

# PHILIPPINE EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE

## Philippines and India, ASEAN and India commemorate 20 years of partnership with ASEAN-India Vision

Hon. Jejomar C. Binay, Vice President of the Philippines, visited New Delhi, to represent His Excellency President Benigno S. Aquino III at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit on December 20-21 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-India Business Fair and Conclave.

### Arrival

The Vice President arrived in New Delhi aboard PR 752 on 18 December at 12:05 a.m. He was welcomed at the airport by the Chief of Protocol, Ms. Ruchira Kamboj, and was ushered into the Ceremonial Lounge of the Indira Gandhi International Airport, where he was formally welcomed by Minister of State for Information Technology and Communications, Shri Milind Murli Deora.

### Vision Statement

The summit gathered the leaders of the ten (10) ASEAN member states and the Prime Minister of India to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of regional friendship and cooperation. The summit also brought together students, artists and sportsmen in a symbolic recollection of the ancient ties between India and the countries of ASEAN going back 3,000 years. The event brought forward ASEAN-India relations in a renewed program of engagements in political security, economic collaboration and cultural interaction. The Philippines and the other members of ASEAN, together with India, adopted a Vision Statement (attached) on 20 December 2012, in which they committed, among others, *“to strengthen cooperation to ensure maritime security and freedom of navigation and safety of sea lanes of communication for unfettered movement of trade in accordance with international law including UNCLOS.”*



The Vice President during the ASEAN-India Summit

### AFTA in Services and Investment concluded

Negotiations of the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement in Services and Investments were also concluded in New Delhi just in time for the Summit. The summit resulted in stronger ties between ASEAN and India in ensuring economic relations, freedom of maritime navigation,

security of contiguous waters and the fight against human trafficking, illegal drugs and terrorism, among other issues.

### **Vice President's Statement**

In his statement at the Summit, Vice President Binay emphasized the unique ties between the Philippines and India in the area of information technology-enabled services, and how both countries have much to gain from working together, learning from each other and complementing each others' capability in global outsourcing. He also had shared his views on ASEAN-India relations with the largest English daily in India, the *Times of India* news paper (attached), where he expressed the Philippine position that maritime matters and freedom of navigation are no longer parochial interests of one or a few countries alone but reverberate across the region.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-India Car Rally**



The Vice President also joined the other ASEAN leaders in the Flag-down ceremonies for the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-India Car Rally (on 21 December 2012), which went through an 8,000 kilometer journey across eight (8) of the ten (10) ASEAN countries. Three Filipino rallyists were on hand to represent the country.

### **Meetings with business leaders**

Together with the Filipino businessmen in his retinue (Mr. Jesus Varela, Mr. Edgardo Lacson, Mr. Henry Lim Bon Liong, and others), Vice President also met with several Indian technology companies that have expressed strong interest to expand their operations in the Philippines, including employment of an additional 5,000 full-time Filipino employees. He also witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Business Process Outsourcing Association of the Philippines (BPAP) and the National Association of Software Services Company (NASSCOM) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) which enhanced cooperation and complementarity between Philippine and Indian IT companies.

### **Myanmar request for bilateral assistance**

Binay had the opportunity to be seated beside the President of Myanmar, H.E. Thein Sein, who expressed his desire for Philippine bilateral assistance to Myanmar in the area of agriculture. In this regard representatives of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), composed of Lacson, Varela and Bon Liong met with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on December 21 at the sidelines of the Summit. The result of that meeting is the likelihood of revitalizing the Philippines-Myanmar business relations through the signing of a memorandum of agreement between the PCCI and UMFCCI in the area of agricultural development, particularly in rice technologies, bananas, and related areas.

### **Meeting with the Filipino Community**

The Vice President met with 30 leaders of the Filipino community in New Delhi (on 18 December 2012), which is composed mostly of managers and professionals, who shared their initiatives, concerns and success stories. He conveyed to them the president's efforts in



promoting the welfare of our nationals abroad and assured them of the government's concern and readiness to assist them and their families back home.



**Vice President Binay  
and Amb. Valeriano**

At the end of his visit, the Vice President thanked the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Trade and Industry and the Philippine Embassy in New Delhi for ensuring the success of the Philippine participation in the ASEAN-India commemorative summit.

### **Departure**

The Vice President departed India on 22 December 2012 at 1:50 a.m. aboard PR 753. The Minister of State for Labour and Employment, Shri Kodikunil Suresh saw him off.

At both the Vice President's arrival and departure ceremonies, aside from the Chief of Protocol, Secretary (East) Sanjay Singh, Joint Secretary Sanjay Bhattacharyya (Southern Division), Joint Secretary Renu Pal (ASEAN Multilateral Division), the Ambassador of India to the Philippines, Mr. Amit Dasgupta, and Ambassador Benito B. Valeriano were present.

The Indian Ambassador to the Philippines manifested the Indian government's commitment to assist the victims of Typhoon Pablo and the Ministry of External Affairs conveyed the desire to provide relief to those who suffered in the calamity.



**Vice President Binay joins hands with other ASEAN leaders during a photo-op at the start of the Summit.**





**The Vice President meets M.E. Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India and Mrs. Mukherjee, at the Reception hosted by the President of India at Rashtrapati Bhawan, 20 December 2012.**



**Vice President Binay was seated between Prime Minister of Thailand Shinawatra on his right, and Myanmar's President Thein Sein on his left, during the Cultural Show at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on 20 December 2012.**



The Vice President (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) posing with other ASEAN leaders at the conclusion of the Cultural Show at the Rashtrapati Bhawan.



The Philippine flag flies over Central Secretariat, New Delhi, during the ASEAN-India Summit (*photo by R. Ferrer*)