



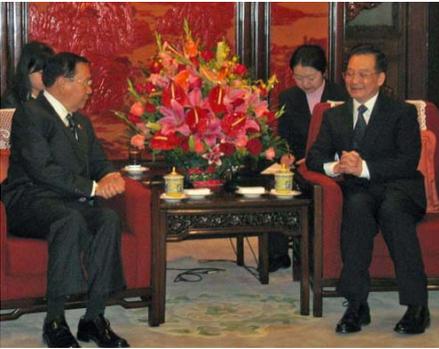
# Philippines-China CHRONICLE



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## Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Romulo visits China



DFA Secretary Romulo with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao

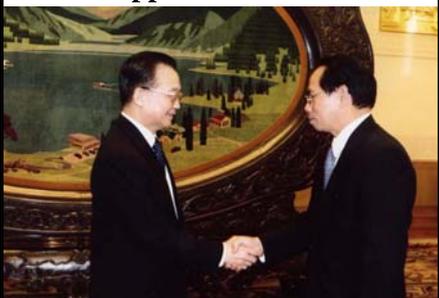
Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo visited Beijing on 28 February-2 March 2005 at the invitation of his counterpart, Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing.

Aside from Minister Li, Secretary Romulo also met separately with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Minister Wang Jiarui of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee's International Department.

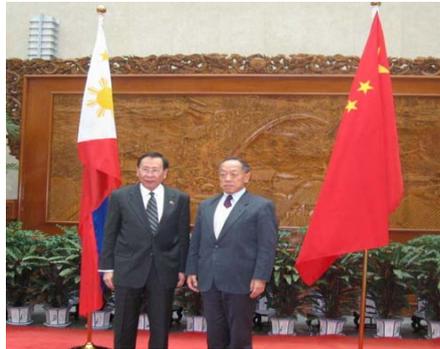
In their meetings, the Secretary and Chinese leaders agreed that Philippines-China relations are growing at a dynamic pace and that the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations on 9 June will mark a "new golden age of partnership." Both sides also welcomed the state visit to the Philippines in April of Chinese President Hu Jintao and noted its significance on bilateral relations.

The officials also welcomed the vigorous state of bilateral cooperation in the sectors of agriculture, trade, tourism, infrastructure, and investments and discussed the potential of cooperation in areas such as mining, energy, fisheries, defense and security.

### Chinese Premier greets Philippine Ambassador



Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao welcoming Philippine Ambassador Willy C. Gaa at the Great Hall of the People on 28 January 2005 on the occasion of the Chinese New Year.



Secretary Romulo with Chinese Foreign Minister Li

Both sides also reiterated commitment to addressing the South China Sea issue through peaceful dialogue and cooperation. Secretary Romulo expressed strong support for China's efforts to peacefully resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula.

During his visit, Secretary Romulo also met with members of the Filipino community and lauded their contribution to the development of the Philippines.

On 2 March, the Secretary delivered a speech entitled "The Philippines and China: Old Ties, New Directions" at the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Afterwards, he donated books on Philippine foreign policy to the Institute.

During his visit, the Philippines' top envoy was also interviewed on CCTV 9's "Dialogue."

Secretary Romulo was accompanied by Madame Lovely Romulo, Asian and Pacific Affairs Assistant Secretary Alicia C. Ramos and other DFA officials.

### "Old ties, new directions" — DFA chief on RP-China relations at CASS

Deep historical ties and the shared interests of peace and development will lead Philippines-China relations to new facets of cooperation. This was the theme of the speech of Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo on 2 March before prominent Chinese scholars and foreign diplomats at the Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in Beijing.

"Through our sustained and multifaceted interactions over these past 30 years, we have discovered—and we continue to discover—that our two countries have more in common than

## RP-China-Vietnam Agreement in the South China Sea signed

The Philippine National Oil Company (PNOC), the China National Offshore Oil Company (CNOOC), and the Vietnam Oil and Gas Corporation (PETROVIETNAM) signed an agreement on 14 March 2005 to conduct joint marine seismic survey in certain areas in the South China Sea.

In a joint statement, the three oil companies "affirmed that [the agreement] will not undermine the basic positions held by their respective governments on the South China Sea issue and will contribute to the transformation of the South China Sea into an area of peace, stability, cooperation and development.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto G. Romulo said that the signing of the agreement is "a diplomatic breakthrough" in bilateral and multilateral efforts to approach the South China Sea issue in the spirit of dialogue and cooperation, and in the context of the 2002 ASEAN-China Declaration on the Conduct of Parties (DoC) in the South China Sea."



