

PHILIPPINE EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE

Embassy Consular team reaches far and wide

Embassy consular outreach activities led by Consul General Cervantes have been undertaken place early in the year to promote the ongoing OAV registration and provide consular services to Filipinos in far-flung places in Nepal and India. The first took place in Mumbai (December 2011), followed by another one in Bangalore, followed by Chennai, and another in Kathmandu, Nepal (all in January 2012) followed by the one in Kerala (February 2012). Consul General Cervantes was accompanied by Administrative Officer Victor Alas, Finance Officer Efren Rafol and Attaché and Consular Assistants Loreta Jose and Joyce Sychangco. The Kathmandu leg, ending on 22 January 2012, saw the Consular team ably assisted by Mrs. Reenu Vaidya, wife of newly-appointed Philippine Honorary Consul General to Nepal, Mr. Suraj Vaidya, and Ms. Anu of the Honorary Consulate.

In Kerala, which has a substantial Christian population, the visit of the Consular team last 9-11 February was covered in the prominent *"The Hindu"* newspaper (circulation 1.46 million) in its 13 February 2012 issue (attached). These consular visits were able to provide services to about a hundred overseas Filipinos (115 separate consular services were provided, including OAV registration, e-passport and overseas employment certifications). These included several who came to Chennai after travelling from neighboring Hyderabad. The respective Filipino communities in these areas expressed their thanks to the Philippine Embassy for coming to their areas, saving them the time and effort to go to New Delhi. Earlier visits by Amb. Ronald Allarey to Mumbai, Kathmandu, Chennai, and Bangalore paved the way for these consular missions. The Philippine Honorary Consulates-General in Kathmandu, Chennai and Mumbai were instrumental in the success of these missions.



Members of the Embassy Consular team at work in Kerala



Filipinos together with Consul General Cervantes (third from right) in Kathmandu.



Answering queries from Pinoys in Kerala