



## President Benigno S. Aquino leads the nation with conscience

President Benigno S. Aquino III was sworn in by Supreme Court Associate Justice Conchita Carpio-Morales as the 15<sup>th</sup> President of the Republic of the Philippines on 30 June 2010. Thousands of Filipinos flocked to the Quirino Grandstand in Manila to witness his inauguration together with many foreign dignitaries, led by Timor-Leste President Jose Ramos Horta, while millions of Filipinos at home and abroad tuned in to the event on satellite TV or the Internet.



His Excellency, President Aquino

In his inaugural speech, President Aquino set forth his agenda to transform the nation's leadership and governance to one that promotes the welfare of the Filipino people instead of only a privileged few. The President vowed to improve the country's investment climate and to generate jobs at home in order to obviate the need for Filipinos to seek jobs abroad, even as he directed the DFA, POEA and OWWA to continue protecting the overseas Filipino workers.

Meanwhile, the President had this to say in the area of foreign affairs: "To our friends and neighbours around the world, we are ready to take our place as a reliable member of the community of nations, a nation serious about its commitments and which harmonizes the national interest with international responsibilities.

## Ambassador Allarey presents credentials to President Pratibha Patil



Ambassador Ronald B. Allarey presented his Letter of Credence to President Pratibha Devisingh Patil on 30 June 2010, becoming the 15<sup>th</sup> Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to the Republic of India since the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1949.

The ceremony was held at the President's Estate, Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi for seven new foreign envoys to India. The Ambassadors of El Salvador, Laos, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan, as well as the non-resident Ambassador of Monaco and Guatemala also presented their credentials. Senior officials of the Ministry of External Affairs were also present at the ceremony.

Minister and Consul General Maria Agnes M. Cervantes and then Defense and Armed Forces Attaché Col. Alex C. Capiña joined the Ambassador as he handed over his credentials to the President, while his wife, Mrs. Linda Larrazabal Allarey, and two children, Mr. Rajah Allarey and Ms. Rea Allarey, and the Embassy's then Third Secretary and Consul (now posted in Singapore), Ms. Catherine Rose G. Torres, attended as observers.

After the ceremony, the new Ambassadors had a group audience with the President, touching on a range of important issues of common concern to the countries represented, such as terrorism, climate change and the challenges of the global economy.



## Excerpt from President Aquino's speech, 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Day

I note that ASEAN aims to build a people-oriented regional community through **three key pillars, namely Political-Security, Economic and Socio-Cultural**, by 2015. My administration will do everything it can, to make sure our region achieves this goal.

**The first is in peace and security.** The Philippines will continue to participate in discussions on issues of concern within the region, and abide by the ASEAN Declaration on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.

**The second area where the Philippines intends to contribute is in its economic participation.** We will ensure that our free trade agreements will increase employment and expand the market for our goods and that of other nations. Growth would be enhanced by the ability of these free trade agreements to enhance mobility of capital, products and people.

The ASEAN Connectivity project will create an ASEAN connectivity master plan with plans in transport infrastructure, information and communications technology, energy power grids and tourism. The Philippines will contribute its existing nautical highway or RORO project. Once, implemented, ASEAN Connectivity will bridge our nation to our neighbours, shorten transfer distances and open more economic opportunities.

**Finally, the Philippines can foster the success of our common goals through culture and the arts.** The greatest antidote to war is cultural exposure and cooperation. A new generation of increasingly prosperous citizens in our respective nations are interested in getting to know their neighbours. With this curiosity comes a greater understanding amongst our peoples over the long term that would strengthen cooperation on several fronts: political, economic and social. **In turn, ASEAN's improved integration will reinforce its capacity to deal with the rest of the world.**

We have merged as a bloc to enter into agreements with Japan, China and Korea under the ASEAN+3 and other frameworks. Today's commemoration, then, is a demonstration of our commitment to ASEAN's success.

