



PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL NEW YORK

## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### **Filipino Cuisine Highlighted at Society of Foreign Consuls New York International Food Festival**

**New York City, 14 February 2017** - In an event featuring authentic national food and cultural performances from 24 Consulates General in New York, Consul Felipe Carino III and Cultural Officer Olive Magpile led the Consulate General and Filipino cultural performers who participated in the Society of Foreign Consuls in New York (SOFC) International Food Festival. The event was held at the Consulate General of India on 9 February 2017.

Each participating Consulate General brought their country's famous *hors d'oeuvres* and beverages or offered cultural performances to the delight of the attendees. Participation was high at the event despite a snow storm that hit New York City and the US Northeast on the same day.

The Consulate General shared home-cooked "kutsinta" and "empanada" as well as calamansi juice, which were enjoyed by guests from various Consulates General particularly the Consuls General of Columbia, Thailand, India, Kosovo and Estonia. The calamansi juice was a crowd favorite during the Festival.

The Philippines was among five Consulates General including Algeria, India, Kosoco, and Paraguay which rendered cultural/ traditional dance performances. The Foundation of the Filipino Artists Dance Ensemble, a group based in Staten Island, performed the "Kuratsa", an indigenized form of "La Curacha, a courtship dance introduced by Mexican traders to Filipinos during the Galleon Trade period, which evolved in different versions among the Warays in Eastern Visayas region.

Consul General Theresa Dizon-De Vega underscored that the Consulate General's participation this year would highlight the taste and traditional folk dance of the Philippines. The International Food Festival is a flagship project of the SOFC that counts 113 New York-based Consulates General as members with an Executive Committee representing different regional groups. The Philippines represents the East Asia and Western Pacific Region in the SOFC Executive Committee. **END**



Consul Felipe Carino III (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) joins twenty-four Consuls General who attended the Society of Foreign Consuls International Food Festival held at Gandhi Hall, Consulate General of India (photo by NYPCG)



The Philippines' kutsinta and empanada served with kalamansi juice were provided to guests during the event which attracted about 200 participants.



The Philippine Consulate General New York joins the Asian region food table during the International Food Festival hosted by Society of Foreign Consuls New York held on 9 February 2017 at the Consulate General of India (photo by NYPCG)



Consul Felipe F. Carino III welcomes Consul General Maria Isabel Nieto of Columbia, current President of Society of Foreign Consuls New York, and Consul General Riva Ganguly Das of India at the Philippine table during SOFC event (photo by NYPCG)



The Foundation of Filipino Artists Dance Ensemble performed the “Kuratsa” dance during the event (photo by NYPCG)