Filipino nurses for deployment to Germany.



Secretary Baldoz and Ambassador Sta. Maria-Thomeczek with officials of the POEA, the Philippine Consulate General in Stuttgart, the University Hospital Tübingen (led by Prof. Dr. Michael Bamberg), International Placement Services (ZAV), and the Filipino nurses working from Tübingen, Freiburg, Munich, and Frankfurt through the "Triple Win Project."

Secretary Baldoz underscored the need to uphold the standards for fair, transparent, and ethical recruitment established through the TWP. She also stressed the importance of fully disclosing to candidate nurses the conditions of work awaiting them abroad. "The social cost of migration is high so the government's objective is to make all information available for prospective migrants to make an informed decision," she said.

Mr. Tobias Stapf of Minor e.V., a German migration research organization presented his Digital Integration Assistant (DINTA), an online platform to help foreign nurses adjust to work and life in Germany, with funding from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research. Secretary Baldoz recognized the usefulness of the tool and suggested that it be included among POEA's online resources for Filipino nurses considering working in Germany.

As of April 2016, 234 Filipino nurses have been accepted of which 128 have been deployed under the Triple Win Program to hospitals in Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Berlin, Freiburg, Munich and Tübingen. They have undergone extensive German language training and have passed initial interviews and examinations from their German hospital-employers.

The Triple Win Program has been called to imply wins from three (3) sides: the Philippines (sending country), Germany (receiving country) and the migrant (the Filipino nurse). Germany has similar programs with Eastern European countries.



Secretary Baldoz and Ambassador Sta. Maria-Thomeczek pose with German Labor Federal Minister for Labor and Social Affairs Andrea Nahles (1st photo) prior to the bilateral meeting with the Ministry of Labor's Parliamentary State Secretary Thorben Albrecht (2nd photo)

REISENBILDET

The Philippine Embassy Berlin and the Commission on Filipinos Overseas

invite you to

Reisen Bildet

- Join fellow Filipino-Germans in a unique cultural immersion program.
- Rediscover your Filipino roots and the diversity of this heritage.
- Be part of guided tours in bustling Manila, see the historic towns of northern Philippines and experience the tropical beaches and wildlife of scenic Palawan.
- Gain insights into Philippine politics, business, culture and social issues.
- Open to 18-25 year old Filipino-Germans.

Program Cost: 1,500 Euros for 14 days.

Inclusive of accommodation, food, in-land transportation, local airfare, travel/health insurance (while in the Philippines) and applicable entrance/tour fees.

Exclusive of roundtrip ticket from Germany to the Philippines.

Registration Deadline: 31 July 2016

For more information:

<http://philippine-embassy.de/reisenbildet>

Email: culture@philippine-embassy.de



Embassy of the
Republic of the
Philippines



COMMISSION ON FILIPINOS OVERSEAS

