

# PRESS RELEASE

## *Philippine Embassy, Canberra*

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### **Philippine Ambassador to Australia Minda Calaguian-Cruz and Ambassador Luis Cruz Engage with Students of the Australian National University (ANU) International Relations Society**



*Philippine Ambassador to Australia Minda Calaguian-Cruz (center) and Ambassador Luis T. Cruz (rightmost) were the guest speakers at the event was organized by the ANU International Relations Society with first year representative Natasha Tioukavkin (leftmost)*

03 August 2016 – H.E. Minda Calaguian-Cruz, Philippine Ambassador to Australia and her spouse Ambassador Luis T. Cruz, former Philippine Ambassador to Korea, had an open discussion with students of the Australian National University (ANU) International Relations Society on 03 August 2016. There were more than 60 participants in the event.

The Ambassadors were the guest speakers for the Society’s very first “An Evening with the Ambassadors” which allows students of international relations to directly interact with foreign diplomats and officials on contemporary global issues.



*H.E. Minda Calaguian-Cruz, Philippine Ambassador to Australia speaks at “An Evening with Ambassadors” on 03 August 2016*

Ambassador Calaguian-Cruz provided insights on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between the Philippines and Australia tracing the history of people-to-people linkages which started even before the formal establishment of relations. Ambassador Calaguian-Cruz said the Philippines and Australia after 70 years are at the cusp of exciting opportunities – moving from potential to the realization of a fully implemented Philippines-Australia Comprehensive Partnership.

She also recalled her own experience as a recipient of the Colombo Plan grant which brought her to the Australian National University and other parts of Australia where she joined the officers of the Australian DFAT for a diplomatic training course.



*Philippine Ambassador to Australia Minda Calaguian-Cruz and Ambassador Luis T. Cruz openly engage with students of International Relations at the Australian National University (03 August 2016).*

Ambassador Luis Cruz shared an inspirational message on the prerequisites on becoming a successful diplomat – a holistic approach to personality development. He summarized this with the mnemonic P.I.C.K.L.E.S. which stands for personality quotient, intelligence quotient, cultural sensitivity quotient, karma quotient, leadership quotient, emotional quotient, and spiritual quotient.

Students of international relations raised questions on issues including the Philippine position on the South China Sea, the future of ASEAN and policies of the new Philippine administration. The Ambassadors openly engaged the students and welcomed their interest in the Philippines.

SBS Filipino covered the event and highlights can be viewed through the link:  
<http://www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/filipino/en/content/learnings-evening-ambassadors?language=en>

The Philippine Embassy in Australia thanks the students of ANU International Relations Society for the warm welcome and looks forward to more collaborative activities in the future. END