

PRESS RELEASE

Ambassador Allarey visits Filipinos in Kolkata, Chennai, and Bangalore; meets with Government of Karnataka State and Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore

Visits of Pinoys in West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka

Philippine Ambassador to India, H.E. Ronald B. Allarey visited Filipino communities in Kolkata (West Bengal State), Chennai (Tamil Nadu State), and Bangalore (Karnataka State) to look into their status and living conditions, and to make a pitch for the Continuing Registration for Purposes of the 2013 National Elections and to drum up support for the Puerto Princesa Underground River as one of the New Seven Wonders of Nature. He met more than one hundred fifty (150) Filipinos in the three cities, most of whom are service workers, entrepreneurs, engineers and consultants, and those married to Indian nationals. Ambassador Allarey was accompanied by First Secretary and Consul Robert O. Ferrer, Jr.

The Filipinos in West Bengal State gathered for a dialogue with Ambassador Allarey and Honorary Consul-designate Mr. Hemant Khemka at the Saturday Club in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) last **25 October**. On **28 October**, Ambassador Allarey, Consul Ferrer and Vice Consul-designate B. Narendran fielded questions from the members of the Filipino community in Chennai. Honorary Consul General Ashwin Muthiah also hosted a breakfast for Ambassador Allarey and Consul Ferrer at his residence in Chennai. The Ambassador graced a second Filipino community gathering, near St. Thomas Mount, at the house of Josie and Arun Opis, on **29 October**. In Bangalore, Ambassador Allarey and Consul Ferrer met with our countrymen at the home of Mariam Nazir and her husband Ahmed on **1 November**. Filipino professionals are making a strong presence in such multinational companies as International Container Services, Inc. (ICTSI) which employs a number of Filipinos at the Katupalli container terminal (under construction) near Chennai, Caterpillar India Pvt. Limited, Liwayway Marketing Corporation (Manufacturer of the *Oishi* brand of snack products), various construction and consultancy companies, as well as in the IT sector in Bangalore and the UNICEF in Kolkata.

Meeting with Minister of Fisheries, West Bengal State and Sister Prema, Successor of Mother Teresa

Mr. Khemka and his associate, Colonel Dadlani, Amb. Allarey met with Mr. Abu Hena, Minister of Fisheries of West Bengal State on **25 October** to discuss the possibility of cooperation in fisheries management between the Philippines and West Bengal State. On **26 October**, Amb. Allarey, accompanied by First Secretary Ferrer and his wife, Jude visited Mother Teresa House (Missionaries of Charity Sisters) in Kolkata and called on Sister Prema, the present Director of the religious congregation. They also dropped by the orphanage in Shishu Bhawan as well as the facilities for destitute women, and met five (5) of the six (6) Filipino nuns currently working with the Missionaries of Charity.

Official Call on the Chief Minister of Karnataka State

In Bangalore, Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda and members of his cabinet from the health, IT, infrastructure, industry and commerce, and economy sectors welcomed the visit by Ambassador Allarey and Ambassador Dato Paduka Haji Sidek Ali of Brunei Darussalam as well as other diplomats from the ASEAN New Delhi Committee (ANDC) on **3 November**. They discussed issues of mutual interest and possible trade, infrastructure and education and health linkages between ASEAN countries and the State of Karnataka (acknowledged as the leader in technological innovation throughout India, centered in Bangalore).

Visit at Indian Institute of Management Campus in Bangalore

Upon the invitation of Mr. Neelakantan Ravi, former Secretary (East) of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India, Ambassador Allarey and Ambassador Ali of Brunei Darussalam led the ASEAN New Delhi Committee delegation's visit on **3 November** to the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Bangalore, where they heard various presentations from the Institute's Director, Mr. Pankaj Chandra and faculty members. Mr. Ravi is a Senior Fellow of the Institute's Centre for Public Policy. The delegation also met with other officials of the Institute, as well as IIM Bangalore's innovative Nadathur S. Raghavan Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning (NSRCEL). IIM Bangalore is inviting management students from the ASEAN countries to avail of the resources of the Institute. Ambassador Allarey broached the possibility of cooperation between IIM Bangalore and Philippine management schools.

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Amb. Allarey talks to the Filipinos in Kolkata about the latest developments in the Philippines



With Sister Prema of the Missionaries of Charity (back, 3rd from left), Honorary Consul General-designate Hemant Khemka (2nd from left), and some of the Filipino nuns serving in Kolkata.



Amb. Allarey (seated, 3rd from left), First Secretary and Consul Ferrer (seated, 3rd from right), and Vice Consul-designate B. Narendran (seated, 2nd from left) with members of the Filipino community in Chennai. Many of them are employees of International Container Terminal Services, Inc. (ICTSI).



Amb. Allarey (front row, 3rd from right) and Brunei's High Commissioner, Dato Paduka Haji Sidek Ali led a delegation of diplomats of the ASEAN New Delhi Committee during the official visit to the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Bangalore, upon the invitation of Senior Fellow Neelakantan Ravi (front row, 3rd from left), former Secretary (East) of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs. At Amb. Allarey's left is Mr. Pankaj Chandra, IIM Director.



Amb. Allarey celebrates *Diwali* (Indian Festival of Lights) with members of the Filipino community in Bangalore. Many Filipinos have integrated successfully in India, running their own businesses such as Miriam Nazir, to the Ambassador's immediate left.



Amb. Allarey with Karnataka Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda on November 3.