PRESS RELEASE

PHL EMBASSY IN ATHENS HOSTS DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION IN CELEBRATION OF THE 118th PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE DAY

To celebrate the 118th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence, the Philippine Embassy in Athens, Greece hosted a diplomatic reception on 14 June 2016 at the Hotel Grand Bretagne in Athens, Greece.

To entertain guests, four (4) Filipino music performers, namely: Ms. Cherry Garlan Caballero, Soprano; Mr. Jemuel Rei Palon Victorino, Tenor; Ms. Ma. Belen Jawili Bautista, Pianist; and Mr. Persival Sengson Bautista, Bass; flew in from Manila to Greece, courtesy of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

San Miguel beer products, courtesy of San Miguel Corporation, together with other Filipino fares such as lechon, lambanog, and mango juice, were served during the reception. Guests were also given gift bags containing polvoron and It’s More Fun in the Philippines brochures.

Around 200 guests from the Greek government, diplomatic corps, business sector and the Filipino community attended the event. Among the guests was Minister Georgios Katrougalos of the Ministry of Labour, Social Insurance and Social Solidarity of the Hellenic Republic.

In his remarks, Philippine Ambassador Nestor Z. Ochoa, cited 2016 as an important year for the Philippines, as Filipinos abroad, for the fifth time, were able to participate in the democratic process of directly electing Philippine national leaders, through the overseas voting program of the government.

Ambassador Ochoa also emphasized the economic gains of the Philippines from 2010 to 2015, citing the Philippines as one of the fastest growing economies in the world, registering an average growth of 6.2 percent. He also mentioned that in spite of the difficult external environment and the onset of the El Niño phenomenon last year, the Philippines still posted a respectable 5.8 percent growth, making it one of the fastest growing economies in Asia.

In closing, Ambassador Ochoa, thanked all of the Philippine Embassy’s friends from the diplomatic and business communities, and especially the Filipino community in Greece, for supporting all of the Philippine Embassy’s initiatives and activities.

16 June 2016
Athens, Greece
Philippine Ambassador Nestor Z. Ochoa (rightmost) and Mrs. Mayie E. Ochoa (leftmost) with Minister Georgios Katrougalos of the Ministry of Labour, Social Insurance and Social Solidarity of the Hellenic Republic.

Ambassador Nestor Z. Ochoa (standing, 8th from left) and Mrs. Mayie E. Ochoa (standing, 9th from left), Minister and Consul General Rosario P. Lemque (standing 7th from left) and Second Secretary and Consul Sheila Marie C. Tario (standing, 10th from left) with Philippine Embassy staff and family members.
Ambassador Nestor Z. Ochoa (center) and Mrs. Mayie E. Ochoa (3rd from left) together with ASEAN Ambassadors, from left, Ambassador Benny Bahanadewa and Mrs. Sarwini Bahanadewa of Indonesia; Ambassador Joompol Manaschuang and Mrs. Patama Manaschuang of Thailand; and Ambassador Tran Thi Ha Phuong of Vietnam.
Philippine Ambassador Nestor Z. Ochoa delivering his remarks during the diplomatic reception.

The Kalayaan 2016 theme
The musical performers courtesy of the Philippine National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), from left: Ms. Cherry Garlan Caballero, Soprano; Mr. Jemuel Rei Palon Victorino, Tenor; Ms. Ma. Belen Jawili Bautista, Piano; and Mr. Persival Sengson Bautista, Bass.

Guests during the diplomatic reception.
Lechon served during the diplomatic reception.
Philippine beverages such as Lambanog, Mango Juice and San Miguel Beer were served during the diplomatic reception.