Philippine President Arroyo with representatives from CNOOC and PetroVietnam. Looking on is PNOC President Eduardo Mañalac (right).

we have thought," the Secretary said.

He noted the parallelism in President Arroyo's 10-point agenda and China's goal of building a "xiaokang" or well-off society, both of which aim to "banish poverty" and "uplift the living standards of our people."

The Secretary noted recent advances in bilateral cooperation in trade, investments, agricultural and infrastructure development which will boost jobs, promote agricultural modernization and new growth centers in the Philippines. He also said that the two

*Cont'd on p. 2, CASS speech*

## DIPLOMATIC NOTES

**RP-China Visa Exemption Agreement enters into force**

The Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Mutual Visa Exemption for Holders of Diplomatic and Official (Service) Passports entered into force on 28 February 2005 after both sides completed their domestic requirements. The Agreement will allow diplomatic and official passport holders of both countries to enter their respective territories without a visa for a period of thirty (30) days.

The Agreement was signed by Philippine Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo and Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on 1 September 2004 during the state visit to China of President Arroyo.

**RP participates in ARF seminar**

The Philippines, represented by Colonel Samuel Narbuada, Philippine Defense and Armed Forces Attaché to China, joined the *ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Seminar on Enhancing Cooperation in the Field of Non-traditional Security Issues* in Sanya, Hainan Province on 7 - 8 March 2005.

*From p. 1, CASS speech*

countries are looking forward to strategic complementation in developing mineral resources, which promises to be a most promising field of cooperation in the future.

On the political front, the Secretary noted the September 2004 agreement between Philippine and Chinese national oil companies to conduct joint marine seismic undertakings in the South China Sea. He recalled that only a decade earlier, any joint cooperative activity by claimants in the South China Sea was a mere idea discussed between and among experts and there were intermittent incidents and conflicts in the area. He said that with the agreement, the two countries have shown the region and the world of their resolve to transform what had been considered a regional flashpoint into an area of cooperation, peace, and development.

**Ambassador Gaa attends Guangxi workshop**

Ambassador Willy C. Gaa joined other ambassadors and diplomats of the ASEAN missions in Beijing in participating in a workshop hosted in Beijing by the People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on the China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO).

At the workshop, officials of Guangxi, headed by the Guangxi Communist Party Secretary Cao Baochun and Governor Lu Bing, briefed the participants on their assessment of the first CAEXPO held in Guangxi's Nanning on 2-6 November 2004. They also briefed the delegates on Guangxi's plans for the next CAEXPO in 2005.

**ACB hosts dinner for FM Li**

Ambassador Willy C. Gaa joined the ASEAN Committee, Beijing (ACB) in hosting a dinner for Chinese Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing on 6 February at the China World Hotel.

During the dinner, FM Li shared his views on ASEAN-China cooperation and other issues of common interest and concern.

The dinner has become an annual Chinese new year tradition between the ACB and the Chinese Foreign Minister.

The Ambassador of Laos, current Chairman of the ACB, thanked FM Li for the Chinese Foreign Ministry's active support for and cooperation in the activities of the ACB.

**RP joins tsunami meeting**

The Philippines participated in the *China-ASEAN Workshop on Earthquake-Generated Tsunami Warning* held in Beijing on 25-26 January 2005.

Representing the Philippines were Director Renato Solidum of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Director Carmelito Lupo of the Philippine National Disaster Coordinating Council and Director Lourdes S. Tabamo of the DFA Office of ASEAN Affairs.

The meeting came up with an "Action Plan to formulate a Technology Platform for Earthquake-Generated Tsunami Warning System."

**China-ASEAN Association launches website**

The website of the China-ASEAN Association was launched on 26 January 2005 in Beijing by Madame Gu Xiulian, President of the China-ASEAN Association and Vice-Chairwoman of the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC), and Mr. Chen Haosu, President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC).

The China-ASEAN Association was founded in August 2004. Its website address is: <http://www.chinaasean.org>.

**RP, China chart stronger ties**

The 14th Philippines-China Foreign Ministry Consultations were held in Manila on 26 January 2005 to review the current state of bilateral relations and chart the future directions of the relationship. Philippine Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for Policy Sonia C. Brady and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Wu Dawei co-chaired the meeting.

