

PRESS RELEASE

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Ambassador Calaguian-Cruz attends launch of Bennelong Table Tennis Cup



Left photo: Ambassador Minda Calaguian-Cruz (3rd from left) with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull (5th from left), Foreign Minister Julie Bishop (6th from left), Mr. John Alexander MP (4th from left), and fellow Ambassadors; Right photo: exhibition match between China and South Korea

Canberra, 10 November 2016 - Ambassador Minda Calaguian-Cruz attended today the launch of the Bennelong Cup Table Tennis Competition at the Great Hall of the Australian Parliament House. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull launched the Cup together with Foreign Minister Julie Bishop. Present were the Ambassadors of Japan, China and South Korea, and the High Commissioner of New Zealand. The sixth annual Bennelong Table Tennis Cup includes teams from China, Japan, South Korea, Oceania and Australia.

The project initiated by Mr. John Alexander MP is now on its sixth year. Mr. Alexander is an outstanding former professional tennis player that competed for the Australian Davis Cup Team in Manila during the 1970s.

In her remarks, Foreign Minister Bishop announced that the Smash Down Barriers Table Tennis Program of Australia will be launched in the Philippines, Thailand and Malaysia next year. The Smash Down Barriers Table Tennis Program is supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Australian Aid Program and is managed by the Australian Sports Commission to build the capacity of Table Tennis Federations in Asia-Pacific to conduct quality sport for development programs.