



PRESS RELEASE
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PHL CONSULATE GENERAL CONGRATULATES PHILIPPINE DRAGON BOAT ALLIANCE TEAM FOR BRINGING HOME 3 MEDALS



Philippine Dragon Boat Alliance Team (Alliance) at the Philippine Consulate General's Building

Los Angeles, 01 August 2017 – The Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles congratulates the Philippine Dragon Boat Alliance Team (*Alliance*) for winning three (3) medals: silver medals for Women's 500-meter and Mixed 500-meter race and Bronze in the Toyota Super Dragon category during the 2017 annual Long Beach Dragon Boat Festival held on 29-30 July 2017 at the Marine Stadium in Long Beach, California.

The Long Beach Dragon Boat Festival, which started in 2003, is held every year in the month of July, drawing together local and international dragon boat teams from various age groups to compete in dragon boat racing.

This year's competition was participated in by over 200 teams from different countries, including teams from Taiwan, Canada and Singapore, among others. The Philippines was represented by *Alliance*.

Established in 2016, *Alliance* is composed of seasoned Filipino paddlers now based in different countries and who are formerly members of the Philippine Dragon Boat Federation Team (PDBF), the Philippines' national boat-racing organization. Its mission is to establish goodwill and connect with paddlers from all over the world to promote dragon boat racing in the mainstream as a proudly Asian sport that is growing in prominence worldwide – a sport that Filipinos can and do excel in.

Answering to the call of the Consulate General to support the Philippine Team in their competition, *Alliance* received overwhelming support from the Filipino-American community, including Filipino paddlers from other teams. Many came to watch the two-day competition, including personnel and family members of this Consulate General.

In an interview conducted by local Fil-Am media, *Alliance* Team Captain John Panuelos said that since their members are now based in different countries, the team was assembled only a few days prior to the race and had very limited time to practice. Nevertheless, they were able to pull through, clinching two silver medals and placing 6th overall in the Toyota Super Dragon.

Prior to the Long Beach Dragon Boat Festival, the Team participated in the 21st Annual Kaiser Permanent Northern California Dragon Boat Race in Oakland, California in 2016 where they won four gold medals and one bronze. END.



Team Alliance racing in the 2017 Annual Long Beach Dragon Boat Festival



Team Alliance during their call on Consul General Adelio Agelito S. Cruz at the Philippine Consulate General on 27 July 2017



Consulate General Personnel and their families show support for Team Alliance by coming out in full force to watch the race finals on 30 July 2017 at the Marine Stadium in Long Beach, CA.