

Philippine Consulate General Hosts the 2018 Annual Consular Conference and Economic Diplomacy Workshop in Vancouver



01 December 2018 – Philippine diplomats in Canada, led by Ambassador Petronila P. Garcia, attend the 2018 Consular Consultations and Economic Diplomacy Workshop held in Vancouver on 1-2 December 2018. Also present were the different service attaches and representatives of Philippine government agencies based in Canada and the US, the Philippine Honorary Consul General in Halifax, as well as the concerned officials of the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila.

Held annually, with hosting rotated among the four Philippine Foreign Service Posts in Canada – Ottawa, Calgary, Toronto and Vancouver – the participants get together to be briefed on the latest consular policies and economic developments as they impact on their workplans and mandate; share best practices in the delivery of consular and assistance-to-nationals services, including coordination with the Department of Labor and Employment, Social Security System and Pag-IBIG; discuss related challenges and issues faced by the posts, including administrative aspects of the work; and, be informed of the 2019 work plans and priorities of the Departments of Agriculture, Trade and Industry, and Tourism, as guide for the economic diplomacy programs of the posts.

As host of this year's annual meetings, Consul General Maria Andrelita S. Austria welcomed all the visiting delegations to Vancouver and looked forward to meaningful and productive discussions. There were 34 participants in all.



02 December 2018 – (Top photo) The heads of delegations pose with their respective members at the start of the second day of the two-day conference. Seated, from left to right are Consul General Maria Andrelita S. Austria, Philippine Consulate General in Vancouver; Assistant Secretary Maria Lumen B. Isleta, DFA-Office of American Affairs; Ambassador Petronila P. Garcia, Philippine Embassy in Ottawa; Consul General Gilberto Asuque, Philippine Consulate General in Calgary; and Deputy Consul General Bernadette Therese C. Fernandez, Philippine Consulate General in Toronto. Joining Asst. Sec. Isleta, from Manila, is former Consul General to Vancouver Neil Frank R. Ferrer, who is now Assistant Secretary at the Office of Consular Affairs.