The senior officials of the two countries discussed measures to implement agreements and consensus points reached between President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and President Hu Jintao during the former's state visit to China in September 2004.

The meeting also discussed and agreed on a year-long program of activities to mark the 30th anniversary of diplomatic ties on 9 June 2005, including the state visit of President Hu Jintao to the Philippines in April.

**Embassy hosts bowling games**

The Philippine Embassy hosted the seventh round of ASEAN Bowling League (ABL) Competition on 5 February 2005 at the Lido Hotel Bowling Lanes.

The ABL is composed of the diplomats and family members of the ASEAN embassies in Beijing. Players compete in friendly games once a month. Hosting of the games is rotated among the ASEAN Embassies.

Ambassador and Madame Gaa awarded prizes to players from the Cambodian Embassy, who won all the prizes for the round-- best team and highest score for a single game (both male and female categories).

**Embassy hosts tea party for Defense Attachés' wives corps**

Madame Linda Gaa, wife of Ambassador Willy C. Gaa, and Mrs. Maria Teresa Narbuada, wife of Defense Attaché Col. Samuel Narbuada and Cultural Officer of the Embassy, organized a tea party for the Defense Attachés' wives corps in Beijing on 17 March 2005 at the Philippine Embassy Acacia Hall.

More than 65 ladies from various countries attended the event. They were treated to a sumptuous buffet of Filipino snacks. The *Mabuhay* Beijing Folk Dance Troupe, composed of Filipino expats in Beijing provided entertainment at the party.



Madame Linda Gaa with Mrs. Narbuada and Mrs. Sue Reese, Committee Leader of the Defense Attachés' Corps in Beijing, during the tea party at the Embassy.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**FROM THE CONSUL'S DESK****The Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of 2003**

**Coverage:** The Citizenship Retention and Re-acquisition Act of 2003 (R.A. No. 9225) declares that natural-born citizens of the Philippines who become citizens of another country shall be deemed not to have lost their Philippine citizenship under conditions provided therein. Thus, natural-born citizens of the Philippines who have lost their Philippine citizenship by reason of their naturalization as citizens of another country may retain or reacquire their Filipino citizenship by virtue of R.A. 9225.

The law was signed on 29 August 2003 and took effect on 17 September 2003.

Under the Philippine Constitution, a natural-born citizen is a citizen of the Philippines from birth (meaning one or both of his/her parents is a Filipino citizen), without having to perform any act to acquire or perfect his/her Philippine citizenship. Those born before 17 January 1973 of Filipino mothers who elect Philippine citizenship upon reaching the age of majority are also deemed to be natural-born citizens.

**Features:**

1. Qualified former Filipinos can reacquire or retain their Philippine citizenship by submitting a petition that presents evidence of one's status as a natural born Filipino citizen and by taking an oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines.

Note that the act of re-acquisition of Philippine citizenship applies to those former Filipinos who acquired foreign citizenship (and lost Filipino citizenship as a result) prior to 17 September 2003. The act of retention, on the other hand, applies to those Filipinos who acquired foreign citizenship after 17 September 2003.

2. Filipino citizenship is extended to an unmarried child, whether legitimate, illegitimate or adopted, below eighteen (18) years of age, of those who reacquire Philippine citizenship upon effectivity of R.A. 9225.

3. Those who retain or reacquire Philippine citizenship under R.A. 9225 shall enjoy full civil and political rights which include the rights to vote, to run for public office, to be considered for appointive public office, to practice a profession, to acquire land and other properties in the Philippines, to engage in business in the Philippines, and to reside in the Philippines. It also entails responsibilities such as payment of income tax for income earned in the Philippines, as well as community and residence taxes.

**Relevance to Filipinos in China:** China-based former Filipinos who are now citizens of other countries may apply for the re-acquisition or retention of Filipino citizenship at the Philippine foreign service post nearest them. However, it is important to point out that former Filipinos who are now citizens of the People's Republic of China will not be able to maintain

**PROFILE****Jazmin C. Esguerra  
Tourism Attaché**

*(This is the 21st of a series of features on Philippine diplomats currently serving in China)*



Jazmin Esguerra is the Philippines' first Tourism Attaché to China. Before opening the Beijing office in July 2004, Ms. Esguerra served as Tourism Attaché in Paris for seven years, having opened the office there as well, and, earlier, as Conventions Coordinator in London and Frankfurt.

