



# Philippines-China CHRONICLE



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## Philippine Chief Justice Davide visits China



Chief Justice Hilario Davide and wife, Virginia, pose with Ambassador and Madame Gaa at the Embassy.

Philippine Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide led a delegation of 56 justices, judges, lawyers and their spouses to attend the 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Conference of the World Jurist Association in Beijing and Shanghai on 4-10 September.

Aside from participating in the Conference, the Chief Justice also met with Chinese Supreme People's Court President Xiao Yang and exchanged views on Philippines-China relations, including bilateral legal cooperation.

On 6 September, Ambassador and

Mrs. Gaa hosted the Chief Justice, Mrs. Virginia Davide, and the delegation to an activity called "Embassy Night" at the Embassy's Acacia Hall.

At the program, Ambassador Gaa noted that with the visit of the Chief Justice to China, he was privileged to have received all the heads of the three co-equal branches of the Philippine Government during his tour of duty. President Arroyo visited China in September 2004. Senate President Drilon and Speaker de Venecia visited China in April and September 2004, respectively. Ambassador Gaa also noted the increasing cooperation between the Philippines and China on mutual legal assistance and on criminal matters.

In his remarks, the Chief Justice noted the excellent state of bilateral relations between the two countries. He recalled the visit to the Philippines of Chinese Supreme People's Court President Xiao Yang in 2001 to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Philippine Supreme Court. He also said that he was happy to have visited China before his retirement later in the year.

Acknowledging the presence of mem-

bers of the Filipino community during the dinner, the Chief Justice stressed the role that each Filipino could play in nation-building.

During the dinner, Filipino community members Jose Viola "Ka Peping" and Lisa Tanner rendered musical performances. CNN Bureau Chief Jaime FlorCruz astounded visitors with his flawless display of Chinese opera skills. Mrs. Davide and other members of the delegation and the Filipino community also gamely rendered songs and piano performances.

Members of the delegation included Associate Justices Leonardo A. Quisumbing, Conchita Carpio-Morales and Adolfo S. Azcuna of the Supreme Court, associate justices from the Court of Appeals, and RTC/MTC judges and lawyers.



Associate Justice Adolfo Azcuna and Mrs. Asuncion Azcuna with Minister Jaime Victor Ledda and Mrs. Gina Ledda.

## Former Chinese Ambassadors make nostalgic visit to RP

Five former Chinese Ambassadors to the Philippines made a nostalgic visit to the Philippines on 5-10 July 2005 as part of the year-long activities to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

H.E. Ke Hua, the first Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Philippines in 1975, led the delegation that also included Ambassador Wang Yingfan, currently Vice Chair of the Foreign Relations Committee of the National People's Congress of China, and Ambassadors Chen Songlu, Huang Guifang, and Guan Dengming. They were joined by their spouses.

During their visit, the Ambassadors paid courtesy calls on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Speaker Jose de Venecia and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo.

Secretary Romulo hosted a luncheon in honor of the visiting Ambassadors and former Philippine Ambassadors to China, including Ambassadors Felipe Mabilangan, Romualdo Ong, Josue Villa, and Rafael Gonzales. The latter served as the first Chargé d'Affaires at the Philippine



Former Chinese ambassadors to the Philippines pose with President Arroyo.

Embassy in 1975.

Secretary Romulo described the meeting as "a gathering of the hands and minds" that helped bring bilateral ties from their early tentative steps to the threshold of what President Arroyo and President Hu Jintao called "a golden age of partnership".

The Ambassadors also met with former Philippine First Lady Imelda Marcos, who was instrumental in the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and China, and were hosted to a banquet by the Chinese-Filipino community in Manila.

## RP-PRC trade hits US\$7.8B

Philippines-China trade grew 35 percent in the first half of the year to reach US\$7.78 billion. According to statistics from the Chinese General Administration of Customs, Philippine exports to China amounted to US\$5.53 billion while imports from China reached US\$2.239 billion, representing year-on-year increases of 45.6 and 14.4 percentages, respectively. The Philippines posted a trade surplus of US\$3.295 billion.

RP-China trade amounted to US\$13.3 billion in 2004. Since 2000, RP-China trade has been growing at an average rate of 43.78 percent. During the visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to the Philippines in April 2004, a trade figure of US\$30 billion was targeted for 2010.