The translation of the Charter into Filipino is a necessary step in growing our citizenry's awareness of their identity as members of a region. The Philippines looks with confidence to a regional celebration of our collective success in 2015. There is much work to do. There is very little that can stand in our way, so long as our governments and our peoples grow in understanding, increase in cooperation, and share the fruits of our hard work and dedication. The future is bright for our part of the world. *Mabuhay ang ASEAN!*

His Excellency,  
President Aquino  
receives a copy  
of the ASEAN  
Charter in  
Filipino from  
Secretary of  
Foreign Affairs,  
Alberto G.  
Romulo, during  
the 43<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN  
Day in Pasay City  
on August 9,  
2010 at the  
Department of  
Foreign Affairs  
auditorium.



## Getting to know Amb. Allarey

Ambassador Ronald B. Allarey is a native of Lucena City, among the Philippines' most senior diplomats, holding the rank of Chief of Mission, Class I. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1970, shortly after completing his B.S. in Foreign Service and A.B. in Political Science at the Lyceum of the Philippines. He also pursued graduate studies at the University of Sto. Tomas and attended a foreign service course at the Public Administration Center in Berlin, Germany.



After spending nine years with the Office of ASEAN Affairs, he was sent on his first assignment to Iran, as Second Secretary and Consul and Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., during the time of the 1979 Revolution. Thereafter, he was transferred to Belgium in 1982, first as Second Secretary, then as First Secretary, and finally as Minister-Counselor and Consul General of the Embassy.

Upon completing his tour of duty in 1988, he returned to Manila where he served as Special Assistant to the Undersecretary for Administration and the Board of Foreign Service Examiners, and later, as Executive Director of the Office of Asia-Pacific Affairs (ASPAC). His next assignment, from 1992 to 1996, was as First Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. He was sent on his first Ambassadorial posting in 1996 to Cuba. In 1999, he returned to the Home office to head the ASEAN Office until 2002. He was subsequently assigned as Philippine Ambassador to Venezuela from 2002 to 2008, after which he returned to Manila to head ASPAC. India is his third ambassadorial posting.

Amb. Allarey is the recipient of the Department's Distinguished Service Medal, the Manuel L. Quezon 'Medalya ng Karangalan' and citations and commendations from various government and private agencies and academic institutions.

## India Despatches

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## Hope and triumph imbue 2010 Independence Day celebrations in New Delhi



More than a hundred members of the Filipino community in India’s National Capital Territory joined the officers, staff and family members of the Philippine Embassy, New Delhi, led by Ambassador Ronald B. Allarey, to mark the 112th Anniversary of Philippine Independence on 12 June 2010. The Chancery and the Residence were gaily festooned with the Philippine tricolor for the occasion, in keeping with the celebratory mood of the theme, “Kalayaan 2010: Tagumpay ng Bayan.”

The celebrations began with a flag-raising ceremony at the Embassy lawns. The singing of the national anthem was led by Ms. Zenaida Dionaldo, Attaché, after which the “Panunumpa ng Katapatan sa Watawat ng Pilipinas” was recited by the assembly, led by Mr. Benjamin Baquilod, representing the Filipino community.



A thanksgiving mass was then celebrated in the Residence, followed by a short program. In his opening remarks, the Ambassador exhorted the Filipinos in India to join hands with their compatriots and seize the opportunity provided by the coming into office of a new government to move the Filipino nation forward on the path to freedom, Independence and prosperity. He then delivered then President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s Independence Day Message to Overseas Filipinos,

followed by the Reading by Ms. Maria Agnes Cervantes, Minister and Consul General, of the Message of Foreign Secretary Alberto G. Romulo.

The Embassy also took the opportunity provided by the occasion to recognize its 2010 Loyalty Awardees. The Ambassador handed the cash gifts to Ms. Cervantes and Mr. Joseph R. Famorcan, Attaché, for having rendered 15 years of service to the Department of Foreign Affairs, while Mr. Jeet Lal Saroj was likewise awarded a cash prize for having worked at the Philippine Embassy, New Delhi, for 10 years.



