



PRESS RELEASE  
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## PHILCONGEN LOS ANGELES CELEBRATES AUTISM CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK



*Personnel of the Philippine Consulate General and members of the public.*

The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles celebrated the 2017 National Autism Consciousness Week on Monday, 23 January 2017, at its Community Hall during the flag ceremony held before the start of consular services.

The celebration was held to support the initiatives of the Philippine government, the private sector and civil society groups, including the Autism Society Philippines, to increase awareness about autism disorders and how to create an environment for those diagnosed with autism.

Autism is a neurological condition affecting millions of Filipinos. It can have a profound effect on individuals and families. This celebration serves as an inspiration and a reminder that some of our countrymen have invisible disabilities who need our understanding and support.

The program included a brief introduction of autism, playing of the 1Pangako music video and a community recitation of a short promise (1Pangako) to stop using the word “autistic” as a joke or an insult and to promote the acceptance, accommodation and inclusion of people with autism in society.

The members of the Filipino community present during the ceremony were informed about the great developments that the Philippine government has done for individuals with autism and their families such as the Magna Carta of Persons with Disabilities, the Equal Opportunity Employment Act, the Anti-Bullying Act and for some Local Government Units (LGUs), unique services for children with exceptionalities.

The Consulate General also encouraged the community to get involved and to become partners in the autism awareness campaign. END.



*Deputy Consul General Ambrosio Brian Enciso III introducing the short program on Autism Week.*



*Video presentation at the Community Hall of the Consulate General.*