## DIPLOMATIC NOTES

## RP young political leaders visit China

A delegation from the Philippine Council of Young Political Leaders (PCYPL) headed by Bulacan Governor Josefina de la Cruz paid an official visit to China on 3-10 July 2005 at the invitation of the International Department of the Communist Party of China Central Committee (CPCCC).

In Beijing, the delegation met with National People's Congress Standing Committee Vice Chairman and Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) Vice President Cheng Siwei and Vice Minister Cai Wu of the CPCCC International Department.

Mr. Cheng noted during his meeting with the delegation the "very good" state of cooperation between China and the Philippines in the economic field. He cited the Caloocan-Malolos North-rail project, which he said will contribute to the development of Bulacan.

Governor de la Cruz affirmed that 21 out of the 32 kms. of the Northrail's tracks will be in Bulacan. She expressed appreciation for the confidence shown by Chinese investors in the Philippines.

She added that more Chinese investments are awaited in the country.

Vice Chairman Cheng said the Chinese government encourages its businessmen to invest overseas, and that the Philippines will have several opportunities to attract Chinese investments.

CPCCC International Department Vice Minister Cai noted during his meeting with the PCYPL delegation the need to promote more exchanges between the two sides.

During the visit, an MOU for exchange of visits between CAFIU and PCYPL was signed.

The young leaders' delegation also visited Hangzhou and Xiamen.



Bulacan Governor Josefina de la Cruz and CAFIU Secretary-General Xu Jianguo sign the MOU for exchange of visits between PCYPL and CAFIU.

## DOT Beijing puts up booth in international tourism exhibition

To promote the Philippines to cosmopolites in the capital, the Philippine Tourism Office in Beijing joined the Tourism Exhibition and Photography Display of the 8th Beijing International Cultural and Tourism Fair (BICTF) held at the Sun Dong An Plaza on Wangfujing on 23- 25 September 2005.

Aside from putting up a booth, DOT Beijing also contributed beautiful photographs of Philippine travel destinations for the Fair.

Held annually, the Exhibition is a platform for Chinese and foreign tourism industry sectors to showcase their travel products and services.

Minister and Consul Jaime Victor B. Ledda and Tourism Attaché Jazmin Esguerra represented the Embassy at



Posing in front of the Philippine booth at the 8th Beijing International Cultural Tourism Festival (BICTF) are (from left) Minister Jaime Victor Ledda of the Philippine Embassy, Ms. Xiong Yumei, Deputy Director of the Beijing Tourism Administration, Ms. Jazmin Esguerra, Tourism Attaché, Ms. Zhiju Qin, Editor-in-Chief of Tourism Magazine and Ms. Ruth Chuaunsu, Philippine Airlines District Manager.

the opening ceremonies of the travel fair. Ambassador and Madame Gaa later visited the Philippine booth.

## Filipino dance group joins tourism and cultural festival



The Leyte Kalipayan Dance company performs their stilt-walking dance at the annual parade of the 8<sup>th</sup> BICTF.

The Leyte Kalipayan Dance Company delighted thousands of spectators with their skillful stilt-walking dance at the annual marching parade of the 8<sup>th</sup> Beijing International Cultural and

Tourism Festival (BICTF) that opened on 24 September 2005.

The festival, held annually by the Beijing Municipal Government and the Beijing Tourism Administration, is aimed at promoting greater understanding and exchanges between China and the world and to promote the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Artists from more than 40 countries performed in this year's three-day festival.

The Leyte Kalipayan Dance Company was founded in 1961 and is composed of students.

The group has been active in representing the Philippines in international folklore festivals as cultural ambassadors.

## Philippines in Jilin trade expo

Ambassador Willy Gaa led a 60-member delegation of Philippine government officials and business representatives in participating in the First China Jilin-Northeast Asia Investment and Trade Expo held on 2-6 September 2005 at the Changchun Jilin International Exhibition Center.

Philippine participation was jointly sponsored by the Jilin Fuhua International Group and the Philippine SL Agritech Corporation, partners in the Philippine hybrid corn development project.

The Philippine delegation was composed of government officials from the regions that are active in the hybrid corn project. Also participating were representatives from the Philippine International Trading Corporation, the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Philippine Exporters Confederation,

## Embassy promotes RP in Beihai



Embassy Minister Jaime Victor B. Ledda promoted the Philippines as an investment destination for Chinese businessmen at the China-ASEAN Business Leaders Conference held in Beihai City in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on 4-5 July 2005.

and the National Federation of Hog Farmers.

