

Written by Administrator

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New York – The Philippine Consulate General in New York hosted a reception on 12 October 2011 for Young Professionals in the Northeast US as part of its activities commemorating Filipino-American History Month.

The event, held at the Kalayaan Hall, saw over an estimated 150 Filipino and Filipino-American Young Professionals and second generation Fil-Ams, taking time out to meet and establish networks among their peers.

The reception featured a line-up of presentations and speakers from various sectors in the young professionals group including those involved in entrepreneurship, the arts, advocacies, and socio-civic works. Among the groups and individuals who spoke included: Mr. Steven Raga on 2nd Generation Advocacies and the Save Act Campaign, filmmaker and photographer Grace Villamil, Dan Tirol of Gawad Kalinga, and the owners of newly-established second generation operated Maharlika Restaurant in New York. Mr. Bryan Lozano, a second generation Fil-Am representing UNIPRO served as Master of Ceremonies.

The Department of Tourism Office in New York likewise gave a brief presentation on Philippine tour packages designed specifically for young professionals.

In his Welcome Remarks, Consul General Mario L. de Leon, Jr., stated that the Consulate's goal in holding the reception was to "provide a venue for young professionals and second generation Filipino-Americans to meet, exchange views, network and hopefully be more active in the Filipino Community and in raising the profile of Filipino-Americans in the Northeast US."

He said he was very encouraged with the level of enthusiasm and commitment that the Consulate is witnessing among the second generations and hopes that this can be translated to

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more active involvement in the Community.

The program included a raffle of Philippine food products, San Miguel beer, and Filipiniana Books which were given to guests who could correctly answer Philippine and Filipino-American history/trivia questions. Food was provided by Maharlika Filipino Restaurant.

Save Act petition letters were likewise circulate among the guests with over 50 signed letters gathered at the end of the event. END