

## Consul General Austria Meets the Executive Director of the Vancouver Economic Commission's Asia Pacific Centre



16 January 2019 – Consul General Maria Andrelita S. Austria (right) received Ms. Joan Elangovan (left), Executive Director of the Asia Pacific Centre (APC), Vancouver Economic Commission (VEC), who called on her at the Consulate to discuss cooperation opportunities between the Philippines and Vancouver. The VEC is planning to send a trade mission to Asia and there is great interest to include the Philippines in the itinerary.

The VEC is an agency funded by the City of Vancouver responsible for the economic development of the City through trade and investment. Its mandate is to help local businesses grow and create more employment. The APC was established in 2014 to signify the importance Vancouver places on the Asia Pacific region, recognizing Vancouver's unique advantage as Canada's economic gateway to markets in the Asia Pacific, and to capitalize on the opportunities presented by the huge Asian presence in Vancouver (the Philippines is among the top three sources of immigrants into Canada). It aims to build effective support networks in destination markets, as well as identify and build relationships with Asian investors already doing business in Vancouver.

Ms. Elangovan, who also advises the City Mayor on all matters regarding Asia, said that the Philippine Consulate General is the first ASEAN Consulate the APC has reached out to. Consul General Austria replied that she was pleased to learn of their interest in the Philippines and looked forward to working closely with the VEC in promoting stronger Philippine ties with Vancouver.