During her stay in Manila, she was assigned as officer-in-charge of the Bureau of International Tourism Promotions and, later in 2003, organized and headed the first China Market Task Force for the Department of Tourism (DOT), which recommended marketing activities that led to the prioritization of China as a market and eventual implementation of the opening of the Tourism Office in Beijing.

Ms. Esguerra has also worked for the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corporation, San Miguel Corporation, the Philippine Advertising Counsellors, Inc. and the Development Academy of the Philippines. She also taught Tourism, as part-time faculty member of the International Center, College of Saint Benilde, De La Salle University (DLSU). She holds a B.S. Education in English from Saint Scholastica's College and an MBA from DLSU. She also took up graduate studies in mass communications at the UP Institute of Mass Communications.

citizenship of the two countries. The People's Republic of China does not recognize dual citizenship under Article 3 of that country's Nationality Law. Thus, if a former Filipino who has acquired Chinese citizenship by naturalization decides to reacquire Filipino citizenship under RA 9225, the act of taking the oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines will have the consequence of stripping him/her of Chinese citizenship.

So far, three former Filipinos have availed themselves of the benefits of RA9225 in Beijing. The first to do so was a Canadian citizen who took his oath of allegiance to the Republic in 2004. The other two are US citizens now working in Beijing, the latest took her oath in March 2005.

**FAQs:** Please see [www.gov.ph/faqs/dualcitizenship.asp](http://www.gov.ph/faqs/dualcitizenship.asp) or contact the Philippine Embassy for more details.

**Notice of registration and election to all Filipino citizens**

All citizens of the Philippines abroad, not otherwise disqualified by law, at least eighteen (18) years of age on the day of the election, and who wish to vote for Senators and Party List Representatives for purposes of the 14 May 2007 National Elections must file applications for registration/certification as overseas absentee voters from 1 October 2005 to 31 August 2006. The voting period will be from 14 April 2007 to 14 May 2007.

Qualified Filipinos residing in the cities of Beijing and Tianjin and the provinces of Hebei, Henan, Liaoning, Jilin, Heilongjiang, and the Autonomous Regions of Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Xinjiang and Xizang (Tibet) are advised to contact the Philippine Embassy in Beijing.

Please await more details and updates which may be obtained from the following websites:

- [www.dfa.gov.ph](http://www.dfa.gov.ph)
- [www.comelec.gov.ph](http://www.comelec.gov.ph)
- [www.philembassy-china.org](http://www.philembassy-china.org)

**RP, China hold consular consultations**

The second round of Consular Consultations between the Philippines and China was held at the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) on 27 January 2005. Philippine DFA Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Teresita V.G. Barsana and Chinese Foreign Ministry Consular Department Director-General Luo Tianguang co-chaired the meeting.

Recalling the issues discussed during the inaugural consultations in Beijing in July 2002, the two sides agreed to work closely in resolving issues related to illegal immigration, assistance to distressed nationals, and transnational crimes, including drug trafficking and human smuggling.

Both sides also agreed to promote sustained dialogue and share information on immigration and visa policies.

The next round of consultations will be held in China.

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Contributions and comments are welcome.

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## HIGHLIGHTS OF PHILIPPINES-CHINA RELATIONS

### RP holds mining road show

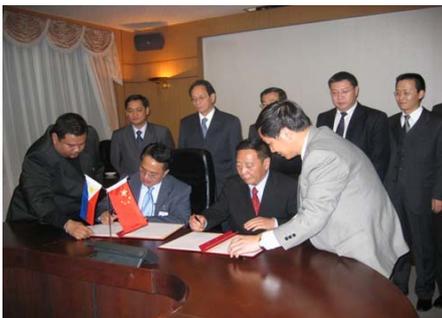
Then Philippine Trade and Industry Secretary Cesar V. Purisima and Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Michael T. Defensor jointly led a delegation of Philippine officials and mining executives to conduct a mining road show in Beijing on 17-18 January 2005.

The move comes after the Philippine Supreme Court affirmed the constitutionality of full foreign ownership of companies involved in the large-scale exploration, development and utilization of minerals in the Philippines.

In his remarks at the briefing held by the delegation for some 100 Chinese officials, mining and mineral executives, and journalists, Philippine Ambassador to China Willy C. Gaa called mining a promising new avenue of cooperation between the Philippines and China.