The program concluded with brief remarks from Mr. Noel Arellano on behalf of the Filipino community in New Delhi, after which everyone partook of the simple but hearty breakfast prepared by the officers and staff of the Philippine Embassy and some volunteers from the Filipino community.



## Overseas Absentee Voting exercise: Filipinos in India vote for change



The May 2 get-together also provided a chance for Ambassador Allarey to get to know the Filipino community in New Delhi, a few days after his arrival in India.



Lively discussions took place over the simple but sumptuous lunch prepared by the Embassy, but politics was momentarily set aside, making it a strictly non-partisan affair.

The Philippine Embassy in New Delhi hosted an informal get-together with the Filipino Community on Sunday, 02 May 2010 at the Embassy premises as part of its “Get Out and Vote Campaign” in line with the Overseas Absentee Voting exercise for the 2010 National Elections.

A simple lunch buffet was prepared by the Embassy, featuring favourite Filipino fare such as *pansit*, *kaldereta* and *puto*, for the more than 40 members of the Filipino community who attended the event. A total of 47 absentee voters cast their ballots in New Delhi for the 2010 Elections.



Three Filipino women married to Indian nationals and based in India for several years now show that they still care about their country by exercising their right to vote.



The Embassy's Special Board of Election Inspectors (seated) were on duty from 10 April to 10 May 2010 to help ensure the success of the 2010 Overseas Absentee Voting exercise.

## Honorary Consuls General in Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata called on the Ambassador after he assumed his official duties...



Mrs. Rajashree Birla (center) and Honorary Consul R. Swaminathan calle on the Ambassador and his Officers at the Residence. The Ambassador later hosted a lunch for Mrs. Birla at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Delhi.



- Mrs. Rajashree Birla, Consul General a.h., [Mumbai](#)
- Mr. Krishna Kumar Khemka, Consul General, a.h., [Kolkata](#)
- Mr. Ashwin C. Muthiah, Consul General, a.h., [Chennai](#)
- Mr. Vijaya Gajananda Vaidya, Consul General a.h., [Kathmandu](#)



## Reaching out: Ambassador Allarey and team visit Filipinos in Mumbai, Goa, Hyderabad; meets with Indian businessmen and heads of IT industries

### Visits to Pinoys

26 November 2010 – Philippine Ambassador to India, H.E. Ronald B. Allarey visited Filipino communities in Mumbai, Goa and Hyderabad from 17 to 24 November 2010 to look into their status and living conditions. He met more than one hundred (100) Filipinos in the three cities, most of whom are married to Indian nationals. Ambassador Allarey was accompanied by First Secretary and Consul Robert O. Ferrer, Jr. and Trade and Commercial Attaché Michaelangelo D. Roaring.



More than fifty (50) Filipino wives of Indian nationals gathered for a dialogue with Ambassador Allarey and Honorary Consul General Rajashree Birla at the Aditya Birla Center. Goa, a former Portuguese enclave in the southeastern coast of India and its Christian Catholic tradition and similar climate to the Philippines, has attracted more than 300 Filipinos, living in and around the various towns and cities of Goa such as Panaji, Calangute, Margao and Candolim. Around thirty (30) Filipinos are living and working in Hyderabad, the capital city of Andhra Pradesh. The second information technology hub of India (after Bangalore), Hyderabad used to host eighty (80) Filipino animators in the IT sector a few years ago. Ambassador Allarey and the Philippine Embassy team informed the overseas Filipinos in India about the plans, programs and priorities of the administration of His Excellency President Benigno S. Aquino III.

Formal Q&A sessions were held in Mumbai and Goa, where Ambassador Allarey had a chance to answer queries on consular, visa and ATN matters, as well as clarify procedures being observed by the Embassy in New Delhi and the Honorary Consulate General in Mumbai (which includes Goa in its jurisdiction).

