



2017
PHILIPPINES-SWITZERLAND
Celebrating 60 Years of Diplomatic Relations



MABUHAY! To the canton events organizers



Zurich – Filipino Leaders Club (l-r) Mmes. Irene Lauterwasser, Liza Tongko, Evangeline Wettiger, Vivian Kiefer, Catalina Busslinger, Merlinda Bosshard, Anita Tanner, Lucille Renacia-Noel (President), and Mr. Bern Negele. Not in photo: Myra Heeb, Lilia Padojinog, Romeo Barangan, Teresita Papa, Gaudencio Bruca, Melly Catimbang, Levy Mechani, Edgar Quinto, Rosalinda Saute and Emma Spicher



Basel – 60 Years Philippines-Switzerland Diplomatic Relations Organizing Committee (l-r) Messrs. and Mmes. Estella Ruppert, Joël Thüring (Basel Stadt), Amb. Jimeno, Elisabeth Augstburger (Basel-Landschaft), Joy Peter-Cinco, Fidel Navarro, Mila Betschart-Caoili and Dino Bruca. Not in photo: Larry Castañeda, Remy Kurichithanam, Mel Sedramac and Alice Muegeli



Geneva – Mr. Morse Flores, Chairman (left), joined in line by the new officers and members of **Ugnayang Bayan** comprising 22 Filipino community organizations in Geneva and Vaud



Lugano – Ms. Margherita Maffei, President and Founder of **Culture Ticino Network**, blended the celebration of diplomatic relations into the Seventh World Peace Forum in Lugano to communicate a message of peace and solidarity.



St. Gallen – European Network of Filipino Diaspora (ENFiD)-Swiss and Samahang Pilipino-Swiss: (l-r) ENFiD-Swiss' Mmes. Eppie Balagasay, Susana Pfister, Lina Ermert, Tess Lazaro (Phil. Embassy), Betsy von Atzigen, Meriam Abalos; Samahang Pilipino-Swiss SG's Tess Aeple, April Federer, Jocelyn Jani, Amb. Jimeno, Mr. Michael Alaba, Mr. Daniel Naef, Marybeth Naef, Sally Müller, Minda Alaba, Alice Candido, Luzette Simpson and Jovy Hottinger

MOVIE NIGHT WITH THE WORLD CHAMP

Kid Kulafu, the rags-to-fame life story of Manny Pacquiao, is one uplifting movie. It gives a collection of Filipino values that largely shaped this man to become an inspiration to millions of his fellow-Filipinos – hard work, perseverance, obedience to elders, strong family bonds, kindness towards friends, piety. To earn a living and support his mother and siblings, the young Manny (christened Emmanuel) recycled empty bottles of local cheap liquor, *Vino Kulafu*, thus the movie title.



Philippine Senate, 8 February 2017 – Call on the Honorable Senator Manny Pacquiao

The film depicts Manny Pacquiao's young boxing career that seemingly grew out of raw talent, sheer strength of body and spirit, and a deep interest for the sport, heightened by furtively watching Bruce Lee movies. Winning amateur matches too meant bringing home extra income to his hard-luck family.

The film screening was made possible through its director, Paul Soriano, who willingly lent the reel to the Philippine Embassy as part of the celebratory activities for the 60th Anniversary of Philippines-Switzerland diplomatic relations. Members from the diplomatic and Filipino communities in Bern and nearby cities came to watch one of the best portrayals of a people's champ.



BRIDGING EAST AND WEST | Lectures on Philippine history

By Dr. Ricardo T. Jose

Dr. Ricardo T. Jose, a pre-eminent Filipino scholar and author, lectured on "Bridging East and West: the Philippines in Asia and the World" at the Franklin University, Ticino; Basel University Institute of Social Anthropology; and Sentro Rizal, Philippine Embassy on 21-24 November 2017. The lecture series were in collaboration with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. Here he offers his reflections on the friendship between the Philippines and Switzerland.

2017 marks the 60th anniversary of the start of formal relations between the Philippines and Switzerland. Those 60 years have seen many positive developments on the formal diplomatic front, among them increasing trade relations, transportation and communications agreements and especially people-to-people exchanges. But beyond those 60 years, the government and peoples of Switzerland and the Philippines have had a longer relationship. Switzerland established a diplomatic post in the Philippines in 1862, when the Spanish colonial government had opened the Philippines to world trade. The establishment of the Swiss consulate in the Philippines marked a milestone in Swiss diplomacy, since the post in Manila also was the first to be opened in Asia. Economic opportunities abounded and the Philippines were promising. Aside from the Swiss consulate, a Swiss Club was also opened in Manila.

Throughout the 20th century, relations between Switzerland and the Philippines continued to grow. Switzerland as a neutral state inspired the Philippines; it showed one avenue of diplomacy and a solution to defense needs. The first act passed by the Philippine Commonwealth government in 1935, the National Defense Act, in fact, sought to make the Philippines a Pacific Switzerland. Even during the dark days

of the Japanese Occupation, the Swiss Club and the Swiss consulate remained open.

In many ways Switzerland and the Philippines are very different: geographical location, climate, culture and tradition. And yet there is a closeness between the Swiss and Filipinos. Beyond formal diplomatic relations are people-to-people relations, and these have happily developed cordially since the mid-19th century. Successful marriages between Filipinas and Swiss nationals; students on both sides; academic research and other forms of personal relations are a testament to the strength of these people-to-people relations.



Dr. Jose (5th from left) with faculty and students of Basel University

PHILIPPINE FIESTA

Saturday • 17 June 2017

18:00 – 21:00

Waltzthausgalerie, Bern