At the Expo, aside from exploring further cooperation in hybrid corn, participants showcased Philippine fruit exports like banana, coconut products, and arts and handicrafts.

## DIPLOMATIC NOTES

**RP joins conference on Chinese**

The Philippines, represented by the Ateneo de Manila and the Philippine Cultural High School, participated in the First World Chinese Conference held in Beijing on 20-22 July. The Conference discussed ways to promote and facilitate the teaching and learning of the Chinese language around the world.

At the opening ceremony on 20 July, Dr. Ellen Palanca, head of the Ateneo Chinese Studies Program, received, on behalf of the Ateneo, a plaque certifying the establishment of a "Confucius Institute" at the university.

Launched in 2004, Confucius Institutes are non-formal, non-degree educational institutions that help promote Chinese culture and Chinese language learning and teaching training abroad.

The number of Filipinos studying Chinese increases every year. For the current semester, more than 200 Filipinos have enrolled to study Chinese in various universities in Beijing.

**Embassy ladies show off Filipiniana costumes**

Embassy ladies show off Filipiniana costumes to the tune of popular Chinese song "Molihua" (Jasmine) at the Poly Plaza Theatre on 20 July 2005. The number was part of the gala show for the First World Chinese Conference held in Beijing on 20-22 July 2005.

**AFP officers call on Ambassador Gaa**

An AFP delegation, headed by Col. Aldred Limoso (third from left), called on Ambassador Gaa (center) on 21 September 2005. The delegation visited Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai on 21-26 September upon the invitation of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Chinese Ministry of National Defense. Also in photo are (L-R) Capt. Jose Maria Evidente, Major Adel Lebin, Cdr Bobby Palmero, Defense Attaché Samuel Narbuada and LCdr. Lloyd Casis.

**Ambassador Gaa assumes ACB chairmanship**

Myanmar Ambassador H.E. Thein Lwin turns over to Ambassador Gaa the chairmanship of the ACB on 7 September. Looking on are other members of the ACB and their representatives.

Philippine Ambassador to China Willy C. Gaa assumed chairmanship of the ASEAN Committee, Beijing (ACB) on 7 September 2005. His term will last until the end of the year.

The ACB, an ASEAN third country committee in China, is composed of the 10 ASEAN ambassadors in Beijing. Its chairmanship is rotated in alphabetical order among the ASEAN embassies every four months.

As mandated by the ASEAN Standing Committee (ASC), the functions of the committee are to conduct consultative meetings with the host government, to address ASEAN concerns, and to promote ASEAN interests in China.

**Ambassador Gaa visits Huawei**

Philippine Ambassador to China Willy C. Gaa and Vice Consuls Charlotte Tang and Jim San Agustin visited the headquarters of Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd. in Shenzhen on 29 July 2005 at the invitation of the latter.

At the company, the Ambassador was briefed by Huawei officials on Huawei's development and their plans for further cooperation with the Philippines.

**Envoy joins flower expo**

Ambassador Gaa visited Chengdu and Jiuzhaigou on 28-30 September to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> China Flower Expo in Chengdu. He is shown here at the opening ceremony of the Expo with Israeli Ambassador Yehoyada Haim.

**Ambassador and Mrs. Gaa host ACB videoke party**

Ambassador and Mrs. Gaa hosted a videoke party for ASEAN Committee Beijing (ACB) ambassadors, their spouses and coordinators on 14 September at the Acacia Hall of the Embassy.

The ambassadors noted that the party, which was the first-ever videoke party held for ACB members, offered a good opportunity for the ACB to get together on an unofficial basis and relax in each other's company.

The ambassadors, who proved to be relaxed and adept singers, kidded each other whenever the videoke machine scored their performances.

Madame Gaa prepared a delicious spread of Filipino dishes for the guests.



Ambassador Gaa (center) sings "Day-o" with Ambassadors Vichit Xindavong of Laos (left) and Dato Syed Norulzaman of Malaysia (right) at the videoke party.



Madame Gaa (center) sing with (L-R) Madames Nwe Nwe Han (Myanmar), Keoduangdy Xindavong (Laos), Noraini Zahari (Malaysia), and Wang Lee Moi (Singapore).

**Embassy wins silver in bowling**

After ten games which took place over a 17-month period, the Embassy placed second in the first round of the ASEAN Bowling League (ABL) competition.