The delegation also called on Chinese Commerce Minister Bo Xilai. The latter welcomed the Philippine Supreme Court decision and thanked the Philippines for giving importance and priority to China.

MOUs on mining cooperation were also signed between the DTI and the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, and between the DENR and the MCC China Metallurgical and Construction Corporation.



Trade Undersecretary Elmer C. Hernandez and MOFCOM Assistant Minister Chen Jian signing the MOU on Mining Cooperation between DTI and MOFCOM. Looking on is Ambassador Willy C. Gaa (2nd from left) and other officials.

### China joins RP Mining Conference

Reacting positively to an invitation by the Philippine Government to participate in the development of the Philippine mining industry, China made a strong presence in the International Mining Conference held in Manila on 2-4 February 2005.

Leading a delegation of some 22 Chinese mining executives to the Conference was Mr. Chen Haoran, Chairman of the China Chamber of Commerce of Metals, Minerals and Chemicals Importers and Exporters (CCCME).

Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo met with the participants of the Conference and hosted a dinner reception for them.

An MOU on mining cooperation was signed between the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines and the CCCME. Investments worth more than a billion dollars were also pledged by Chinese companies.

### Philippines wins "best booth award" in Guangzhou Travel Fair

The Philippines won the "Best Booth Award" in the Guangzhou International Travel Fair (GITF) on 3-6 March 2005.

Bearing DOT's marketing slogan for the Chinese market "Wow Philippines!—My Holiday Paradise" the Philippine booth bested exhibits from 27 other countries with the "beach holiday concept."

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, who headed the 36-member Philippine delegation to the Fair, said that the award was a result of the collective effort of the Philippine government, private sector travel representatives and the *Bayanihan* Philippine National Folk Dance Company.

Secretary Durano also praised Philippine Consul General to Guangzhou Erlinda Gavino and her staff for helping organize the activities.

Philippine Ambassador to China Willy C. Gaa, who has made tourism promotion one of his main responsibilities, also traveled to Guangzhou to support the Philippines' participation in the fair.

### Embassy ladies join Women's Day celebrations



Madame Linda Gaa (far right) with Mrs. Yvette San Agustin (wife of Vice Consul Jim San Agustin), Mrs. Gina Ledda (wife of Consul Jaime Ledda) and Cultural Officer Maria Teresa Narbuada on the occasion of the 95th Anniversary of International Women's Day (1st, 2nd and 4th from left).

### Madame Romulo turns over Philippine books

Madame Lovely Romulo, spouse of Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, turned over on 1 March 2005 books on Philippine history and culture from the National Historical Institute of the Philippines to China's State Administration of Cultural Heritage (SACH).

SACH Deputy Director Dong Baohua, who received the books on behalf of the Administration, thanked Mrs. Romulo for turning over the books personally at the Administration's office.

In her conversation with Director Dong, Madame Romulo noted the importance of the exchange of historical materials given the long history of interaction and exchanges between the two countries.

The turn-over of books is part of the implementation of Article 3 Item 13 of the 2002-2004 Executive Program of the Philippines-China Cultural Agreement. The article pertains to the exchange of publications and infor-

ation materials for each other's national library and other institutions.

Prior to this exchange, the Philippine National Library and the National Library of China have also exchanged publications.

Madame Romulo accompanied Secretary Romulo during the latter's official visit to Beijing on 28 February-2 March 2005.



Tourism Attaché Jay Esguerra receives the award for Best Booth with Director Rolando Canizal and Assistant Secretary Eduardo Jarque of DOT, Warren Palacio of DOT Beijing and the *Bayanihan* dancers.

### Philippine Ambassador lauds Chinese charter flight

At a press conference organized by the Embassy's Tourism Attaché and China Youth Travel Service (CYTS) on 1 February 2005, Philippine Ambassador to China Willy C. Gaa congratulated the CYTS for organizing the first ever charter flight of Chinese tourists from Beijing to Manila.

He noted that the flight, which carried around 170 passengers and is timed for the celebration of the Chinese New Year, is "an auspicious way to start an auspicious year for Philippines-China relations." The two countries will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations on 9 June.

For 2004, Chinese tourists to the Philippines reached 39,581, growing 23.5 percent over the previous year.



Mme. Romulo, Mme. Gaa (spouse of Amb. Gaa), Cultural Officer Narbuada and DFA Official Mila Cruz with Mr. Dong Bao Hua, Deputy Director of the State Bureau of Cultural Heritage during the turn-over of books.