

## **Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver celebrates International Migrants Day and December as Month of Overseas Filipinos**



Left Photo: Ms. Jackie Kloosterboer of the City of Vancouver's Office of Emergency Management discusses the importance of having a Family Emergency Plan on 2 December 2017. Right Photo: Consul General Neil Ferrer welcomes Filipino undergraduate and post-graduate students to the Philippine Consulate General on 13 December 2017. (Photocredit: Vancouver PCG)

January 2018—The Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver celebrated a series of events from 12 to 22 December 2017 in observance of the 2017 International Migrants Day and December as Month of Overseas Filipinos.

An Emergency Preparedness workshop conducted by Ms. Jackie Kloosterboer, Emergency Services Coordinator of the City of Vancouver's Office of Emergency Management was held on 12 December 2017 at the Consulate. Ms. Kloosterboer discussed the importance of having a Family Emergency Plan, and the steps to be taken to ensure the preparedness and safety of each individual in the event of an emergency situation such as extreme weather events, earthquakes, fires, power outages, pandemics, train derailments, toxic spills, and terrorism. Ms. Kloosterboer also emphasized the need for individual grab-and-go emergency kits at home, work, vehicle and school.

This was followed by a networking event and get-together with Filipino-Canadian undergraduate and post-graduate students on 13 December 2017, where Consul General Neil Ferrer gave the attendees an overview regarding the work of the Consulate, particularly its efforts to promote trade and investments between PH and B.C., including cultural and public diplomacy. Consul General Ferrer also noted the vital role of Filipino-Canadian students and millennials in helping shape the image and standing of the Philippines and the Filipino people as a whole, not just in Canada, but all over the world. The gathering was attended by students attending the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University and LaSalle College in Vancouver.



Left Photo: Detective Ian Jackson of the Vancouver Police Department introduces Operation SECURUS to the Filipino-Canadian community during the Security Briefing on 19 December 2017. Right Photo: Acting Sergeant Brodie Haupt provides attendees tips on how to recognize suspicious activities or encounters in day-to-day activities. (Photocredit: Vancouver PCG)

The Consulate also led the Filipino-Canadian community in heralding the nine-day traditional Simbang Gabi Christmas celebrations on its first night on 15 December 2017 at the St. Patrick's Parish in Vancouver. Consul General Ferrer expressed his appreciation to the parish for inviting the Consulate to participate in the celebrations and wished the community well during the holidays. He also informed the attendees of the Consulate's services to the community, and Post's readiness to assist our kababayans in B.C.

In addition to the Consulate's observance of International Migrants Day, the Consulate invited the Vancouver Police Department (VPD) to conduct an information session and security briefing to members of the Filipino-Canadian community and PCG personnel on 19 December 2017. Detective Constable Ian Jackson and Acting Sergeant Brodie Haupt of the VPD's Intelligence Unit informed the attendees of Operation SECURUS, a partnership between law enforcement and businesses and consular missions in B.C. that aims to protect people, critical infrastructure and key resources throughout B.C. Attendees learned the different awareness tools that will assist in recognizing suspicious activities or encounters in day-to-day operations. Participants at the briefing represented Filipino-Canadian communities in Surrey, Vancouver, Richmond, North Vancouver, and Burnaby.

Lastly, a Financial Literacy seminar conducted by Mr. Angelo Siglos, a financial consultant, for Filipino-Canadian community and Consulate personnel was held on 22 December 2017. The event was attended by Ambassador Petronila P. Garcia, who noted the growing Filipino community across Canada and the value of having an entrepreneurial spirit. Mr. Siglos lectured on how to save for one's future by protecting and preserving hard-earned money through wise investment and wealth-generation. Mr. Siglos advised that empowering people with sound financial knowledge is key in building one's monetary assets. (END)



Left Photo: Mr. Angelo Siglos lectures on how to save for one's future through wise investment planning during the Financial Literacy Seminar on 22 December 2017. Right Photo: Ambassador Petronila P. Garcia sharing with the attendees her experience of meeting the Filipino-Canadian entrepreneur who owns the artisanal meatshop, Armando's, in Granville Island, Vancouver. (Photocredit: Vancouver PCG)