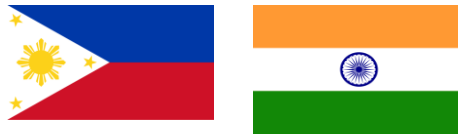


PHILIPPINE EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE

JOINT PRESS RELEASE



PHILIPPINES AND INDIA TO HOLD 2ND MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON BILATERAL COOPERATION (JCBC)

14 October 2013 - The Indian Minister for External Affairs, H.E. Salman Khurshid, will undertake an official visit to Manila on 21-22 October 2013 for the 2nd Meeting of the Philippines-India Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation.

Minister Khurshid will pay a courtesy call on the President and on Secretary of Foreign Affairs Albert F. Del Rosario, who is the Chairperson of the Philippine Delegation to the JCBC. He will also meet with Senate President Franklin Drilon, to whom he will turn over 200 books donated by the Government of India.

During the JCBC, Secretary Del Rosario and Minister Khurshid are expected to discuss areas of bilateral cooperation, particularly in security and defense. They will also take stock of the progress of the Joint Working Groups on Trade and Investment, Tourism, Renewable Energy, Agriculture and Health. They are likewise expected to exchange views and share experiences on international and regional issues such as maritime security cooperation and the South China Sea.

On 22 October 2013, Minister Khurshid will also deliver a lecture on Indian foreign policy at the Foreign Service Institute.

This is the first official visit to the Philippines of Minister Khurshid, and his first bilateral meeting with Secretary Del Rosario since he assumed his post as External Affairs Minister in 2012.

The first JCBC meeting was hosted by India in New Delhi on 15 March 2011. END