### Visit to ICRISAT

In Hyderabad, the Embassy team was hosted by Dr. William D. Dar, Director-General of the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) at its 3,500 ha. Patancheru farm. Dr. Dar and his colleagues in ICRISAT discussed with Ambassador Allarey how ICRISAT has been providing assistance to Filipino and African farmers by teaching them to grow sorghum, pigeonpea and other economically beneficial food crops that need little moisture and rainfall in anticipation of the deleterious effects of climate change.



Ambassador Allarey and Dr. William Dar (center) with the Pinoys of Hyderabad

### Calls on Indian businessmen and IT industry leaders

In order to promote Philippine-India business and economic relations and boost bilateral trade, Ambassador Allarey and the Embassy team interacted with several Indian companies with interests in the Philippines and also keynoted several trade and investment promotion forums in Mumbai and Hyderabad.

In Mumbai, the team met with the top management of the ESSAR Group. ESSAR is the parent company of Aegis BPO, which owns People Support a major BPO player in the Philippines. Ambassador Allarey assured Essar management of



the Philippine government’s continuing commitment to support the growth of the BPO sector, particularly foreign investments in the sector. He also keynoted three interactive sessions on trade and investment opportunities in the Philippines. In Mumbai, Ambassador Allarey addressed the officers and members of the All India Association of Industries as well as the Indian Merchants Chamber.

In Hyderabad, the team promoted the potentials of the Philippines in the Information Technology Enabled Services Sector (ITES), in a forum organized by ITES Association of Andhra Pradesh. The session was also attended by CEOs and top executives of several Indian companies which have already established their presence in the Philippines. During the forum, Ambassador Allarey underscored how partnership and cooperation should define the relationship between the Philippines and India in the BPO sector where significant opportunities exist that captured the innate strengths of the industries in both countries.



In between visits to the Aditya Birla Memorial Hospital and BITS, Ambassador Allarey and team visited Honorary Consul General Rajashree Birla in Mumbai.

### Visits to Aditya Birla Memorial Hospital and Birla Institute of Technology and Science

Ambassador Allarey and his team also visited the Aditya Birla Memorial Hospital in Pune (before proceeding to Mumbai) on 16 November, where he discussed possible exchanges in technical know-how with Philippine hospitals with Dr. S.P. Singh, Chief Executive Officer and hospital officials and medical staff. At the Pilani, Goa campus of the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, the Embassy team had a fruitful interaction with the administrators, scientists and educators of the institute led by Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, Professor Emeritus and Advisor to the Chancellor on the similarities and differences of the Philippine and Indian education sectors. A possible cooperation agreement between BITS on the one hand and a Philippine institute is being mullied.



Ambassador Allarey was invited by ICRISAT to plant a ceremonial Indian mango sapling at the ICRISAT grounds. He and his team was also given an extensive tour around the facility and enjoyed the hospitality of Dr. William Dar and his excellent team.

### Excerpts from Ambassador Allarey’s Speech before the Indian Merchants’ Chamber, Mumbai

Our president, His Excellency President Benigno C. Aquino III is also slated to visit India, his first, in 2012 for the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit to celebrate closer ASEAN-India relations across many functional areas. Our interaction has nowhere to go but up, building from strength to strength, from synergy to synergy. Clearly, it is an exciting time to be in India. It is also an exciting time for India to be a part of ASEAN. Today in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, both our countries are as fervent in bringing the fruits of democracy won by our forefathers to each of our citizens. That is why our governments are focused on working very hard to achieve national development for our peoples. And I am delighted to be with all of you today at a time when both the Philippines and India are basking in the good news about our nations’ sustained and strong economic gains.



## Embassy hosts various VIPs, visitors in latter part of 2010



From 18 August to 17 September 2010, the Foreign Service Institute of India hosted five DFA officers who participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats.