The Embassy team which won the trophy is composed of Ambassador Gaa, Madame Gaa, Alfredo Sumala, Jane Sumala, Raul Guerrero, Abraham Castillo, and Roberto Lagarde. First place went to Embassy of Cambodia.

The second round of games started in September 2005.

## DIPLOMATIC NOTES

**Former Senator Legarda speaks at 21<sup>st</sup> Century Forum**

Former Senator Loren Legarda chairs a session on mass media at the 21st Century Forum held in Beijing. Looking on is co-chair Yang Lan (center).

Former Senator and journalist Loren Legarda and Ms. Maritess Pineda, President of Zonta Club of Makati and Environs Foundation, Inc. represented the Philippines at the 21st Century Forum, which was held in Beijing on 5-7 September 2005.

The Forum, whose theme was "Sustainable Development – China and the World," was organized by the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC).

During the Forum, Ms. Legarda co-chaired the session on "Participation of Mass Media in Sustainable Development" with famous Chinese TV anchor Ms. Yang Lan, who is also a member of the CPPCC National Committee and Chairperson of the Sun Media Investment Board.

During the Forum, former Senator Legarda also called on creditor countries and other concerned parties to consider debt relief (e.g., through debt-for-environment swaps) for developing countries such as the Philippines, to enable these countries to devote resources for sustainable development.

**PNP officers in ASEAN+3 workshop**

The Philippine National Police officers, led by Deputy Director Vidal Querol (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), pose with Ambassador Gaa (center) in front of the Embassy. The police officers participated in the Workshop on Police Exchange and Cooperation among Capital Police Agencies from ASEAN, China, Japan and Republic of Korea held on 16-18 August 2005 in Beijing. Also in the photo is Col. Samuel Narbuada, Philippine Defense Attaché to China (right).



Ambassador and Mrs. Gaa host dinner for Philippine Commission on Human Rights Chairperson Purificacion C. Valera Quisumbing (seated, right) and Commissioner Wilhelm D. Soriano (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) on 28 August. The two officials attended the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Workshop of the Framework on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asia Pacific Region in Beijing. Also in the photo are (standing, left to right) Consul Elizabeth Te, Vice-Consuls Jim San Agustin and Charlotte Tang, and Minister Jaime Victor Ledda.



Ambassador and Mrs. Gaa host dinner for Senior Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno (center, seated) and Associate Justice Consuelo Ynares-Santiago (standing, 2<sup>nd</sup> from right) at the Dadong Roast Duck Restaurant on 9 September. The two justices passed by Beijing on their way to attend the Third Regional Seminar of Asian Constitutional Court Judges in Ulaan Baatar on 6-8 September 2005. Also in photo are Atty. Luzviminda D. Puno, spouse of Justice Puno (seated, right), Vice Consul Charlotte Tang (standing, left), Philippine Sports Commissioner William Ramirez (third from right), Mrs. Ramirez (right), and friends of Atty. Puno.

**RP attends APC Workshop on Regional Capacity Building for Durable Solutions**

The Philippines participated in the Asia Pacific Intergovernmental Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC) Workshop on Regional Capacity Building for Durable Solutions in Beijing on 4-6 July 2005.

At the workshop, Assistant Chief State Counsel Ruben F. Fondevilla, who is also Assistant Head of the Refugee Processing Unit of the Department of Justice, presented the asylum profile of the Philippines, as well as the legislative and policy framework for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. He also described the role of the Philippine Bureau of Immigration and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and discussed prospects of the issue.

**Ex-SFA joins minerals meeting**

Former Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert speaks at the 3<sup>rd</sup> PECC Minerals Network Meeting.

Former Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary and current Presidential Adviser on Mining Delia Domingo-Albert participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) Minerals Network Meeting held in Taiyuan, Shanxi Province on 8-11 September 2005.

Madame Albert shared the Philippines' experience in the sustainable development of the mining sector. She also took the opportunity to invite participants to invest in the development of the Philippine mining sector.

Madame Albert was accompanied by Mr. Jaime Victor B. Ledda, Minister and Consul of the Embassy.

**RP wins Holcim awards**

The Philippines won two of nine awards in the first Holcim Awards for Sustainable Construction for the Asia-Pacific Region given at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse on 22 September.

