

# PRESS RELEASE

## *Philippine Embassy, Canberra*

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### THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN CANBERRA OPENS ITS DOORS FOR WINDOWS TO THE WORLD 2015





The Embassy of the Philippines in Canberra opened its grounds to the public on 26 September 2015 from 10:00 in the morning to 2:00 in the afternoon as part of its participation in the Windows to the World 2015 program. Around 300 or more registered participants from around Canberra and neighbouring states participated in the tour of the Philippine Embassy.

This biennial event organized by the ACT government, in cooperation with Icon Water and the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA), opened the gates of Canberra's embassies and high commissions to reveal beautiful landscapes, superb architecture and diverse cultures.

For its part, the Philippine Embassy showcased the unique and diverse Filipino culture through traditional costumes, handicrafts, jewelry, hand-woven textiles and paintings from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

The traditional Filipino "*harana*" was brought back to life as volunteer female guests seated in the *bahay kubo* were serenaded with the immortal *kundiman* songs of *Dungawin mo*, *Hirang* and *O Ilaw*.

The recreation of the *Barrio Fiesta* delighted guests who were entertained with the traditional dances of *La Jota Moncadeña*, *Singkilan* and *Tinikling* performed by the members of the Filipino community organizations in Canberra, and the *Flores de Mayo* where three beautiful Filipino-Australian beauty queens wearing elegant Filipiniana paraded under flower-filled *arkos*.

Also on display were the iconic Philippine *Sarao* jeepney, Mindanao *vinta*, *Dinagyang* costume and miniature Banaue rice terraces.

The food stalls showcased Filipino comfort food like *arroz caldo*, *turon* and *sorbetes* for visitors to taste and savor. The *lechon* roasted over coals gave guests a reason to smile.

To complete the cultural experience, the guests were given *It's More Fun in the Philippines* brochures and bags donated by DOT-Sydney, together with items donated by importers of Philippine foodstuffs.

The personnel of the Philippine Embassy and attached agencies with their families worked closely together with the Filipino Community Council of the Australian Capital Territory, Inc. (FCCACT) and the various Filipino Community organizations and volunteers in Canberra to display the best of the Philippines during the event. END