Former Secretary of Foreign Affairs Roberto R. Romulo and his wife Mrs. Olivia Romulo, Ambassador Narcisca Escaler, former Deputy Director-General of the International Organization for Migration and former Philippine Permanent Representative to the United Nations, former Philippine Ambassador to Spain Joseph Delano Bernardo and Mrs. Conchitina Sevilla-Bernardo were guests of the Embassy in November 2010.



Hon. Miriam Defensor Santiago, Chair, Senate Committee on

Foreign Relations, and Commissioner Nenalyn Defensor of the Commission on Higher Education visited in November 2010.

## Embassy welcomes new members of Team Philippines, India



**First Secretary and Consul Robert O.**

**Ferrer, Jr.**, a native of Dagupan City, joined the Embassy on 24 September 2010 after

serving as Director, Division for Central and South Asia, Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs. He served as Third Secretary and Vice Consul, then as Second Secretary and Consul/Alternate Permanent Representative of the Philippine Embassy in Austria and Philippine Permanent Mission to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the CTBTO Preparatory Commission in Vienna from 2002 to 2008. Married to Mrs. Judylyn Ferrer.



**Colonel Rolando S. Acop**, Philippine Air Force, joined the Embassy as Defense and Armed Forces Attaché on 17 August 2010 following his service as Division Chief, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Armed Forces of the Philippines, among other duties. He hails from La Trinidad, Benguet. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from the Philippine Military Academy, class of 1986. He is married with two children to Mrs. Ana Maria Acop.



**Master Sergeant Harold Baswel** holds a degree in Political Science from the Pamantasan ng Makati. He enlisted in the Armed Forces of the Philippines in 1987. A marksman, Sgt. Baswel joined the Embassy as Administrative Assistant to the Defense and Armed Forces Attaché on 06 July 2010. He is a native of Cotabato City.



**Ms. Joyce Sychangco** joined the Embassy on 25 August 2010 after serving in the Regional Consular Office, Tuguegarao City. She finished her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration at St. Paul University, Tuguegarao City in 1998. She is the mother of two children.



**Mr. Francisco Abayan** joined the Embassy on 28 November 2010. He joined the Department of Foreign Affairs in 1974, having studied at the Leyte Institute of Technology in Tacloban City. A native of Lawa-an, Eastern Samar, he is married to Mrs. Bernardita G. Abayan and together they have four children.

## Maligayang Pasko at Manigong Bagong Taon!



## Filipinos in India Community end 2010 with fitting achievements



The close of the year 2010 saw several events organized by the Filipinos in India Community (FIC) in New Delhi: The FIC First Sports Festival was held on 17 October 2010



with the theme: **“Building a community through sports activities”**. Ambassador Ronald Allarey opened the games after delivering brief remarks. Five competing men’s teams played basketball while two mixed competing teams played volleyball.

At the end of the games, awards were given to the Best Team Mascot, Best in Muse and Best in Uniform.



Enjoying the games...

Meanwhile, Mr. Christopher Samong, a designer for the National Center of Design and Product Development won the design competition for the FIC logo design (above). The community, under Noel Arellano, outgoing president, also elected a new set of officers, with about a hundred Filipino expatriates and their families gathering at the Embassy grounds. The following are the new officers of FIC:

- President: **Leo Trinchera**
- Vice President: **Felix Dacasin, Jr.**
- Secretary: **Anjo Lorenzana**
- Treasurer: **Fatima Sharma**
- Public Information Officer: **Mike Ong**
- Delhi Coordinator: **Arthur Tongol**
- Noida Coordinator: **Noel Arellano**

The FIC Diwali and Halloween Party was held on 31 October 2010 also at the Embassy grounds. More than a hundred Filipinos gathered for the exciting costume party. Awards were given to the best costumes, in both children and adult category. To end the year right, the FIC family Christmas Party was held on 12 December 2010 at the Embassy, which was awash with Christmas lights and even native Filipino *parols*. Ambassador Allarey called on the Community to express hope and renew kindness for each other. He also asked the community to organize voluntary fund- raising events for meaningful projects.