The team of Roland Rodriguez, Lemuel Alfeche and Oscar Cinco won the silver award for their project "Concrete Substrates for Accelerated Coral Restoration," an inexpensive but effective method of renewing coral growth in devastated marine areas.

In addition, the team of civil engineer Artessa Saldivar-Sali and architecture student Aaron Lecciones won one of three encouragement awards for their plan for an Ivatan Agricultural Campus in Itbayat, Batanes that will meet residents' requirements for training in agricultural methods as well as develop eco-tourism potentials in the island with energy-efficient structures.



Embassy Minister Jaime Victor Ledda (right) poses with Holcim awardees and officials at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing (Photo from *Starweek*)

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

**FROM THE CONSUL'S DESK****Embassy registration**

All Filipinos working in Beijing are encouraged to register with the Embassy. Registration forms are available at the Embassy's consular counter, or may be downloaded from the Embassy website ([www.philembassy-china.org](http://www.philembassy-china.org)). The requirements for registration are: two ID pictures, photocopy of passport and proof of residency or employment in China, e.g., photocopy of residence permit (for Z visa holders) or contract of employment.

**Parental travel permit**

Please be informed that the Philippine government prohibits minors from traveling abroad unless accompanied by both parents. As an exception however, at least one of the parents or a legal guardian may accompany the minor provided that he/she is issued a parental travel permit by any DSWD regional office in the Philippines. DSWD requires the accompanying parent to present (1) an affidavit of consent to travel executed by his/her spouse, (2) the child's NSO-authenticated birth certificate (3) the couple's marriage certificate, and (4) a photocopy of the executing parent's passport. Overseas-based Filipinos may execute the affidavit at the nearest Philippine Embassy or Consulate.

**New face in the Embassy**

Melanie Butic

Ms. Melanie Butic is the newest addition to the Embassy family. Prior to assuming post in Beijing on 25 August 2005, Mel was a desk assistant at the North Asia Division of the Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs of the DFA.

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**PROFILE****Enrico A. Mariano  
Commercial Attaché**

*(This is the 22<sup>nd</sup> of a series of features on Philippine diplomats currently serving in China)*



Enrico Mariano, of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Foreign Trade Service Corps, recently assumed his post as the Philippines' Commercial Attaché in Beijing.

He joined the Corps in 2004, and during his stay in Manila, served as close-in assistant to the Trade Secretary. He also specialized in the electronics and information technology services sectors.

Before joining the DTI Foreign Trade Service Corps, Mr. Mariano worked as a business information analyst at Software Ventures International where he gained experience in the field of Knowledge Management. He also previously worked as a stockbroker agent in the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Mr. Mariano holds a B.S. degree in Business Economics from the University of the Philippines School of Economics and an MBA from the U.P. College of Business Administration. He was also awarded an exchange scholarship in France as part of his MBA studies.

He is joined in Beijing by his wife Ruzette.

**RP Consul in "Pinoy Abroad"**

Vice Consul Jim Tito San Agustin was interviewed recently by GMA-7 in connection with its program *Pinoy Abroad's* September 2005 feature on Filipinos working in China. Vice Consul San Agustin stressed that despite reports to the contrary, job opportunities in China, particularly for Filipino teachers, remain limited. Only a few universities and colleges are licensed to hire foreign teachers, and most prefer employing native English language speakers.

He advised teachers to beware of illegal recruiters promising high-paying jobs in China, and to refrain from applying via the internet, where most of the fly-by-night recruitment agencies operate. He also requested victims of illegal recruiters to help the government control illegal recruitment activities by filing affidavits of complaint against their recruiters.

**OAV Registration**

The Philippine Embassy would like to inform all Filipinos in Beijing that the continuing registration for the next Philippine elections will be conducted from 10 October 2005 to 31 August 2006. Qualified applicants may register at the Embassy from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at their convenience during scheduled days within the 11-month registration period. **They are reminded to bring their passports.**

Those who registered in the Embassy during the last elections may claim their voter's ID cards during the next registration dates. Registered voters with incomplete biometrics data (e.g. no pictures) will need to present themselves for the live capture of their photograph and fingerprints.

Registration dates for the period 10 October to 31 December 2005 are:  
**OCT:** 10-14, 16-21, 23-28, & 30  
**NOV:** 02-04, 06-11, 13-18, 20-25, & 29-30  
**DEC:** 01-02, 04-08, 11-15, 18-22, & 27-29

**Filcom in SAGIP (Beijing)**

Beijing-based Filipinos will participate in the Government's "Classroom galing sa Mamamayang Pilipino Abroad" project by raising US\$8,000 (RMB64,000) for the construction of two classrooms in a still to be decided province in the Philippines.

The community aims to raise funds for the project dubbed as "Silid Aralan Galing sa Pinoy sa Beijing" (SAGIP Beijing) through donations and activities such as a food bazaar, Christmas party raffle draw, sports festival and community disco.

Those interested to be part of the project are advised to regularly check the Filcom e-group for developments.



Vice Consul Jim San Agustin during his interview for Pinoy Abroad as shown on television.

HIGHLIGHTS OF PHILIPPINES-CHINA RELATIONS

**100 Filipino youth visit China on anniversary**



114 Filipino youth take a pose after the sumptuous dinner hosted by the All-China Youth Federation.

A delegation of 114 Filipino youth headed by National Youth Commission (NYC) Chairman Paolo Benigno “Bam” Aquino IV visited Beijing, Shanghai and Hangzhou on 10-18 July 2005 at the invitation of the All-China Youth Federation (ACYF).

The visit is one of the activities to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic ties between the Philippines and China. It also implements the NYC-ACYF Cooperation Agreement on Youth Affairs signed in April 2005.

The delegation, composed of young leaders from the government, business, and student sectors, familiarized themselves with various aspects of Chinese culture and society during the visit.

**Tourists from China grow 146%**

With the continued efforts of the Philippine Department of Tourism (DOT) to attract more Chinese tourists to visit the Philippines, China has become the Philippines' fastest growing source of inbound tourists.

In the first half of 2005, Chinese tourist arrivals in the Philippines increased 146 percent over the same period in the previous year. China now ranks seventh in terms of tourist arrivals after the United States, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Australia.

DOT will continue to intensify its promotional activities in China by focusing on attracting young city-based professionals in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou to visit the Philippines.

In Beijing, Assistant Foreign Minister Shen Guofang and ACYF Honorary President Zhou Qiang hosted banquets for the youth delegation.

On 13 July, Chairman Aquino and Mr. Zhou also signed an MOU to further promote youth exchange.

A Chinese youth delegation of 100 will visit the Philippines in November.



NYC Chairman Bam Aquino and ACYF Honorary President Zhou Qiang shake hands after signing the MOU on youth exchange.

**PAL to resume direct flights to Beijing in November**

Philippine Airlines will resume direct flights to Beijing starting 11 November, 16 years after the national carrier last flew its service to the Chinese capital in 1989.

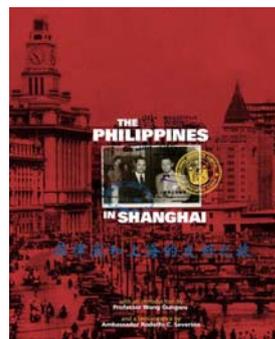
Ambassador Gaa welcomed the resumption of the flights and said that it was auspicious that it is happening during the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and China.

He added that the flights will further boost the Philippines' efforts to promote the country as a tourism destination for Chinese travelers.

The flights will have a Tuesday-Friday-Sunday weekly schedule and will give travelers a time-saving

**Consulate launches “The Philippines in Shanghai”**

Ambassador Willy C. Gaa graced the launching of the coffee-table book entitled “The Philippines in Shanghai” on 11 July 2005 at the Peace Hotel.



The book, published by the Philippine Consulate-General in Shanghai under the leadership of Consul-General Yabes, is one of the Consulate's projects to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Philippines-China diplomatic relations.

In his remarks, Ambassador Gaa said that the book offers perspectives on Philippines-China relations before Philippine diplomatic relations with the People's Republic were established and after China's imperial period.

He also noted that the book tells the stories of Filipinos and pioneers who helped foster bilateral relations in the past thirty years. It also points to the promising future of Philippines-China relations and the unique role that Shanghai plays.

In 1948, the Philippines opened its consulate in Shanghai only to close it more than a year later because of political circumstances.

On 10 July 2002, the Philippines re-established a consulate in Shanghai under the People's Republic.

alternative to the current one-stop flights or transfer connections, usually via Xiamen or Hong Kong.

The Manila-Beijing flights will depart at 0730H and arrive at 1155H. The Beijing-Manila flights will depart at 1255H and arrive at 1715H.

